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DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1973

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
recommended by the First Committee (A/8908, para. 11)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Oleg PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

1. At its 1548th meeting, on 12 December 1972, the Fifth Committee, in compliance with rule 155 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1489) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee (A/8908, para. 11). The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions is contained in document A/8708/Add.20.
2. Under the terms of the draft resolution the General Assembly would decide to establish an ad hoc committee, consisting of not more than 15 members, which would be expected to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.
3. In his statement (A/C.5/1489), the Secretary-General indicated that, under certain assumptions which are listed in paragraph 2 of his statement, he estimated that the additional costs involved would amount to \$25,500, relating to the recruitment of one team of eight free-lance interpreters for the full period of the ad hoc committee's session (4-29 June 1973) and to the contractual translation and typing of related documentation. The need to recruit free-lance interpreters was attributed by the Secretary-General to commitments already projected in the meetings calendar for 1973, which would fully utilize regular-staff interpretation sources.

4. In its report (A/8708/Add.20), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions indicated that the possibility of further adjustments in the 1973 conference schedule in New York, which might release regular staff resources, was not excluded. Furthermore, it was still not certain that the ad hoc committee would hold a session of the length anticipated by the Secretary-General.

Accordingly, the Advisory Committee indicated that it was not convinced of the need for additional appropriations and recommended that the Secretary-General endeavour so to rearrange the conference schedule as to dispense with the need for free-lance interpreters or, failing that possibility, to meet such additional requirements as might arise out of the provision for section 3 of the budget for 1973 already approved by the Fifth Committee in first reading.

5. One representative, referring to the report of the Advisory Committee and the doubts expressed therein as to the length of the proposed ad hoc committee's session, stated that, as the main sponsor of the draft resolution, he had been consulted by the Secretary-General regarding this question and confirmed that it was indeed envisaged that the ad hoc committee would hold a four-week session. He therefore sought assurances that the Advisory Committee's recommendation would not adversely affect the work of the ad hoc committee. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that since other proposals were still pending which might have an effect on the 1973 meetings schedule, it was impossible at this time to state definitely what resources would or would not be available in the course of 1973. He nevertheless assured the Committee that the Advisory Committee's recommendation would not interfere with the work of the proposed ad hoc committee and that, if additional resources were required over the provisions approved for section 3, the Secretary-General would not hesitate to approach the Advisory Committee. Other delegations welcomed these assurances as they attached great importance to the work of the proposed ad hoc committee, which would constitute a practical measure to give effect to the historic decision taken by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session in declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

6. The Fifth Committee decided without objection to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee (A/8908, para. 11), no additional appropriations would be required in the budget for 1973.