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IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3254 (XXIX)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1976-1977 AND
MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1976-1979

Administration and financial implications of the draft resolution
recommended by the First Committee (A/10431, para. 7)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed ABOUL GHETT (Egypt)

1. At its 1766th meeting, on 10 December 1975, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1745) concerning the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee (A/10431, para. 7). By operative paragraph 3, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to prepare a report with the assistance of qualified experts appointed by him after consultations with Member States.
2. In his statement, the Secretary-General indicated that, should the General Assembly approve the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee, additional requirements amounting to \$192,000 would be needed, comprising \$66,000 for travel, subsistence and fees of the experts, \$8,000 for consultant services, \$8,000 for the travel and subsistence of two substantive staff and \$110,000 for temporary assistance for meetings. However, no additional appropriation would be requested at this time in respect of temporary assistance for meetings at Geneva; actual requirements incurred would be reported in the context of the Secretary-General's 1976 performance report. Therefore, adoption of the draft resolution would require an additional appropriation of \$82,000 under section 2 C of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977; in addition, it could entail potential additional requirements of up to \$110,000.

3. In an oral statement to the Fifth Committee, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions stated that the Advisory Committee had noted that there was no uniform policy regarding the payment of fees to experts nor the amount thereof. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the provision for fees (\$24,000) be deleted with a consequential reduction in the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General from \$82,000 to \$58,000.

4. Some delegations regretted the fact that the Advisory Committee had recommended the deletion of provision for fees of experts. In their opinion, the effect of the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee had to be measured against the desired objective of reducing military budgets which totalled enormous sums. It was necessary, in the opinion of these delegations, to obtain the services of the best independent experts available. These delegations recalled that no objection had been made by the Advisory Committee or the Fifth Committee to the payment of fees to the experts who participated in the preparation of the first report on this matter in 1974. The delegation of Mexico proposed, in this connexion, that the Fifth Committee recommend the amount suggested by the Secretary-General, i.e., \$82,000.

5. In response to a question, the representative of the Secretary-General gave the assurance that amounts successively approved by the Fifth Committee for consultant services in the financial implications would be recorded, and that the resulting figure would be made available to the Fifth Committee.

DECISIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. By 20 votes to 19, with 34 abstentions, the Committee rejected the proposal by Mexico. It then decided, by 38 votes to 2, with 33 abstentions, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee (A/10431, para. 7), an additional appropriation of \$58,000 would be required under section 2 C of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977.
