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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions
A/46/L.33, A/46/L.34 and A/46/L.35

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolutions

1. Draft resolution A/46/L.33

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 8 of draft resolution A/46/L.33, the General Assembly would:

(a) Authorize the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to continue to exert all efforts to promote the implementation of its recommendations, including representation at conferences and meetings and the sending of delegations, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of seminars and symposia and meetings for non-governmental organizations as it may consider necessary, to give special emphasis to the need to mobilize public opinion in Europe and North America, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session and thereafter;

(b) Request the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation to non-governmental organizations in their contribution towards heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and creating a more favourable atmosphere for the full implementation of the Committee's recommendations, and to take the necessary steps to expand its contacts with those organizations;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its tasks.

2. Draft resolution A/46/L.34

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of draft resolution A/46/L.34, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to provide the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat with the necessary resources, including a computer-based information system, and to ensure that it continues to discharge the tasks detailed in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 32/40 B, paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 34/65 D, paragraph 3 of resolution 36/120 B, paragraph 3 of resolution 38/58 B, paragraph 3 of resolution 40/96 B, paragraph 2 of resolution 42/66 B and paragraph 2 of resolution 44/41 B, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance;

(b) Also request the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation of the Department of Public Information and other units of the Secretariat in enabling the Division for Palestinian Rights to perform its tasks and in covering adequately the various aspects of the question of Palestine.

3. Draft resolution A/46/L.35

3. Under operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/46/L.35, the General Assembly would request the Department of Public Information, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme on the question of Palestine for the biennium 1992-1993, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America and, in particular:

(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine, including reports of the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organs;

(b) To continue to issue and update publications on the various aspects of the question of Palestine, including Israeli violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories as reported by the relevant United Nations organs;

(c) To expand its audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, including the production of such material;

(d) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the area, including to the occupied territories,

(e) To organize international, regional and national encounters for journalists.

B. Relationship of the requests to the proposed programme of work

4. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established under the terms of General Assembly resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975. The Committee's mandate and supporting work by the Division for Palestinian Rights have been the subject of successive resolutions of the General Assembly since then, most recently resolutions 45/67 A and B of 6 December 1990.

5. The activities proposed in response to the requests contained in the draft resolutions relate to programme 5 (Question of Palestine) and to programme 38 (Public information) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 1/

6. Related provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 2/ under section 4 (Political and General Assembly affairs and Secretariat services) and section 31 (Public information).

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

7. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/46/L.33, reimbursement would be provided for the costs of travel by members of the Committee, pursuant to the provision of paragraph 1 (a) above, and substantive services would be provided for the Committee's work.

8. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/46/L.34, necessary preparations would be made for the organization, coordination and substantive servicing of three regional seminars of five days' duration, two regional seminars of four days' duration, two regional seminars of two days' duration, two regional symposia of two days' duration, five regional symposia of three days' duration, four preparatory meetings of two days' duration and two international meetings of non-governmental organizations of three days' duration. The assumptions made with regard to the holding of these meetings are detailed in annexes I and II below. A comparison with those made for 1990-1991 is shown in annex III. Provision would also be made for the Division for Palestinian Rights to carry out the tasks referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above, including the preparation of publications and liaison and consultation with non-governmental organizations. As regards development of a computer-based information system, it is assumed that this would go beyond the computerized database referred to in paragraph 4.28 of the proposed programme budget. Contacts would be pursued in this respect with the

Electronic Services Division and with those political departments and offices operating or developing similar systems with a view to designing the most appropriate, efficient and economical system for the Division's needs in carrying out the responsibilities outlined in the draft resolutions and to avoiding duplication in development of such systems. The Division for Palestinian Rights, in consultation with the Electronic Services Division, would ensure that office automation equipment acquired during 1992-1993, for which provision is made under section 1 of the proposed programme budget, is consistent with the requirements of the system being developed.

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/46/L.35, the Department of Public Information, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, would continue its special information programme on the question of Palestine, using the necessary flexibility as might be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work for 1992-1993

10. The activities outlined in section C above are programmed under sections 4 and 31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. No modifications would be required.

E. Potential for absorption

11. As regards the substantive costs of activities outlined in section C above, provision has already been made under sections 4 and 31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. With respect to the computer-based information system, referred to in paragraphs 2 (a) and 8 above, development work will be required before detailed requirements can be determined. As indicated in paragraph 8 above, it is proposed to initiate this process with a view to designing the most appropriate, efficient and economical systems development. Accordingly, no additional requirements would arise at this stage. Depending on the results of the development work, however, a request for additional resources might be made at a future session of the General Assembly.

12. As regards conference-servicing costs for the programme of meetings, referred to in paragraph 8 above and detailed in the annexes to the present document, section 32 (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 includes provision not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings that may be authorized subsequently. This provision is based on past experience and assumes that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in 1992-1993 will be consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolutions.

F. Conclusion

13. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolutions A/46/L.33, A/46/L.34 and A/46/L.35, no additional appropriations would be required under section 4, 31 or 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. It would also be necessary for the General Assembly to approve an exception to the provisions of its resolution 40/243, under which all bodies should meet at their established headquarters, in respect of those meetings detailed in the attached annexes which are to be held away from the established headquarters of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1).

Annex I

1992-1993 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

1. It is expected that the following meetings will take place during the biennium 1992-1993:

1992

Four regional seminars (Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and North America (to be held in New York));

Four symposia for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America (to be held in New York) and Europe (to be held at Geneva));

One preparatory meeting for the North American symposium (to be held in New York);

One preparatory meeting for the international NGO meeting (to be held at Geneva);

One international NGO meeting (to be held at Geneva).

1993

Three regional seminars (Africa, North America and Europe);

Three symposia for NGOs (Africa, North America (to be held in New York) and Europe (to be held at Geneva or Vienna));

One preparatory meeting for the North American symposium (to be held in New York);

One preparatory meeting for the international NGO meeting (to be held at Geneva or Vienna);

One international NGO meeting (to be held at Geneva or Vienna).

2. In the light of experience, it is assumed that the North American seminar and symposium in 1992 would be held consecutively for a duration of two and three days respectively and that the venue should be United Nations Headquarters in New York. In 1993, the venues of the North American seminar and NGO symposium have yet to be determined. It is also assumed that the European symposia and the international NGO meetings would be held consecutively each for a duration of two and three days respectively and that the venues would be Geneva or Vienna.

3. In 1992, the Asian Regional Seminar is scheduled to be held in Nicosia from 20 to 24 January. The preparatory meetings for the North American

symposia in 1992 and 1993 will be held in New York, while the preparatory meetings for the international meetings of NGOs will be held at Geneva in 1992 and Geneva or Vienna in 1993. The venues of the other meetings are not known at this stage.

4. It is also assumed that the seven seminars, seven symposia, four preparatory meetings and two international meetings programmed would be organized as follows:

(a) They are not expected to be hosted by Governments and an exception to General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 would therefore have to be made for those meetings held away from the Committee's established headquarters;

(b) For each seminar there would be 20 experts (10 experts for the North American seminar) and some 100 to 150 participants;

(c) For each symposium there would be 6 experts and 100 to 150 participants;

(d) For each international NGO meeting there would be 15 experts and some 250 participants;

(e) For each of the two preparatory meetings for the North American symposia there would be 12 experts;

(f) For each of the two preparatory meetings for the international NGO meetings there would be 24 to 26 experts;

(g) The seminars, symposia and meetings would be attended by up to six staff members, usually including four staff members of the Division for Palestinian Rights, one information officer and one administrative/finance officer;

(h) Five members of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, acting in their official capacity, would attend each seminar, symposium and meeting;

(i) On the occasion of each seminar, symposium and meeting, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People would host a reception for participants;

(j) Where meetings take place away from United Nations conference locations, and subject to the guidelines as governed by General Assembly resolution 41/177 C, annex, planning missions would be required to evaluate the facilities that would be available;

(k) Provision would also have to be made for the rental of premises and such items as interpretation equipment, local transportation and other ancillary services.

Annex II

CONFERENCE-SERVICING REQUIREMENTS

It is assumed that the programme of meetings will have the following requirements:

(a) For each regional seminar there would be 22 documents with a total of 300 pages, 7 documents with a total of 100 pages and 1 document of 35 pages (12 documents with a total of 150 pages, 5 documents with a total of 50 pages and 1 document of 35 pages for the North American seminar) of pre-, in- and post-session documentation respectively (English and French in respect of North America and Europe; English, French and Spanish in respect of Latin America and the Caribbean; Arabic, English and French in respect of Africa and Asia). Interpretation would be provided in the same languages as envisaged for the documentation;

(b) For each symposium there would be six documents with a total of 60 pages, six documents with a total of 75 pages and one document of 35 pages of pre-, in- and post-session documentation and interpretation in the same languages as indicated for the seminars in the corresponding regions;

(c) For each international meeting of NGOs there would be 12 documents with a total of 120 pages, 7 documents with a total of 90 pages and 1 document of 35 pages of pre-, in- and post-session documentation respectively (Arabic, English, French and Spanish);

(d) For each preparatory meeting there would be six documents with a total of 25 pages, six documents with a total of 30 pages and one document of 20 pages respectively of pre-, in- and post-session documentation in English and French;

(e) All pre- and post-session documentation would be processed in New York; Geneva would be responsible for in-session services for meetings held in Europe and Africa, and New York would be responsible for in-session services in respect of meetings taking place in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean;

(f) Travel and subsistence would be required for the conference-servicing staff to the location where the meetings would be held.

Annex III

COMPARISON OF THE PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS PLANNED
FOR 1992-1993 WITH THAT FOR 1990-1991

The programme of meetings for 1992-1993 includes an additional European seminar of four days' duration compared with the initial programme for 1991. In addition, the number of participants at the regional seminars will be increased from 100 to between 100 and 150 and the number of experts attending the preparatory meetings for the international meetings of NGOs will be increased from 22 to between 24 and 26.
