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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING
OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.9

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

1. At its 26th meeting on 21 November 1991, the Special Political Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.9. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in documents A/SPC/46/L.10 and Add.1.

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 17, 24, 25, 27, 33 and 38 of draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.9, the General Assembly would:

(a) Welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations 1/ and invite the Secretary-General to continue to consider using civilian personnel in the peace-keeping tasks whenever the Secretary-General deems it appropriate, taking into account the operational and other relevant needs, as well as the requirement of cost-effectiveness of the peace-keeping operations;

(b) Welcome the training guidelines issued by the Secretariat in 1991 and urge the Secretariat to keep the guidelines updated;

(c) Request the Secretariat to consider in due course the utility of similar guidelines for the training of civilian specialized units, including civilian police;

(d) Recognize the importance of peace-keeping training and consider it useful for the Secretariat to designate a focal point for all such related activities;

(e) Request the Secretary-General to study and report on the feasibility, including costs, of establishing an annual peace-keeping fellowship programme for national peace-keeping trainers to be administered by the Secretariat;

(f) Request the Secretary-General to collect information on peace-keeping training and similar activities and further request the Secretary-General to issue a list based upon national submissions and to bring it up to date regularly;

(g) Encourage the Secretary-General to continue to examine all aspects of peace-keeping operations, as distinct from the provision of technical and other assistance to States upon their request, in order to ensure that they are conducted in an efficient and cost-effective manner;

(h) Invite the Secretary-General, given the need to improve the capacity of the Secretariat to plan and coordinate new and ongoing peace-keeping operations, to investigate the feasibility of integrating those offices whose primary functions are directly related to peace-keeping;

(i) Also invite the Secretary-General to consider identifying a focal point for contacts by Member States seeking information on all facets, including operational and administrative matters, of ongoing and planned peace-keeping operations;

(j) Take note of the possibility for the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations of holding inter-sessional open-ended informal consultations, as required, in order to have an exchange of views on operational and technical matters relating to the practical aspects of peace-keeping operations, and to receive briefings from the Secretariat and other briefings as may be appropriate;

(k) Consider that the composition of the United Nations peace-keeping operations, taken as a whole, should be on a wide geographical basis and request the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to broaden the participation of countries in these operations;

(l) Request the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, a compilation of observations and suggestions of Member States on peace-keeping operations and to submit it to the Special Committee by 30 March 1992.

B. Relationship of requests to the approved programme of work

3. The requests contained in subparagraphs 2 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) above are related to subprogramme 2 (Peace-keeping operations) of programme 1 (Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 2/ and to subprogramme 1 (Peace-keeping operations) under section 2 (Good offices and peace-making; peace-keeping; research and the collection of information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 3/

4. The request contained in subparagraph 2 (1) above relates to subprogramme 1 (Security Council and political committees activities) of programme 2 (Political and Security Council affairs) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 2/ and to subprogramme 1 (Security Council and political committees activities) under section 3 (Political and Security Council affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 3/

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

5. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would:

(a) With respect to subparagraph 2 (a) above, in planning and organizing peace-keeping missions, consider use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping tasks where appropriate;

(b) With respect to subparagraph 2 (b) above, keep the training guidelines under review and update them as required;

(c) With respect to subparagraph 2 (c) above, review the feasibility and usefulness of preparing similar guidelines for the training of civilian specialized units, including civilian police;

(d) With respect to subparagraph 2 (d) above, appoint a focal point in the Secretariat for peace-keeping training activities;

(e) With respect to subparagraph 2 (e) above, initiate a feasibility study on the establishment of an annual peace-keeping fellowship programme to be administered by the Secretariat for national peace-keeping trainers and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session through the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations;

(f) With respect to subparagraph 2 (f) above, collect information on peace-keeping training and similar activities, issue a list based on national submissions and update it regularly;

(g) With respect to subparagraph 2 (g) above, keep all aspects of peace-keeping operations under review in order to ensure efficiency and cost-effectiveness;

(h) With respect to subparagraph 2 (j) above, provide briefing and other substantive services to possible inter-sessional open-ended informal consultations. Conference services for such consultations would be provided from within permanent conference-servicing capacity on an as-available basis;

(i) With respect to subparagraph 2 (k) above, continue to make every possible effort to broaden the participation of countries in peace-keeping operations;

(j) With respect to subparagraph 2 (l) above, prepare a compilation of observations and suggestions of Member States on peace-keeping operations for submission to the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations by 30 March 1992.

6. The Secretary-General has initiated an in-depth review of the planning and management of peace-keeping operations and other special missions in order to consider ways and means of improving the managerial aspects of the political, operational, logistic, administrative and financial functions involved in planning and implementing such missions. In the context of this review, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would respond to the invitation contained in subparagraphs 2 (h) and (i) above to investigate the feasibility of integrating those offices whose primary functions are directly related to peace-keeping and to consider identifying a focal point for contacts by Member States seeking information on all facets, including operational and administrative matters, of ongoing and planned peace-keeping operations.

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

7. With respect to activities under subparagraphs 5 (a), (g), (h) and (i) and paragraph 6, these relate to activities 1 and 2 programmed under subprogramme 1 (Peace-keeping operations) under section 2 (Good offices and peace-making; peace-keeping; research and the collection of information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 3/ Likewise, the activity under subparagraph 5 (j) relates to activity 1 programmed under subprogramme 1 (Security Council and political committees activities) under section 3 (Political and Security Council affairs) of the proposed programme budget. Consequently, no modification would be required in respect of these activities.

8. As regards the training-related activities under subparagraphs 5 (b) to (f), these would extend the scope of activities programmed under subprogramme 1 of section 2 of the proposed programme budget. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.9, it would be

necessary to add the following activities under subprogramme 1 under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993:

"Activities:

"2. Parliamentary services

"(a) Parliamentary documentation: Add the following - 'report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session through the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations on a feasibility study on establishment of an annual peace-keeping fellowship programme to be administered by the Secretariat for national peace-keeping trainers';

"3. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Add the following: 'Promotion of efforts for peace-keeping training in the Secretariat through designation of a focal point for all such related activities.'

Add the following entries:

"4. Published material

Technical material: issuance and periodic updating of a list based on national submissions of information on peace-keeping training and similar activities.

"5. Operational activities

Training: keeping the peace-keeping training guidelines issued in 1991 under review and updating them as required; reviewing the feasibility and usefulness of preparing similar guidelines for the training of civilian specialized units, including civilian police; preparing a feasibility study on establishment of an annual peace-keeping fellowship programme to be administered by the Secretariat for national peace-keeping trainers; and collecting information on peace-keeping training and similar activities."

E. Potential for absorption

9. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, it would be necessary to assign the new functions relating to peace-keeping training outlined in subparagraphs 5 (b) to (f) above to a Professional staff member in the Office for Special Political Affairs and to provide that staff member with adequate supporting services and provision for travel. The Secretary-General considers that these staff requirements could be met from the overall resources available to the Office for Special Political Affairs and it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to seek voluntary contributions to cover the cost of related travel and other requirements.

10. As regards conference-servicing costs related to the possible holding of inter-sessional open-ended informal consultations by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, it is assumed that these requirements will be accommodated from within permanent conference-servicing capacity on an as-available basis.

F. Summary

11. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/SPC/46/L.9, it is not anticipated that additional appropriations will be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Notes

1/ A/45/502.

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

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