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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.67,
entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of
Crime and the Treatment of Offenders"

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

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.67, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) within the overall appropriations of the budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to enable the Institute to carry out, in full and on time, all its mandates.
2. In addition to the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), located in Rome, which has an overall mandate for research in this domain, there are four regional United Nations institutes on crime prevention, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. At this point, all these institutes are financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations.
3. UNAFRI was established in 1987 by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). In accordance with the statute of UNAFRI, its administrative and programme costs are to be financed by the assessed contributions of African member States under a specific scale of assessment, while its operational activities are to be funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The information available to the Secretary-General on the actual and projected financial situation of UNAFRI is incomplete. It seems however, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report on UNAFRI and other United Nations institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice

(A/46/524), that only three States members of ECA have paid their contributions in full for 1989-1990, while a few others have made a partial payment. As approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institute, its budget for 1991 amounted to \$820,000, of which \$460,000 would come from UNDP and \$360,000 from African member States. Although no precise data are available to the Secretariat on the contributions actually received, it is clear that the situation of the Institute is precarious.

4. Apart from voluntary contributions, the request to the Secretary-General made in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution could in theory be accommodated through three different approaches:

(a) A first approach would be the redeployment of resources from within section 21, Social development and humanitarian affairs, and particularly its subsection D, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 1/ The resources proposed under this section in relation with the mandated activities do not allow for such redeployment. However, should the General Assembly adopt the resolution proposed by the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, 2/ revised estimates for section 21 would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. It could also be envisaged to redeploy resources from section 23, Economic Commission for Africa, 3/ and particularly from subprogramme 7, Social development. Redeployments from this subprogramme to other subprogrammes of ECA are, however, already proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1992-1993;

(b) A second approach would be the redeployment from other sections of the proposed programme budget. At this stage, in the context of the deliberation of the General Assembly on the programme budget, this solution is not feasible;

(c) A third approach would be the provision of resources to the Institute through additional appropriations from the regular budget. Taking the 1991 budget of the Institute as a base, a grant of \$180,000, representing half the contribution of African member States, could be provided as a grant under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Such a grant for 1992 would assist in the covering of the administrative costs of the Institute. The Secretary-General would report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the longer term solution to the financing of this Institute.

5. Should the General Assembly decide to appropriate an amount of \$180,000 for UNAFRI under section 23, the procedure for the use of the contingency fund would apply. However, given the nature of this appropriation, the Secretary-General is not in a position to provide an alternative in case resources would not be sufficient in the contingency fund. The only possible alternative would be to defer implementation of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ A/46/703, annex, sect. II.A.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. II.
