

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE
AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS**

**SECOND TO TWENTY-NINTH REPORTS
ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET
FOR
THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------|--|
| ACC | Administrative Committee on Co-ordination |
| CCAQ | Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions |
| CPC | Committee for Programme and Co-ordination |
| DIS | Development Information System |
| ECA | Economic Commission for Africa |
| ECE | Economic Commission for Europe |
| ECWA | Economic Commission for Western Asia |
| EDPIS | Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Services |
| ICC | International Computing Centre |
| INTIB | Industrial and Technological Information Bank |
| IOB | Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems |
| ISU | Information Systems Unit (formerly Information Services Unit) |
| JIU | Joint Inspection Unit |
| JUNIC | Joint United Nations Information Committee |
| UNBIS | United Nations Bibliographical Information System |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| UNIS | United Nations International School |
| UNITAR | United Nations Institute for Training and Research |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

Second report

Identification of activities that have been completed or are
obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective

[Original: English]

[22 October 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1) on the identification of activities that have been completed or are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. The report was submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 33/204 of 29 January 1979.
2. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 the Committee welcomed the increased attention being paid by the Secretary-General to the redeployment of resources. The Committee also welcomed the information provided under certain programmes in sections 6 and 10 concerning the termination of programme elements deemed to be obsolete, ineffective or of marginal usefulness. 1/ In document A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1 the Secretary-General summarizes the results of the exercise for 10 of the 17 sections of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 which cover the economic and social activities of the Organization.
3. The question of the determination of activities that have been completed or are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective has been before the General Assembly since its thirtieth session, and has been addressed in four resolutions (3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975, 31/93 of 14 December 1976, 32/201 of 21 December 1977 and 33/204 of 29 January 1979). The report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1) is the first report which contains quantified data on the completion and termination of programme elements and the consequential release of staff resources. In this connexion the Advisory Committee recalls that, in response to recommendations by the Joint Inspection Unit, the Secretary-General has already taken steps towards better identification of output in the programme budget (see A/C.5/34/2), and the establishment of internal work programmes and procedures for reporting on programme implementation (see A/C.5/34/3). The Committee understands that the data reported in document A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1 have been collected as a result of the introduction of these measures. Indeed, it is clear from the report by the Secretary-General that the main emphasis so far has been on improved measurement of resources released through completions of project elements, rather than on how best to determine which programme elements should be terminated. The Committee believes that as monitoring of the use of resources is improved it should become possible for the

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), chap. I, para. 27.

Secretary-General to submit a more comprehensive and accurate report on the resources released through both the completion and the termination of programme elements.

4. In the course of its consideration of the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee received an advance, unedited text of chapter VI of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) on the work of its nineteenth session. In paragraph 11 of that chapter CPC states:

"11. With regard to the identification of activities that had been completed, were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, it was generally felt that the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1) was clearly inadequate. It was stressed that the identification of such activities should be prepared by the Secretariat where the necessary programme information which would support intergovernmental programme review was available". 2/

5. In most cases, programme budget proposals for individual programmes are likely to include a core of programme elements carried forward from the base biennium plus new programme elements the requirements for which would be met, in whole or in part, by resources released through the completion or termination of programme elements in the base biennium. In the case of several organizational units the information provided by them and summarized in table 2 of the Secretary-General's report is consistent with such a pattern. On the other hand, the data furnished by several other organizational units indicate that all the professional resources will continue to be used for programme elements already in progress, that none were released as a result of completions and terminations in 1978-1979 and that none will be used for new programme elements in 1980-1981.

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that the latter situation is sometimes the result of differences in the approach of individual programme managers to the relationship between "programme elements" and "outputs". Where a programme element includes a single output the production of the latter will mean that the programme element has been terminated and staffing resources have become available for reassignment. But where a "programme element" is deemed to contain several unconnected outputs it will often be reported as "still in progress" even though most of the outputs have been produced and staffing resources have been released. There is therefore a need to continue work on the conceptual framework in the interest of greater uniformity in the relationship of programme elements to outputs, so as to ensure that the data submitted by various organizational units are based on a common understanding of the requirements.

7. Table 2 of document A/C.5/34/4 shows that completion or termination in 1978-1979 of programme elements budgeted for under sections 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 20, 22 and 23 released 2,967 work-months of professional staff resources. Eighteen programme elements were terminated. As can be seen from the annex to the report, those terminations released 32 work-months of resources. The balance of 2,935 work-months therefore relates to the completion of programme elements. The Advisory Committee notes in this connexion that inasmuch as the data did not cover all the budget sections in the economic and social area and, also, were compiled

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/34/38), chap. VI.

half a year before the end of the biennium, the total volume of resources released through the termination of programme elements will be larger than has been indicated in document A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1. Thus, even though the accuracy of the estimate is open to question for the reasons given above, it shows none the less that the United Nations is capable of undertaking a substantial volume of new programme elements within the level of already approved resources.

8. While the results achieved in the course of the preparation of the programme budget proposals for 1980-1981 in identifying programme elements that should be terminated because they are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, have been very modest indeed, they represent the beginning of a process called for by the General Assembly in the resolutions listed in paragraph 3 above. At the same time the Advisory Committee is aware that the identification of programme elements which can be considered obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective can raise considerations which are political rather than administrative or managerial. In this connexion the Committee notes the information in paragraphs 9 and 10 of document A/C.5/34/4 to the effect that the permanent representatives held the view that the recommendations of the Secretary-General must precede the exercise of judgement in this matter by Member States. The Advisory Committee also notes the conceptual difficulties listed in paragraph 29 of the report of the Secretary-General.

9. The need to redeploy resources to meet new requirements is not confined to the United Nations itself. In the course of its meetings with representatives of the executive heads of the specialized agencies, the Advisory Committee was informed that several of them had carried out a reassessment of resources allocated to individual programmes with a view to redeploying additional resources to priority areas, and had reflected the consequential changes in their programme budget proposals to the intergovernmental organs concerned. The Committee will seek further information on this question from the specialized agencies and will report thereon to the General Assembly, as necessary, in the context of future reports on administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

10. At a time when Member States are called upon to pay more by way of assessed contributions because of budgetary increases attributable to inflation and currency instability, the ability of the Organization to undertake new activities in priority areas will be greater if it can identify and eliminate existing activities that are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will intensify his efforts to that end and make appropriate proposals as soon as possible to the competent intergovernmental organs.

Third report

Establishment of the Information Systems Unit in the Department
of International Economic and Social Affairs

[Original: English]

[24 October 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/5) on the establishment of the Information Systems Unit 1/ in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the related report of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/34/380).
2. The reports have been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/116 A, section II, in paragraph 3 of which the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General:

"to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session on the results of the two-year operation of the Information Services Unit, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Joint Inspection Unit in addition to those made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its report 2/ and including the results of a review of the operation by the Information Systems Board and a detailed breakdown of the estimated start-up and operation costs of the Secretary-General's proposals as well as the utility of the information to actual and potential users of an Information Services Unit system, and the extent of compatibility and co-ordination achieved with the United Nations Bibliographic Information System and with the relevant information systems of other United Nations bodies ..."
3. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), in paragraphs 14 to 28 of its report identifies four main issues that the General Assembly will wish to consider prior to arriving at a decision regarding the future of the Information Systems Unit (ISU), namely: the need for the system; the costs in prospect; the extent of compatibility and co-ordination achieved by the ISU's Development Information System (DIS) with the United Nations Bibliographic Information System (UNBIS) as well as relevant information systems of other United Nations organizations; and the relationship between ISU and other organizational units, in particular Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Services (EDPIS).

1/ Formerly called Information Services Unit.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.2.

4. According to JIU, based on information available to it, the total annual cost of the ISU will be approximately \$250,000 (see A/34/380, para. 22). In the JIU's assessment, while the ISU's system is fully compatible with a number of others in the United Nations family, certain technical measures at extra cost will be needed for adapting the ISU's system to that of UNBIS (*ibid.*, para. 24). In this connexion, JIU recommends that "even at this late date, a useful purpose could be served if the proposed system were presented to the IOB for review and comment, both generally and with specific regard to its compatibility with existing systems" (*ibid.*, para. 26). With regard to the relationship between ISU and other organizations, JIU calls for closer co-operation with EDPIIS than has been the case in the past and stresses the need for ISU to bear in mind the requirements of both the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, particularly with regard to the entry of documents of both Departments into its pilot data base (*ibid.*, paras. 27 and 28).

5. As regards the question of need, JIU states that "it is not possible at this stage to demonstrate conclusively the arguments in favour of the subsystem or the arguments against it" and expresses the view that "the pilot subsystem must be in operation for a period approaching one year before the need for the subsystem can be demonstrated on the basis of the use made of it". JIU further states that "the use must be carefully monitored by valid statistical methods so that the results can be presented to the various bodies concerned" (*ibid.*, para. 19). Accordingly, JIU recommends that, subject to the availability of further voluntary funds, the pilot system should be given another year "in which the need (or otherwise) can be demonstrated" (*ibid.*, para. 20). Consequently, "the General Assembly's final decision should be deferred until the thirty-fifth session in 1980" (*ibid.*).

6. In paragraphs 1 to 50 of his report (A/C.5/34/5), the Secretary-General recalls the circumstances leading to the establishment of ISU in March 1978 and subsequent developments culminating in General Assembly resolution 33/116 A, and provides background information regarding the setting up and operation of the ISU's Development Information System (DIS) during this pilot phase and the initial activities of ISU in the area of co-ordination and co-operation with substantive units. The Secretary-General responds to the comments and recommendations of JIU in paragraphs 63 to 74 of his report.

7. The Secretary-General states that he "concurrs fully with the recommendation of the Inspectors that, subject to the availability of additional voluntary funds, the Development Information System be given approximately a year in which the need can be demonstrated, and that, in consequence, the General Assembly should take its final decision on continuance of the Unit at its thirty-fifth session in 1980" (*ibid.*, para. 64).

8. The Secretary-General estimates requirements for ISU in 1980 at \$192,900 (*ibid.*, annex III) as compared to the JIU's estimate of \$250,000. In the Secretary-General's opinion the reduced amount will suffice "if the level of the Unit's involvement in information systems and services activities of IESA and TCD does not increase and the use of the minicomputer is continued in 1980" (*ibid.*, para. 66). The Secretary-General states that, as a result of delayed recruitment, postponement of the microfiche production of documents until the future of ISU is decided, and lower than expected equipment rental and maintenance costs, actual expenditure for 1978-1979 is now estimated at \$258,910 as compared to the original cost estimate of \$343,680, with consequential savings of \$84,770 against voluntary funds (*ibid.*, para. 54 and annex II). The Secretary-General states that

consequently, "if this amount were to be made available from existing extrabudgetary resources, there would be a need for an additional amount of \$100,000 for which new voluntary contributions need to be sought to continue the operation of ISU for another year" (ibid., para. 65). In this connexion the Secretary-General indicated that "at the time of this writing, however, no additional extrabudgetary resources have yet been offered to finance the continuation of the operation of the Unit beyond 1979" (ibid.).

9. In response to inquiries the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that two oral offers of voluntary funds had now been received.

10. With regard to the observations of JIU on the compatibility of the ISU system with other systems and on ISU's relationship with other organizational units, the Advisory Committee notes the information provided by the Secretary-General on the establishment of technical compatibility between UNBIS and the ISU's Development Information System (DIS); consultations with IOB; the establishment of a close working relationship with EDNIS; and formal collaboration arrangements involving the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (ibid., paras. 70-74).

11. The Advisory Committee agrees with the JIU recommendation, which has been accepted by the Secretary-General, that subject to the availability of additional voluntary funds, the pilot operation of the ISU's Development Information System (DIS) be extended for a further year and that, in consequence, the General Assembly should pronounce itself on the continuance (or otherwise) of ISU at its thirty-fifth session in 1980. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee draws attention to paragraph 1 of resolution 33/116 A, section II, in which the General Assembly recalls:

"... the decision in section V, paragraph 2, of its resolution 32/212 of 21 December 1977 that there is no commitment on the part of the Organization subsequently to transfer the costs of the operation of the Information Services Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to the regular budget;".

Fourth report

Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems: proposed programme of work and budget for 1980-1981 and medium-term plan to 1985; revised estimates under section 28G

[Original: English]

[24 October 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/15) in which he submits: (a) the proposed programme of work and budget for 1980-1981 and medium-term plan to 1985 of the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems (IOB); and (b) revised estimates for 1980-1981 under section 28G (Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Division) for the United Nations share of the cost of the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems.

I. Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems: proposed programme of work and budget for 1980-1981 and medium-term plan to 1985

2. In paragraphs 3 to 14 of document A/C.5/34/15, the Secretary-General provides brief descriptions of the four subprogrammes which comprise the IOB's proposed programme of work for 1980-1981 and medium-term plan to 1985 as reviewed by the Organizational Committee of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) at its meeting of 29 June 1979. The four subprogrammes in question are:

1. Basic co-ordination services (including secretariat services)
2. Data and documentation systems
3. Programme and support systems
4. Technological support systems and services.

3. In paragraph 15 of his report the Secretary-General recalls that since 1977 IOB has changed its method of work in response to its revised terms of reference which were approved by ACC in 1976.

4. The Secretary-General submits estimates for IOB in the amount of \$1,217,900 for the biennium 1980-1981, which is \$18,400 or 1.5 per cent less than the approved appropriation of \$1,236,300 for 1978-1979. In table 2 of his report the Secretary-General indicates net negative resource growth (as adjusted) of \$20,600 at revised 1979 rates and a negative rate of real growth of 1.6 per cent. The Secretary-General attributes the negative resource growth in the main to reduced requirements for contractual services (\$70,200 at revised 1979 rates), general temporary assistance (\$21,500) and consultants (\$6,000) offset by increased

requirements under established posts and common staff costs (\$35,400 - see para. 5 below), travel on official business (\$10,200) and general operating expenses (\$700).

5. The approved staffing table of IOB for 1978-1979 comprises 4 posts in the Professional category and above (1 D-2, 2 P-5 and 1 P-2/1) and 2 General Service posts (A/C.5/34/15, table 3). For 1980-1981, the Secretary-General proposes the establishment of one new General Service post. Bearing in mind the justification provided by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 20 to 23 of his report, the Advisory Committee has no objection to this request.

6. The Advisory Committee also accepts the estimates for IOB as submitted by the Secretary-General for all other objects of expenditure for the biennium 1980-1981.

II. Revised estimates under section 28G: Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems - United Nations share

7. In his programme budget proposals for 1980-1981 the Secretary-General requested the inclusion of a provisional amount of \$499,300 for the United Nations share of the cost of IOB pending review of the work plans and budget proposals for the biennium by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). 1/ The Advisory Committee, in its related report, noted the provisional nature of those estimates. 2/ In paragraph 70 of document A/C.5/34/15, the Secretary-General states that the United Nations share of the cost of IOB is now estimated at \$482,300, representing 39.6 per cent of the total estimated cost of \$1,217,900 (see para. 4 above). The revised estimate of the United Nations share is thus \$17,000 less than the provisional estimate of \$499,300.

8. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 5 and 6 above the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's revised estimate of \$482,300 under section 28G of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 (Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Division) for the United Nations share of the cost of the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. II, paras. 28G.15 and 28G.16.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), para. 28.68.

Fifth report

Revised estimates under section 28L: secretariat of the Consultative
Committee on Administrative Questions - United Nations share

[Original: English]

[24 October 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/16) in which he submits a revised estimate of \$317,800 for the United Nations share (37 per cent) of the costs of the secretariat of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) for 1980-1981. The revised estimate is \$19,900 higher than the estimate of \$297,900 already included in section 28L of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 and recommended by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981. 1/

2. As can be seen from paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report, the revision of the CCAQ budget would provide for a new P-3 post to meet the requirements of its work in the financial and budgetary area. The Advisory Committee also notes from that paragraph that one Professional staff member is already available for work on financial and budgetary matters. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee understands that CCAQ (Financial and Budgetary Questions) normally holds two sessions a year for a total of two or three weeks and that its secretariat is assisted in the provision of documentation for those sessions by submissions from the participating organizations. The Committee is not convinced that the volume of work in between the sessions justifies the assignment of two Professional officers to financial and budgetary questions.

3. Under the circumstances the Advisory Committee found insufficient justification for the addition of a new P-3 post to the secretariat of CCAQ. The Committee therefore recommends that the amount of \$297,900 already included in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 be maintained.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session,
Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), para. 28.128.

Sixth report

Revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions, 1979

Part I*

[Original: English]

[25 October 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/11) in which he submits revised estimates resulting from decision 1979/49 of the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1979, relating to the transfer of the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) from Beirut to Baghdad. The additional appropriation requested by the Secretary-General amounts to \$1,804,500 under section 14 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.
2. In paragraph 2 of his report, the Secretary-General recalls that the proposed programme budget of ECWA for 1980-1981 was prepared before the Commission took a decision on the subject of the transfer. The estimates were thus based on the assumption that the headquarters of the Commission would continue to be located at Beirut during the entire biennium. As indicated in the related report of the Advisory Committee, 1/ ECWA adopted resolution 67 (VI) in April 1979, in which it decided, inter alia, that ECWA should commence its move to its permanent headquarters at Baghdad on the expiry of the five-year transitional period at Beirut and with effect from 9 September 1979, and that it should occupy the temporary offices provided by the Government of Iraq until completion of the permanent headquarters buildings in Baghdad. By decision 1979/49, the Economic and Social Council endorsed that resolution.
3. The Secretary-General states that the secretariat of the Commission will be moved to Baghdad in stages over a period of six months, beginning in January 1980. The Executive Secretary of ECWA informed the Advisory Committee that the secretariat would be accommodated in two temporary buildings, to be provided by the Government of the host country, one of which would be ready by the end of November 1979 and the other in March 1980.

* Part II is contained in document A/34/7/Add.9.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), para. 14.2.

4. The revised estimates have been calculated by the Secretary-General (see A/C.5/34/11, para. 3 on the basis of the following assumptions.

(a) All staff members in the Professional category and above currently serving in ECWA, totalling 78 (as against 94 posts authorized), will be transferred to Baghdad;

(b) The 115 staff members in the local-level category (as against 148 posts proposed for 1980-1981), will be invited to continue serving ECWA at Baghdad as internationally recruited General Service staff members, and the remaining 33 posts will be filled by local recruits;

(c) The Government of the host country will make available to ECWA in the temporary quarters all the necessary facilities for the secretariat and for meetings, including furniture, office equipment and conference equipment, at no cost to the United Nations.

5. The revised estimates, totalling \$1,804,500, represent net costs to be incurred under established posts (see A/C.5/34/11, para. 4), temporary assistance (paras. 5 and 6), common staff costs (paras. 7 and 8), travel on official business (paras. 9 and 10), general operating expenses (para. 11) and acquisition of furniture and equipment (paras. 12 and 13). Of that amount, \$274,000 relates to recurrent costs and \$1,530,500 to non-recurrent costs (see para. 14).

6. On the basis of his projection of post adjustment indices and General Service salary rates at Baghdad as compared to Beirut, the Secretary-General estimates that salary costs of established posts of the ECWA secretariat at Baghdad (\$8,305,000 based on an average distribution of three months at Beirut and 21 months at Baghdad) would be lower than initially provided for at Beirut (\$8,941,000 as shown in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981). On the other hand, his estimate shows that the anticipated savings of \$636,000 would be offset by the payment of \$684,300 for non-residents' allowance to internationally recruited General Service staff members; the net result would be an additional cost of \$48,300.

7. The Advisory Committee understands that staff rule 103.5 is the basis for the payment of a non-resident's allowance to internationally recruited General Service staff. The amount estimated for that allowance in 1980-1981, \$684,300, relates to the 115 staff members in the local-level category at Beirut who would be invited by the Secretary-General to continue serving ECWA at Baghdad as international recruits. It is based on an annual allowance of \$3,400 per staff member and an average distribution of three months at Beirut and 21 months at Baghdad.

8. The Advisory Committee notes that the number of internationally recruited General Service staff members proposed by the Secretary-General (115) would correspond to 77.7 per cent of the General Service establishment of ECWA (148) proposed for 1980-1981. In this connexion, the Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the intention was to ensure the availability of experienced General Service staff immediately following the relocation of the ECWA secretariat. Bearing in mind that, as a rule, General Service staff are recruited locally, the Committee believes that, as ECWA develops in its permanent headquarters, the Secretary-General should have in view the progressive reduction of the number of internationally recruited General Service staff.

9. The revised estimates include \$323,300 under common staff costs for assignment allowances to staff in the Professional category and above. This amount is based on the assumption that none of the Professional category and above who are currently serving in ECWA would immediately exercise their entitlement to household removal and would thus be entitled to an assignment allowance for a period not exceeding five years (see A/C.5/34/11, para. 7 (b)).

10. The Advisory Committee inquired into the rules relating to the payment of an assignment allowance or of removal costs to Professional staff members on transfer. The Committee has been informed that rule 103.22 provides, inter alia, that:

"(a) Subject to the provisions of rules 103.21 and 107.27, an assignment allowance shall be paid to a staff member in the Professional category and above who is appointed or assigned to a duty station outside his or her home country for a specified period of service under the following circumstances:

"(i) The allowance may be authorized when the fixed-term appointment or temporary assignment is for a period of one year or more but less than two years;

"(ii) The allowance may be authorized when the fixed-term appointment or temporary assignment is for a period of two years or more but less than five years. Normally, the allowance will be paid in the case of service at a duty station in the field, whereas removal costs under rule 107.27 will be paid in the case of service at a duty station in a city where the headquarters of the United Nations, a specialized agency or the International Atomic Energy Agency is located."

The representatives of the Secretary-General also informed the Advisory Committee that it had been a consistent practice of the Organization to consider that the definition of "headquarters of the United Nations" did not include headquarters of the regional commissions, which were thus assimilated to duty stations in the field. They also stated that the payment of an assignment allowance was intended to cover extra costs arising from the non-removal of household effects and for dislocation due to assignment.

11. The Advisory Committee inquired into the estimated cost of payment of an assignment allowance for the 78 staff members in the Professional category and above upon transfer to Baghdad as compared to the estimated costs of household removal. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that the one-time cost of household removal for the staff members concerned would amount to \$312,000 (at an average cost of \$4,000 per staff member). The payment of an assignment allowance over a period of five years would entail an expenditure of \$808,250 (at current rates).

12. As was stated by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/11, para. 7 (b)), he intends to give all the 78 Professional staff members currently serving with ECWA at Beirut the option of being paid an assignment allowance on their transfer to Baghdad. In

response to inquiries, the Advisory Committee was informed that 35 Professional staff members of ECWA already receive an assignment allowance. Considering that the proposed programme budget of ECWA for 1980-1981 takes into account the payment of an assignment allowance to the staff members currently entitled to it, the Advisory Committee is of the view that, to avoid making a double provision, the revised estimate of \$323,000 for the allowance should be reduced by an amount corresponding to the allowance payable to the 35 Professional staff members, namely, by \$145,000. 2/

13. The revised estimates include \$1,505,000 for non-recurrent common staff costs, of which \$1,440,000 relates to transfer costs and \$65,000 to termination indemnities. The non-recurrent transfer costs, \$1,440,000, cover the relocation of 193 staff members (78 Professional and above and 115 General Service) and 317 dependants. They include \$58,000 3/ for travel expenses, \$423,000 for household removal, \$76,000 for unaccompanied baggage, \$103,000 for transportation of privately owned vehicles and \$780,000 for installation grant (table 2). In response to inquiries, the Committee was informed that those estimates were of a preliminary nature and were calculated for the most part on the basis of maximum entitlements. The Committee trusts, therefore, that the actual costs will be less than the estimates.

14. The Advisory Committee inquired into whether payment by the Organization of the cost of transporting a privately owned automobile under staff rule 107.27 (d) (v), on removal costs, was compatible with an entitlement to assignment allowance. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that, since the assignment allowance was intended to cover extra costs arising from non-removal of household effects and for dislocation due to assignment, it had not been the practice of the Organization to consider that there was a conflict between entitlement to assignment allowance and reimbursement of costs of transporting a private automobile. The paramount factor taken into consideration by the Secretary-General has thus been whether the use of a car by the staff member at the new duty station was required, given local conditions.

15. The provision of \$103,000 for the cost of transporting privately owned vehicles is based on the assumption that two thirds of all staff members to be transferred (129 out of 193) will utilize their entitlement of \$800 per vehicle. The Committee notes that the unit cost used is the maximum entitlement allowed in accordance with the conditions established by the Secretary-General. 4/ Considering the number of vehicles involved, the Committee believes that economies of scale can be achieved if the task is planned in a consolidated manner.

2/ The assignment allowance applicable is at the following annual rates: P-1 to P-4 \$1,600 single rate and \$2,000 dependence rate, and P-5 and above \$1,900 and \$2,400, respectively (staff rule 103.22).

3/ The figure of \$53,000 in table 2 of document A/C.5/34/11 is an error.

4/ Administrative instruction ST/AI/176/Rev.1/Amend.2 of 15 May 1975 states, inter alia, that reimbursement of the cost of transporting a privately owned automobile shall not exceed 75 per cent of the total cost (including freight, insurance and handling charges), subject to a maximum of \$800.

16. For the reasons given in paragraphs 12, 13 and 15 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the additional appropriation requested under section 14 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 in connexion with the transfer of the headquarters of ECWA to Baghdad be reduced by \$204,500 from \$1,804,500 to \$1,600,000.

17. The Advisory Committee points out that the Secretary-General, in his report, has not included an estimate of the additional income which must accrue to the Organization as a result of the disposal of existing furniture and equipment which will not be moved from Beirut to Baghdad. The Committee recommends that, in his progress report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, the Secretary-General should identify, under income section 2, the proceeds of the disposal of the furniture and equipment in question.

Seventh report

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
submitted by the Third Committee in document A/34/618

(Agenda item 73)*

[Original: English]

[12 November 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/34/22 and Corr.1 and 2) of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/34/618, para. 18) on the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.
2. In paragraph 2 of the statement, the Secretary-General identifies the activities to be carried out during 1980-1981 as part of the proposed programme for the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination contained in the annex to the draft resolution. 1/ The Secretary-General estimates the related costs in 1980-1981 at \$708,500 for conference servicing and \$393,700 in non-conference costs.
3. As indicated in paragraph 6 of his statement, the Secretary-General is not seeking appropriations in respect of the conference servicing costs (\$708,500) at the present time "pending the review of actual requirements in the context of the consolidated statement of total conference servicing requirements to be submitted towards the end of the current General Assembly session". This procedure is in accordance with practice at recent sessions of the General Assembly. The Committee notes, however, that the estimates of additional conference servicing requirements contained in the annex to the statement include travel and subsistence costs of language staff who will service the proposed meetings at Nairobi and in Latin America. The Committee understands that these requirements are not included in the resources requested under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.

* Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General.

1/ The Advisory Committee was informed that other activities proposed therein (paras. 18, 23 and 25) would be financed by the intergovernmental bodies and specialized agency concerned.

4. In paragraphs 3 (a) to (f) the Secretary-General indicates the non-conference requirements and the assumptions on which they are based. The total estimate of \$393,700 is summarized as follows:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|--|-----------------------|
| Regional seminar (Africa) (para. 3 (a) (i)) | 103,000 |
| Regional seminar (Latin America) (para. 3 (a) (ii)) | 71,500 |
| Seminar on measures to prevent transnational corporations from collaborating with the racist régime of southern Africa (para. 3 (b)) | 104,000 |
| Study by the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa (para. 3 (c)) | 20,000 |
| International colloquium to be organized by UNITAR (para. 3 (d)) | 55,800 |
| Study on the links between the struggle against racism and the struggle for self-determination in southern Africa (para. 3 (e)) | 19,700 |
| Study on the link between racial discrimination and inequalities in levels of education, nutrition, health, housing and cultural development (para. 3 (f)) | <u>19,700</u> |
| Total | <u><u>393,700</u></u> |

5. In paragraphs 3 (e) and (f) the Secretary-General states that he is not requesting additional resources, estimated at \$39,400, for the studies involved in view of the fact that provision for undertaking them has already been made in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 (see programme element 4.2, Output (ii) and (iii) of subprogramme 4 under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981). 2/ Consequently, the net additional resources being requested by the Secretary-General for non-conference costs is \$354,300 (\$393,700 less \$39,400).

6. In paragraph 23.13 of his proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 the Secretary-General indicates that resource requirements for subprogramme 4 amount to \$553,600. However, as can be seen from the breakdown by object of expenditure in table 23.9 and paragraph 23.28, no funds have been requested for travel of representatives. Furthermore, in paragraph 23.29 the Secretary-General indicates that the estimate for travel of staff to service meetings is related to attendance at meetings to be held in New York. The estimate already incorporated in the proposed programme budget also excludes general operating expenses. Consequently, there is no duplication between what has already been requested in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, and the estimates for travel and general operating expenses included in document A/C.5/34/22 and Corr.1 and 2. The Advisory Committee was informed that travel costs have been estimated on the assumption that all the

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. II.

participants will attend the seminars and stay for their entire duration. This may not prove to be the case. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that no additional funds need be appropriated for external printing, for which the Secretary-General has already requested \$194,900. For these reasons the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate of non-conference costs be reduced from \$354,300 to \$325,000, i.e. by \$29,300.

7. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 3 (d) of the statement by the Secretary-General that as the international colloquium to be organized by UNITAR in May 1980 had originally been scheduled for 1979, he will surrender, in the context of the final performance report for the biennium 1978-1979, an appropriation of \$56,000 for the colloquium included in the programme budget for 1978-1979.

8. For the reasons given in paragraphs 3 and 6 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee (A/34/618, para. 18), an appropriation in the amount of \$325,000 would be required under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 and that the requirements under section 29 would be included in the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session (see A/C.5/34/98 and Corr.1).

Eighth report

International Computing Centre: 1980 budget estimates; revised estimates under section 28G - United Nations share

[Original: English]

[12 November 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/19) in which he submits 1980 budget estimates for the International Computing Centre (ICC) and revised estimates for 1980-1981 under section 28G (Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Division) for the United Nations share of the costs of ICC at Geneva. The Advisory Committee was provided with additional written and oral information by the Director of the Centre.

2. The Advisory Committee notes that the budget estimates of ICC have been submitted for review and approval by the General Assembly pursuant to section III of General Assembly resolution 31/208 of 22 December 1976.

I. 1980 budget estimates for the International Computing Centre

3. The 1980 budget estimates for ICC amount to \$4,905,600. The Secretary-General states in paragraph 10 of his report that, in accordance with arrangements agreed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), the estimates have been reviewed by a panel composed of Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) participants from ICC user organizations.

4. The 1980 estimate of \$4,905,600 is \$163,300, or 3.2 per cent, less than the approved 1979 estimate of \$5,068,900. However, as can be seen from table 5 in document A/C.5/34/19, the 1980 estimate has been converted into dollars at a rate of Sw. Fr. 1.73 = \$US 1, as against a rate of Sw. Fr. 1.63 = \$US 1, used for the 1979 estimate. The latter is equivalent to \$4,776,000 at Sw. Fr. 1.73 = \$US 1. On this basis the 1980 estimate is \$129,600, or 2.7 per cent, higher. The increase is attributable almost entirely to equipment rental and related costs, which will account for 58.10 per cent of the budget of ICC in 1980 as against 52.55 per cent in 1979. Salaries and related costs, on the other hand, show a decline of \$221,800 at 1980 rates, and account for 27.32 per cent of the budget of the Centre as against 32.70 per cent in 1979.

5. The Director of the Centre informed the Committee that the 1980 estimates had been prepared using a zero-base approach, which has led to lower budget levels for the constituent parts of ICC. In the process, the hardware content of each job had been increased, wherever possible, to improve productivity. The Director of ICC also informed the Committee that such preliminary estimates of usage in 1981 as had already been received indicated the same funding as in 1980 in some cases and a sharp decline in others.

6. The Committee understands that the latter trend is connected with user agencies' plans to install their own mini-computers, with a parallel reduction in the number of jobs which will be processed on the ICC computer. In this connexion the Advisory Committee has been informed that in response to its observations in paragraphs 66 to 68 of its report at the thirty-third session under agenda item 105, on administrative co-ordination of electronic data processing and information systems (A/33/304), the ICC Management Committee established a task force which studied the advantages of three approaches to providing data processing services so as to prevent the uncontrolled spread of mini-computers without standards. One approach assumed that all functions would be centralized, another that they would be decentralized, and the third that some functions would be centralized and others decentralized (the so-called "distributed" approach). The task force considered that the objective of the ICC approach to distributed processing should be to achieve the advantages of both centralized and decentralized processing by building a network that combined local autonomy with system-wide standards and central facilities. That approach could still use computers of varying size and capability, but they would be linked into a distributed network whose architecture and interfaces were planned in advance. The alternative would be an inadequate patchwork of incompatible systems which would be expensive to maintain and make application development extremely difficult.

7. The Advisory Committee understands that the increased requirements in 1980 under "equipment rental and related costs" (see A/C.5/34/19, table 5) include the rental of additional high-speed memory and direct-access storage equipment to enable the CALL/ICC 1/ network to operate at the level of service required by participating organizations. They also reflect higher rental rates and increased maintenance costs.

8. The lower requirements under salaries and related costs reflect the practice of ICC of funding only such posts within its approved staffing table as are necessary to carry out its programme of work. The Advisory Committee was informed by the Director of the Centre that of the 43 posts on the staffing table 32 would be funded in 1980. The lower requirements are also due in part to a reduction in the estimate for temporary assistance.

9. The Advisory Committee was informed that the 1980 estimates include the reclassification of the post of the Director of the Centre from D-1 to D-2; the reclassification in question had been recommended by the ICC Management Committee, and CCAQ had agreed with it. The Committee recalls that the reclassification of the post of the Director of ICC had previously been requested in 1976 and 1977 (A/C.5/31/3, A/C.5/32/85), but that on both occasions the Committee had not concurred in the request. 2/

10. The Advisory Committee understands that the question has since been reviewed by the Classification Section of the Office of Personnel Services. On the basis of the information contained in the post description, the evaluation findings of the

1/ CALL/ICC is the Time-Sharing Service available to agencies belonging to the United Nations system of organizations. It gives fast, easy access to the ICC network and the associated data bases.

2/ A/31/255, para. 49; Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/32/8/Add.1-30), document A/32/8/Add.25, para. 10.

Classification Section support the ICC Management Committee's recommendation to upgrade the post of the Director of ICC to D-2. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed reclassification.

11. With regard to the estimate for common services (\$425,000 for 1980 as against \$441,800 in 1979), the Advisory Committee was informed that approximately \$360,000 relates to ICC's payment to WHO for rental of office accommodation, air conditioning, utilities and custodial services. The balance was to provide for additional office space at Petit Saconnex, which is rented from the United Nations, and for other costs such as telephones, freight, pouch and postage charges. The Director of the Centre also informed the Advisory Committee that ICC was facing an acute shortage of office space. As no additional space was available either in the WHO building or at Petit Saconnex, he was exploring the possibility of renting office space from UNESCO's International Bureau of Education.

12. As can be seen from table 5 in document A/C.5/34/19, the estimate of \$215,000 for supplies in 1980 reflects a negative programme growth of \$3,700. The Advisory Committee was informed that the pattern of expenditure under this heading was affected by the timing of the long-term bulk purchasing agreements between ICC and its suppliers.

13. The ICC budget estimate for 1980, like the approved budget for 1979, includes a flexibility element. The Advisory Committee notes that the amount requested for 1980, when converted into Swiss francs ($\$67,000 \times 1.73 = \text{Sw. Fr. } 116,000$), is the same as the provision in 1979 ($\$71,000 \times 1.63 = \text{Sw. Fr. } 116,000$). In paragraph 12 of his report, the Secretary-General states that the CCAQ panel, in its review of the ICC budget estimates for 1980, had noted "without challenging the need for the flexibility element, that this represented a balancing item providing for costs that were not covered by firm commitments on the part of users but as such could constitute a potential financial liability for the user organizations. More generally, it appeared to the panel that the budgeting concepts which were applicable to budgets financed by assessed contributions were of limited relevance in the case of a semi-commercial establishment like ICC, which was required to respond to changing demands for services, without making corresponding adjustments in the rates charged for such services."

14. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the budget estimates of ICC for 1980 in the amount proposed in document A/C.5/34/19, namely, \$4,905,600.

15. The Committee notes the information in table 4 which lists the estimated contributions by the 12 participating organizations to the ICC budget for 1980. The table shows that the largest amount (\$1,777,880) will be provided by the United Nations.

II. Revised estimates under section 28G: International Computing Centre, Geneva - United Nations share

16. In his programme budget proposals for 1980-1981 the Secretary-General included a provisional amount of \$3,136,400 for the United Nations share of the

^{3/} The figure of \$81,000 shown in table 2 of document A/C.5/34/19 is a typographical error.

cost of ICC pending the approval of the budget proposals of the Centre by ACC. 4/ The Advisory Committee, in its related report, noted the provisional nature of those estimates. 5/

17. In paragraph 14 of his report (A/C.5/34/19), the Secretary-General estimates United Nations usage of ICC in 1980-1981 at \$3,647,300, comprising \$1,777,900 for 1980 (see para. 15 above) and \$1,869,400 for 1981. However, if the General Assembly approves the proposed installation of a computer-connected work station in the United Nations Office at Geneva, there will be a consequential reduction in estimated usage of ICC by the United Nations Office at Geneva by \$160,000. 6/ On that basis, estimated usage of ICC by the United Nations as a whole in 1980-1981 would be reduced to \$3,487,300. The latter amount is \$350,900 more than the provisional estimate of \$3,136,400 already included in the proposed programme budget (see para. 16 above). In paragraph 16 the Secretary-General states, however, that he is not requesting an increased appropriation at this time, since "experience has shown that in some instances during the early stages of new system development results have lagged behind expectations".

18. The Advisory Committee agrees with the Secretary-General's proposal.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. II, paras. 28G.17-28G.24.

5/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), paras. 28.69 and 28.70.

6/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. II, paras. 28H.12-28H.13; ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), para. 28.75.

Ninth report

Rules governing compensation to members of commissions, committees or similar bodies in the event of death, injury or illness attributable to service with the United Nations

[Original: English]

[15 November 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/9) on rules governing compensation to members of commissions, committees or similar bodies in the event of death, injury or illness attributable to service with the United Nations. This report arises from a request made by the Advisory Committee in its twentieth report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials serving the General Assembly. 1/ In that report the Advisory Committee noted that as regards coverage for service-incurred death, injury or illness the rules governing compensation to members of commissions, committees or similar bodies had not been revised since their issuance in March 1956 (ST/SGB/103). In paragraph 12 of its report, the Committee therefore requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session "recommendations for the amendment of the rules and related scale of compensation, taking into account developments in the past 22 years". In adopting section VIII of resolution 33/116 B on 21 December 1978, the Assembly endorsed this request.

2. The annex to the Secretary-General's report contains a revised text of "Rules governing compensation to members of commissions, committees or similar bodies in the event of death, injury or illness attributable to service with the United Nations". The Secretary-General points out in paragraph 2 of his report that, unlike the present text, which consists mainly of extracts from General Assembly resolution 458 (V) of 16 November 1950 and from the second report of the Advisory Committee to the General Assembly at the fifth session, 2/ the proposed revised rules are set out in a more detailed and systematic manner and are patterned along the lines of the rules currently in force for Secretariat officials (ST/SGB/Staff Rules/Appendix D/Rev.1 and Amend.1).

3. The Advisory Committee is in general agreement with the text submitted by the Secretary-General in the annex to his report, but recommends that in order to clarify certain points some changes should be made in the draft text as follows:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.19.

2/ Ibid., Fifth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/1312 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

Article 1, dealing with applicability, should make it clear that the rules would cover also those who do not receive a daily subsistence allowance but are paid an annual remuneration.

Article 1 should specify that compensation under these rules would not be paid to staff members nor to anyone who is otherwise covered by the United Nations or by a specialized agency for death, injury or illness attributable to service on behalf of that organization.

The original draft of article 2 leaves it uncertain whether compensation would be payable to an innocent commission member who is injured through the misconduct of another member. Article 2 should therefore be clarified.

4. The affected portions of the text reflecting these changes, which have been drafted in consultation with representatives of the Secretary-General, would therefore read as follows:

Section I. Applicability

Article 1. Applicability

(a) These rules shall apply to all members of commissions, committees, or similar bodies whose service to the Organization is recognized by payment of annual remuneration or daily subsistence allowance by the Organization.

(b) These rules shall also apply to individuals appointed by commissions, committees or similar bodies to undertake the performance of special studies or other ad hoc tasks on behalf of such bodies.

(c) These rules shall not apply to a member of a commission, committee or similar body who is otherwise covered by the United Nations, a specialized agency or the International Atomic Energy Agency for death, injury or illness attributable to service on behalf of that Organization.

(d) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, "commission member", "member of the commission", "member" shall mean any person to whom these rules are applicable.

Section II. Principles of award and general provisions

Article 2. Principles of award

The following principles and definitions shall govern the operation of these rules:

(a) Compensation shall be awarded in the event of death, injury or illness of a commission member which is attributable to service as a member or on behalf of the commission, except that no compensation shall be awarded in respect of a commission member whose death, injury or illness has been occasioned by:

- (i) His wilful misconduct; or
- (ii) His wilful intent to bring about the death, injury or illness of himself or another.

5. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to promulgate the proposed rules governing compensation as amended above, with the following understandings:

(a) That the rules shall apply to members of all commissions, committees and similar bodies in respect of which the United Nations pays daily subsistence allowance or annual remuneration listed in annex A of ST/SGB/107/Rev.4 and any such bodies as may be in future certified by the Secretary-General as falling into such category;

(b) That the scale of compensation contained in the rules shall be reviewed by the Secretary-General at least once every four years, in the light of inflation and currency fluctuations since the previous review, and make appropriate recommendations in the context of his programme budget proposals for the appropriate biennium.

6. The Advisory Committee recommends further that the Secretary-General should examine the feasibility of providing insurance coverage for members of commissions, committees, or similar bodies to meet the cost of medical or dental treatment of an emergency nature which becomes necessary during a period of service to the organization but which would not be connected with a service-incurred injury (for which compensation would already be payable under the rules recommended above), on the understanding that coverage paid for by the United Nations would be provided only to the extent that the affected person is not otherwise covered by an insurance or compensation scheme.

Tenth report

Revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions, 1979

Part II*

[Original: English]

[22 November 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/18 and Add.1), in which he submits revised estimates attributable to certain resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1979. The additional resources requested by the Secretary-General for 1980-1981 amount to \$897,700 gross, or \$872,300 net of staff assessment, for requirements other than those for conference servicing. The related conference servicing costs are estimated by the Secretary-General at some \$3.6 million (\$2.4 million in 1980 and \$1.2 million in 1981) on a full-cost basis. In paragraph 5 of document A/C.5/34/18 the Secretary-General states that net additional conference servicing requirements for 1980 will be consolidated in a statement to be submitted towards the close of the current session of the General Assembly (see A/C.5/34/98 and Corr.1).
2. The following table provides a summary of the revised estimates by section.

* Part I is contained in document A/34/7/Add.5.

| <u>Regular budget 1980-1981</u> | <u>Revised estimates (excluding conference servicing costs) (US dollars)</u> | | | <u>Conference servicing costs (on a full-cost basis) (US dollars)</u> | | |
|---|--|----------------|----------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Section 4 | 95,700 | - | 95,700 | 502,800 | - | 502,800 |
| Section 9 | - | - | - | 102,500 | - | 102,500 |
| Section 10 | - | - | - | 230,200 | 143,700 | 373,900 |
| Section 23 | 526,950 | 46,650 | 573,600 | 1,596,400 | 1,068,100 | 2,664,500 |
| Section 27 | 87,000 | 116,000 | 203,000 | - | - | - |
| Total | <u>709,650</u> | <u>162,650</u> | <u>872,300</u> | <u>2,431,900</u> | <u>1,211,800</u> | <u>3,643,700</u> |

3. The Committee notes that the Secretary-General has not requested additional resources for items involving, in each case, financial implications of \$10,000 or less (A/C.5/34/18, para. 4). In table 1 of document A/C.5/34/18 reference is made to three such items, 1/ all of them under section 23. The related amounts which the Secretary-General intends to absorb total \$9,530 (A/C.5/34/18, annex I, paras. 23.2 and 23.16).

4. The report of the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/34/18/Add.1 relates to Council resolution 1979/69 on control and limitation of documentation and to its implications for conference servicing requirements in 1980-1981. In that resolution the Council decided, inter alia, to discontinue for a two-year experimental period the provision of summary records for meetings of 15 subsidiary bodies of the Council. The Secretary-General has indicated that the implementation of the resolution would give rise to savings in conference servicing costs. In paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/34/18/Add.1, he states that those potential savings will be taken into account in the context of the consolidated statement referred to in paragraph 1 above. The Advisory Committee notes that Council resolution 1979/69 will also apply to two items included in annex II to document A/C.5/34/18, namely, \$28,300 under item (e) I and \$37,000 under item (e) II for each year of the biennium.

1/ The table shows four items, but the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the item related to Council decision 1979/40 was inadvertently presented in paragraph 23.31 of annex I and should be disregarded.

Section 4. Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)

5. The amount of \$95,700 being requested under section 4 consists of \$33,600 attributable to Council resolution 1979/30 and \$62,100 to Council decision 1979/25.

Resolution 1979/30. Enlargement of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

6. This resolution calls for the increase in the membership of the above-named Committee from 15 to 27. The Secretary-General is requesting a total of \$33,600 for travel (\$23,000) and subsistence (\$10,600) of the 12 additional members who would be attending the biennial session of the Committee scheduled for two weeks at Vienna in 1980 (A/C.5/34/18, annex I, para. 4.2).

Decision 1979/25. Provisional rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders

7. By this decision the Council approved provisional rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. According to the Secretary-General, rule 58 ^{2/} would give rise to additional expenditure for the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which is to be convened at Vienna in 1980. ^{3/} It states, *inter alia*, that the Secretary-General may invite a small number of expert consultants to participate in the Congress at the expense of the Organization, and that in inviting such expert consultants, the Secretary-General shall pay due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation. To this end, the Secretary-General is proposing that 25 expert consultants be invited. In response to inquiries the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the number was arrived at on the assumption that for each of the five topics of the provisional agenda of the Sixth Congress there would be five individual experts representing the five major regions for the two-week duration of the Congress. The amount of \$62,100 being requested in this connexion relates to travel (\$40,000) and subsistence (\$22,100) for 25 expert consultants (A/C.5/34/18, annex I, para. 4.9).

8. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's estimate of \$95,700 under section 4.

^{2/} Rule 58 was referred to by error as rule 59 in para. 4.8 of annex I to document A/C.5/34/18.

^{3/} The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the Council has decided to convene the Sixth Congress at Caracas, Venezuela. The Congress is convened every five years.

Section 10. Economic Commission for Europe

Resolution 1979/42. Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

9. The Secretary-General discusses the financial implications of this resolution under section 10 inasmuch as ECE is responsible for the servicing of the Committee of Experts and for the implementation of the programme of work on transport of dangerous goods. Under the terms of the resolution the Secretary-General is being requested, inter alia, to publish a new version of the recommendations of the Committee. In paragraph 10.3 of annex I to document A/C.5/34/18, the Secretary-General states that no additional appropriation is requested at this stage; he intends to have them printed internally in the United Nations Office at Geneva. Any related costs that cannot be absorbed within the resources to be appropriated under section 29 will be reflected in the first performance report on the programme budget for 1980-1981. Considering the totality of the resources already requested under section 29, the Advisory Committee recommends that the costs of publishing the recommendations of the Committee of Experts (estimated by the Secretary-General at \$83,000) be absorbed in their entirety.

Section 23. Human rights

10. Under this section the Secretary-General deals with the financial implications of five resolutions and four decisions of the Council. The additional resources being requested amount to \$573,600 and the related conference servicing costs are estimated at \$2.6 million. A breakdown of the estimates is as follows:

| <u>Council resolution or decision</u> | <u>Revised estimates under section 23 (US dollars)</u> | | | <u>Conference servicing costs c/ (on a full-cost basis) (US dollars)</u> | | |
|---|--|---------------|----------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| | | | | | | |
| (a) Resolution 1979/3 | - <u>a/</u> | - | - <u>a/</u> | - | - | - |
| (b) Resolution 1979/35 | 21 600 | - | 21 600 | 55 700 | - | 55 700 |
| (c) Resoluti <u>u</u> on 1979/36 | 34 850 | 35 250 | 70 100 | 384 100 | 384 100 | 768 200 |
| (d) Resolution 1979/37 | 151 300 | - | 151 300 | - <u>b/</u> | - | - <u>b/</u> |
| (e) Resolution 1979/43 | - <u>a/</u> | - <u>a/</u> | - <u>a/</u> | 440 600 | 440,600 | 881 200 |
| (f) Decision 1979/30 | 104 000 | - | 104 000 | 177 200 | - | 177 200 |
| (g) Decision 1979/32 | 17 400 | - | 17 400 | 349 100 | - | 349 100 |
| (h) Decision 1979/34 | 197 800 | 11 400 | 209 200 | 171 700 | 243 400 | 415 100 |
| (i) Decision 1979/40 | - | - | - | 18 000 | - | 18 000 |
| Total | <u>526 950</u> | <u>46 650</u> | <u>573 600</u> | <u>1 596 400</u> | <u>1 068 100</u> | <u>2 664 500</u> |

a/ Costs estimated by the Secretary-General at less than \$10,000 are to be absorbed.

b/ Printing costs, estimated by the Secretary-General at \$40,000, are to be absorbed.

c/ See paras. 1 and 4 above.

Resolution 1979/35. Draft convention on torture
and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment
or punishment

11. In pursuance of the terms of this resolution, an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights will meet for one week in 1980 prior to the thirty-sixth session of the Commission to complete work on the draft convention. The Secretary-General is requesting \$21,600 to cover subsistence expenses of members of the Commission attending that meeting (A/C.5/34/18, annex I, para. 23.5). In response to inquiries the Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that inasmuch as members of the Commission on Human Rights are not entitled to subsistence, the amount in question had been included in the estimates in error. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the amount of \$21,600 attributable to resolution 1979/35 be deleted.

Resolution 1979/36. Further promotion and encouragement
of human rights and fundamental freedoms

12. The amount of \$70,100 requested under this heading relates to the implementation of paragraphs 4 (\$33,300) and 13 (\$36,800) of the resolution.

(a) Under paragraph 4 the Council authorized an increase in the membership of the Commission on Human Rights from 32 to 43. The amount requested will provide for the cost of travel of 11 additional members (\$16,550 in 1980 and \$16,750 in 1981). 4/

(b) In paragraph 13 the Council decided that the annual session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should be extended from three to four weeks. The request for \$36,800 (\$18,300 in 1980 and \$18,500 in 1981) relates to subsistence for members of the Sub-Commission (A/C.5/34/18, annex I, para. 23.8 (ii)).

Resolution 1979/37. Yearbook on Human Rights

13. In paragraph 3 of this resolution the Council decided that, beginning as soon as possible, the Yearbook would be issued on an annual basis (instead of biennially as at present), 5/ in accordance with the guidelines for the contents and format annexed to the resolution. In order to implement the resolution, the Secretary-General is requesting \$151,300 for one P-4, one P-3 and one GS for 12 months each on a temporary assistance basis. The Secretary-General is not

4/ The Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the statement in A/C.5/34/18, annex I, para. 23.8 (i) that those estimates also included subsistence was an error.

5/ The proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 takes into account the publication of one issue of the Yearbook (see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. II, para. 23.13, subprogramme 3.1 (i)).

asking for additional resources for the printing of the additional issue of the Yearbook, as he expects to be able to absorb the cost involved (estimated at \$40,000) within the resources already requested under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 (A/C.5/34/18, annex I, paras. 23.11-23.13).

14. The Advisory Committee inquired into the status of the publication of the Yearbook and the staff resources engaged in its preparation. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that the 1975-1976 issue would be published shortly, and that the material for the 1977-1978 issue was being collected with a view to publication before the end of 1980. They indicated that the staff resources devoted to the preparation of the Yearbook were originally one P-4, one P-3 and one GS, but that since 1975 the workload had become increasingly heavy because of the growing volume of other publications and documentation produced by the Division. As a result only one P-4 staff member has been assigned, on a part-time basis, to work on the Yearbook. They further stated that the additional staff resources requested on a temporary assistance basis were necessary to expedite the publication in 1980 of the 1975-1976 and 1977-1978 issues and to prepare the first annual issue of the Yearbook.

15. The Advisory Committee noted that, in paragraph 4 of resolution 1979/37, the Council recommended "that an appropriate date should be adopted for the issuance of the Yearbook and that the same date should be adhered to thereafter". In response to inquiries the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that Human Rights Day had been set as the date for the publication of the annual issues. It is therefore expected by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the 1979 issue would appear on Human Rights Day 1980 and the 1980 issue on Human Rights Day 1981.

16. The Advisory Committee recognizes the need to have the existing backlog in the production of the Yearbook eliminated and to ensure the timely publication of the first annual issue of the Yearbook. Accordingly, it recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's request for \$151,300.

Decision 1979/30. Seminar on the effects of the
existing unjust international economic order on
the economies of the developing countries

17. By this decision the Council requested the Secretary-General to organize in 1980, within the framework of the advisory services programme, a seminar on the above-mentioned subject. Accordingly, the Secretary-General proposes to hold the seminar at Geneva for two weeks and to invite 32 participants. The additional resources requested for that purpose (\$104,000) comprise \$71,000 for travel and \$33,000 for subsistence of the participants (A/C.5/34/18, annex I, para. 23.19).

18. The Advisory Committee notes that in decision 1979/30 the Council requested the Secretary-General to organize the seminar "within the framework of the advisory services programme". The Committee recalls that since 1956 resources required to carry out the advisory services programme in the field of human rights have been provided for under the regular programme of technical assistance (sect. 15 of the programme budget for the current biennium which is now sect. 24 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981), in pursuance of General Assembly

resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955. 6/ The Committee further recalls that the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 1978/14 requested that the financing of the advisory services programme should be arranged as part of the budget of the human rights programme, but that the General Assembly at its thirty-third session (resolution 33/167) did not take any specific decision on that request.

19. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that the Secretary-General decided to submit the estimate in question under section 23 rather than to organize the seminar within the advisory services programme in view of two interrelated factors: (a) shortage of funds available for the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, and (b) the established practice of the Secretary-General not to propose changes in the amounts involved under section 24, but rather to leave such changes to the initiative of the General Assembly. In this connexion, the Committee notes that in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 under the regular programme of technical assistance in section 24, the indicative amount envisaged for advisory services in the field of human rights is \$267,400 and that for development issues and policies it is \$3,589,400. 7/

20. Should the General Assembly decide that, notwithstanding the provisions of resolution 926 (X), 6/ the seminar to be organized pursuant to Council decision 1979/30 be financed under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, the Advisory Committee would recommend an additional appropriation of \$104,000 under that section.

Decision 1979/32. Study of reported violations of human rights in Chile, with particular reference to torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

21. Under this heading the Secretary-General is requesting a total of \$17,400 to enable the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Chile (\$8,900) and the two experts to study the question of the fate of missing and disappeared persons in Chile (\$8,500) to undertake their work programme in Geneva, in early 1980 prior to the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The estimate relates to travel, subsistence, temporary assistance and overtime (A/C.5/34/18, annex I, paras. 23.21 and 23.22).

6/ In paragraph 1 of resolution 926 (X) the General Assembly decided "to consolidate the technical assistance programmes already approved by the General Assembly ... with the broad programme of assistance in the field of human rights proposed in the present resolution, the entire programme to be known as 'advisory services in the field of human rights'". In paragraph 2 the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to make provision "for the following forms of assistance with respect to the field of human rights:

- "(i) Advisory services of experts;
- "(ii) Fellowships and scholarships;
- "(iii) Seminars".

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. II, table 24.4.

Decision 1979/34. Violation of human rights in
southern Africa: mandate of the Ad Hoc Working
Group of Experts

22. Under this heading the Secretary-General is requesting a total of \$209,200 to enable the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts to continue its activities, in pursuance of the decision of the Council to renew the mandate of the Group. The programme of work of the Group envisages: (a) a meeting in Geneva in early 1980 prior to the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, (b) a field mission to Africa in 1980, and (c) a meeting in Geneva in early 1981 prior to the thirty-seventh session of the Commission. A detailed breakdown of the estimate is provided in paragraphs 23.26 and 23.27 of annex I to document A/C.5/34/18 and can be summarized as follows:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|---|-----------------------|
| (a) Two-week meeting in Geneva, January 1980 (travel and subsistence of six Group members) | 11,400 |
| (b) Four-week field mission to Africa, July-August 1980: | |
| (i) Travel and subsistence of six Group members (\$35,800), 17 staff members (\$53,600) and witnesses (\$2,000) | 91,400 |
| (ii) Salaries and wages of 12 conference servicing staff | 57,400 |
| (iii) General expenses | <u>18,000</u> |
| | 166,800 |
| (c) Two-week meeting in Geneva, January 1981 (travel and subsistence of six Group members) | 11,400 |
| (d) Supplementary staff and costs | <u>19,600</u> |
| Total | <u><u>209,200</u></u> |

23. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimate of \$53,600 for travel and subsistence of 17 staff members includes the expenses of 11 conference servicing staff, prorated at \$34,700. The latter amount should have been reflected under conference servicing costs under section 29 in accordance with standard practice. The Committee also notes that the estimate of \$57,400 for salaries and wages relates to 11 conference service staff (\$53,600) and one press officer (\$3,800). Similarly, the amount involved in respect of conference servicing staff should have been reflected in the conference servicing costs. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the resources requested by the Secretary-General under section 23 in connexion with the implementation of decision 1979/34 be reduced by \$88,300, i.e. from \$209,200 to \$120,900.

24. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 11, 20 and 23, above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General's request under section 23 for requirements other than conference services be reduced by \$213,900, i.e. from \$573,600 to \$359,700.

Section 27. Department of Public Information

Resolution 1979/75. Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and their collaboration with the racist and minority régimes in that area

25. In response to paragraph 11 (e) of this resolution, the Secretary-General proposes that seven symposia on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa be organized (three in 1980 and four in 1981) by the Department of Public Information together with the Centre for Transnational Corporations. The amount of \$203,000 being requested under section 27 is based on an estimated cost of \$29,000 per symposium. According to the Secretary-General's plan, each symposium will be of one week's duration and will be attended by 20 participants comprising 10 from the host country and 10 from other countries (mainly developing countries where transnational corporations operate).

26. The estimated cost per symposium, i.e. \$29,000, consists of \$15,000 for travel and subsistence of participants, \$2,000 for travel and subsistence of one substantive staff, \$5,000 for booklets and pamphlets, \$5,000 for rental of premises and \$2,000 for miscellaneous expenses. As for the staff resources that would be needed to implement the resolution, the Secretary-General intends to make use of the resources already provided for under sections 9 and 27 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 (A/C.5/34/128, annex I, para. 27.4).

27. In response to inquiries, the Committee was informed that the estimates per symposium were of a preliminary nature and that the Organization had no previous experience of holding symposia of that kind. In the circumstances, and bearing in mind the possibility that the host country may furnish some services (such as accommodation) free of charge, the Committee recommends that the estimate for one symposium be reduced to \$25,000, i.e. by \$4,000. On that basis, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General's estimate under section 27 be reduced from \$203,000 to \$175,000, i.e. by \$28,000.

Recapitulation

28. In line with its recommendations in paragraphs 11, 20, 23 and 27 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the following additional amounts attributable to resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1979:

| | <u>United States dollars</u> |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Section 4 | 95,700 |
| Section 23 | 359,700 |
| Section 27 | 175,000 |
| TOTAL | <u>630,400</u> |

29. There will also be a consequential need to increase appropriations under section 31 (Staff assessment) by \$25,400, which will be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

30. Should the General Assembly decide that the seminar referred to in paragraph 20 above be financed under section 23, the amount recommended by the Committee under that section would need to be increased by \$104,000.

Eleventh report

Revised estimates under section 28J.3: Training course for
translators/precis writers at the Economic Commission for
Africa

[Original: English]

[22 November 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/33) on the programme for training English and French translators at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); in it he submits revised estimates in the amount of \$362,300 under section 28J.3 (Staff training activities (regional commissions)). During its consideration of the question, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional oral information by the representatives of the Secretary-General.
2. The Secretary-General states that the General Assembly in its resolution 32/213 A approved the establishment of the programme for training English and French translators at ECA. The Advisory Committee notes, in this connexion, that an appropriation of \$152,100 was approved for the conduct of two training courses for 20 trainees for the biennium 1978-1979. 1/
3. In paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/34/33, the Secretary-General reports on the implementation of the programme. The Advisory Committee was informed that for the first training course, which was held from September 1978 to May 1979, 53 candidates were interviewed; 14 were selected to sit for a competitive entrance examination, and eight of these were subsequently selected for nine months of intensive instruction in the techniques of translation and précis writing. The eight trainees later sat for the standard official United Nations world-wide recruitment examinations for translators (in open competition with some 400 other examinees) and two qualified for recruitment and were granted five-year appointments to serve at ECA in accordance with prior commitments required of all the trainees. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General attributed the poor results obtained by the United Nations trainees to the fact that, as the first course had had to be organized at short notice, it had not been adequately publicized in the African countries. Furthermore this was the first time the United Nations conducted such a training course.
4. With regard to the second training course now in progress (October 1979 to June 1980), the representatives of the Secretary-General stated that

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 100, document A/32/490; ibid., Thirty-second Session, Fifth Committee 55th meeting, and ibid. Fifth Committee Sessional Fascicle, corrigendum.

better-qualified candidates had been identified as a result of a wider campaign involving, inter alia, the canvassing of African Governments and press and radio announcements. Of 100 candidates interviewed, 16 were selected to sit for a competitive entrance examination and 11 candidates out of those 16 were now undergoing intensive instruction at Addis Ababa.

5. The Secretary-General estimates at \$362,300 the resources required for two training courses in 1980-1981. He provides a breakdown by object of expenditure in paragraph 7 of his report. The Advisory Committee notes that the costing assumptions used by the Secretary-General are similar to those contained in his original submission in 1977. 2/

6. Bearing in mind the difficulties encountered in recent years in finding qualified English and French translators/précis writers to fill vacancies at ECA, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's request for \$362,300 for the conduct of two more training courses in 1980-1981. However, given the limited experience in this matter, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General should review the results of the 1979-1980 course and submit a progress report to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session in order to enable the Assembly to review the matter before funds are committed in full for the 1980-1981 course.

7. Should the General Assembly approve the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 6 above, an appropriation in the amount of \$362,300 would be required under section 28J.3 (Staff training activities (regional commissions)) of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981. As indicated in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report, an appropriation of \$35,300 would also be required under section 31 for staff assessment, to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1.

2/ (A/C.5/32/35, para. 5).

Twelfth report

United Nations International School

[Original: English]

[28 November 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations International School (A/C.5/34/36).

2. In paragraph 20 of his report, the Secretary-General states that a "request for assistance for UNIS may be considered" in amounts totalling \$3,815,000. In this connexion the Advisory Committee has been informed by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management that a grant of \$3,815,000 is being proposed under the regular budget of the United Nations.

3. According to paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's report, the amount requested would be for the following purposes:

"(a) To liquidate the accumulated deficit basically caused by fee reductions under the bursary programme for needy parents and by the fee remission for members of missions and United Nations staff members not entitled to education grant, an amount of \$1,315,000 would be needed;

"(b) In order to help to relieve the budget from the bursary assistance for staff members of the United Nations and members of delegations who have serious need of financial aid to enable their children to attend UNIS an addition of \$1,500,000 to the Development Fund would be required;

"(c) The budget of the School is unable to provide adequately for the structural maintenance and repair of the UNIS building, even at the minimum level which is currently required. Contingencies, including needed modifications in the School's facilities, cannot be met without jeopardizing other essential elements in the School's budget. This situation necessitates, on an ongoing basis, financial support which could best be provided by a further addition to the Development Fund, the yield on which could be made available for such purposes. An addition of \$1,000,000 to the Development Fund would seem justified for this purpose."

4. In considering this request of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee recalls that since the founding of the School, the General Assembly has been associated with the School and its development. Several resolutions of the Assembly, have, inter alia, recognized the role of the School as a factor in the recruitment and retention of international staff, expressed the belief that the School's financial solvency should be assured, affirmed that the provision of

adequate accommodation for the School is in the best interest of the Organization, and authorized contributions to liquidate the School's operational deficit. 1/

5. The most recent action taken by the General Assembly with respect to the School was the decision taken at its twenty-ninth session 2/ in which it, inter alia, concurred with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 6 and 12 to 19 of its report. 3/

6. In that report the Committee had recommended that a grant in the amount of \$2 million be made to the School on a one-time basis to help it overcome what the Committee considered to be an exceptional set of difficult circumstances. The recommendation was based on the understanding that the entire amount of \$2 million was to be available in the School's Development Fund for investment. It was further understood that the timely introduction of economy measures and management improvements would put the School on a sound financial basis, thus avoiding the need for any further support from the United Nations budget. 4/

7. However, the Secretary-General in his latest report (A/C.5/34/36) describes a series of events and circumstances leading him to conclude, in paragraph 18, that "Despite every effort, the School could not have avoided the growing deficit in its finances without seriously hampering its educational standards". The Secretary-General goes on to state that "With the most intensive efforts to economize, encompassing the School's administration, as well as its scholastic programme, it may be possible to forestall further increase in the School's deficit. Yet there is no possibility to provide for a reduction of the accumulated deficit in future years, which entails an ongoing financial burden in interest payments to the School budget." In paragraph 20 of his report, the Secretary-General states that "... the School's viability, proper functioning and the pursuance of its mandate to offer and maintain educational standards reflecting the requirements and the expectations imposed upon it by its affiliation with the United Nations cannot be assured any longer without financial support. The School can only maintain its future financial viability if it is provided with relief from the financial burden accumulated in the past. It must further receive assistance to compensate for the obligations it incurs in regard to the bursary programme, as well as for the additional costs emanating from the international pattern of education provided at the School."

1/ General Assembly resolutions 1102 (XI) of 27 February 1957, 1297 (XIII) of 5 December 1958, 1439 (XIV) of 5 December 1959, 1591 (XV) of 20 December 1960, 1727 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 1853 (XVII) of 19 December 1962, 1982 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, 2123 (XX) of 21 December 1965, 2176 (XXI) of 9 December 1966, 2358 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2477 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, 2612 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and 2990 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972.

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/9631), "Other decisions", p. 140, item 85.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8 (A/9608 and Add.1-23), document A/9608/Add.18.

4/ Ibid., paras. 14-16.

8. In view of the above, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the entire amounts of \$1,315,000 and \$1.5 million requested in paragraphs 20 (a) and (b) of the Secretary-General's report (see para. 3 above). In connexion with the amount of \$1,315,000, which is required to liquidate the School's accumulated deficit, the Committee notes that this total represents deficits since 1969. Information provided to the Committee indicates that the audited accumulated deficit as at 30 June 1978 was \$1,257,009; to this must be added the unaudited deficit of \$57,532 for 1978-1979 shown in annex II to the Secretary-General's report.

9. Paragraph 20 (c) of the Secretary-General's report contains a request for \$1 million for the School's Development Fund to provide adequately for the structural maintenance and repair of the School's building. The Committee has been provided, at its request, with information on this matter (see annex to the present report). As can be seen from paragraph 5 of the annex, an immediate expenditure of approximately \$200,000 is required to carry out a restructuring of space in the School. The Committee recommends that an amount of \$200,000 be granted to cover this one-time expenditure. If this is done, the Committee believes that a contribution of \$500,000 to the Development Fund would generate sufficient income to help meet the ongoing costs of routine maintenance and repair and structural maintenance.

10. The Advisory Committee has thus recommended appropriation of funds:

- (a) To eliminate the School's accumulated deficit;
- (b) To provide \$2 million to the School's Development Fund to generate income for bursary assistance, and repairs and maintenance;
- (c) To meet the costs of restructuring the School's building.

Approval by the General Assembly of the amounts recommended by the Advisory Committee should, in the Committee's opinion, go a long way towards removing the obstacles to the financial self-sufficiency of the School.

11. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee should not be interpreted as establishing the principle that the School can look to the regular budget of the United Nations as an automatic and continuing source of financial support. The Committee believes that the degree of control and authority which the Assembly would have to exercise in order to provide such continuing support would not be in the best interest of either the School or the United Nations. The School must remain an independent institution and it must seek to achieve financial self-sufficiency through prudent use of its resources and administrative efficiency. In this connexion the Advisory Committee is conscious of the importance of the Development Fund as a factor of self-sufficiency and solvency of the School. It believes that greater efforts should be made in the direction of attracting additional contributions from voluntary sources - including Governments, foundations and industry - as a means of increasing the level of the Fund.

12. If the recommendations contained in paragraphs 8 and 9 of this report are approved, an increase of \$3,515,000 under section 28K of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 will become necessary.

ANNEX

UNIS BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Routine maintenance and repair

1. Aside from the internal labour costs, the UNIS budget provides an allocation of approximately \$25,000 per year for routine maintenance and minor repairs to the building and fixtures. This figure covers the cost of the supplies and parts associated with these activities.

Long-term structural maintenance

2. Widely accepted practice in regard to provision of resources for the maintenance of a building such as the UNIS Manhattan premises would provide that an amount equal to 2 per cent of the building value based on a 50-year usable lifetime be set aside each year. On the basis of the School building's present valuation an annual provision of \$300,000 would be indicated.

3. Owing to the fact that the building has been occupied for only seven years, substantial repair and replacement costs have not yet been incurred and no budget provision has been made under this heading. In the last few years, with the near-capacity enrolment in the School and the heavier utilization of the facilities, it has become evident that major replacement and maintenance is necessary - a trend which must be expected to increase with the age of the building. For the next five-year period it is conservatively estimated that resources in the amount of \$60,000 should be available each year to cover such items as repairs to engineering and structural systems, as well as for replacement of equipment, furniture and fixtures. This estimate does not provide for significant unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures such as are incurred in connexion with changes in building code requirements, storm damage etc., for which recent experience has indicated the need for a minimum provision of \$25,000 per annum. Within the past year a water main break occurred and a new City of New York ordinance required payment for water and sewerage use by the School. Neither of the above-mentioned estimates reflect inflationary trends.

Restructuring of UNIS space

4. Owing to the level of enrolment attained in the School and the corresponding level of services provided to the students, it has become clear that the School building must undergo its first major change in space allocation. This need was also recognized by the United Nations Administrative Management Service in its special review of the organization and administration of UNIS, when it made recommendations in this connexion. In line with the Administrative Management Service recommendation, and with the approval of the Board of Trustees and the School's architects, it is proposed to relocate the class-room space for some 300 students (12 classes) from the fourth floor of the building (where at present more than 800 students are taught) to the third floor present library space.

5. At the same time, among other related adjustments, the library, greatly reduced in floor space, will be relocated on the fourth floor and the third floor offices of the Administration will be established on the first floor. In addition to alleviating the present overcrowded condition on the fourth floor, this change would permit the accommodation of an increase in enrolment of 20 students. The School's architect has estimated the cost of these improvements to be around \$200,000. If the resources were to be made available to UNIS, the above-mentioned alterations could be implemented in time for the commencement of the 1980/81 school year.

Thirteenth report

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II
submitted by the Special Political Committee in document A/34/664

(Agenda items 48 and 49)*

[Original: English]

[30 November 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.5/34/45) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II on the second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/34/664, para. 10).

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution the Secretary-General is requested "to make, within the ceiling for expenditure established for the Conference, the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements as set out in the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. 1/ The Conference is scheduled to be held in the latter half of 1982.

3. The Secretary-General estimates the ceilings for the cost of the Conference at \$2,058,500 or \$2,128,400, depending on whether the Conference is to last two or three weeks. 2/ The difference between the two amounts, i.e., \$69,900 is attributable to the additional cost of interpretation services for a third week of the Conference. The estimates represent the total cost over the three-year period 1980-1982. 3/ They include \$1,433,500 for the substantive secretariat and \$625,000

* International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/34/20), paras. 84-115.

2/ The Preparatory Committee for the Conference, which requested the Secretary-General to provide estimates for this option, will decide the duration of the Conference at its meeting in summer 1980.

3/ For 1982, the Secretary-General has applied an inflation rate of 6 per cent (A/C.5/34/45, para. 6).

or \$694,900 for conference servicing costs (on a full-cost basis), depending on whether the Conference will last two or three weeks. In his statement (A/C.5/34/45) the Secretary-General is not seeking appropriations for conference servicing since he will deal with those requirements in the context of the consolidated statements of conference servicing costs for 1981 and 1982 to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions respectively (*ibid.*, para. 7).

4. Upon inquiry the Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the above-mentioned estimates constituted the maximum levels of expenditure for the Conference.

5. The estimate of \$1,433,500 for the substantive secretariat in 1980-1982 is broken down in the table below.

| | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>1980-1981</u> | <u>1982</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | (US dollars) | | | | |
| <u>Substantive secretariat</u> | | | | | |
| Salaries and common staff costs of 13 additional posts (8 Professional and above, and 5 General Service) <u>a/</u> | - | 392,300 | 392,300 | 438,000 | 830,300 |
| Consultants' services for a total of 60 work months | 139,100 | 158,800 | 297,900 | 36,100 | 334,000 |
| Travel and subsistence | 26,800 | 34,000 | 60,800 | 12,000 | 72,800 |
| Regional seminars | - | 34,000 | 34,000 | - | 34,000 |
| Publicity activities | - | 28,300 | 28,300 | 30,100 | 58,400 |
| Hospitality | - | 2,300 | 2,300 | 3,600 | 5,900 |
| Subtotal | 165,900 | 649,700 | 815,600 | 519,800 | 1,335,400 |
| <u>General operating expenses</u> | - | 47,600 | 47,600 | 50,500 | 98,100 |
| Total | 165,900 | 697,300 | 863,200 | 570,300 | 1,433,500 |

a/ All posts in the Professional category and above and 3 General Service posts (including 1 at the Principal level) are for 18 months each from 1 April 1981 to 30 September 1982; 2 General Service posts are for 12 months each from 1 October 1981 to 30 September 1982.

6. On that basis, the additional resources requested by the Secretary-General for 1980-1981 amount to \$863,200 (net of staff assessment), consisting of \$815,600 under section 2B for substantive activities of the Outer Space Affairs Division and \$47,600 under section 28D for related general operating expenses.

7. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the Outer Space Affairs Division would be able to absorb the preliminary work for the Conference in 1980 from within established resources and that the need for additional temporary staff would commence in spring 1981. They also indicated that the bulk of the staffing resources requested would be for 18 months from 1 April 1981 to 30 September 1982, predicated on the target date for the submission of national papers to be received by the Secretary-General of the Conference (spring 1981) and for the convening of the Conference in August 1982.

8. The Outer Space Affairs Division currently has available to it 132 Professional work-months a year, i.e., 264 work-months for the biennium. In his statement (A/C.5/34/45, para. 11), the Secretary-General describes the range of activities undertaken by the Division. Annex II to his statement provides a detailed distribution of Professional staff resources required for the preparation of the Conference. The Secretary-General estimates (ibid., para. 12) that the task would require 222 work-months (20 in 1980, 100 in 1981 and 102 in 1982) and that the Division would be able to absorb a total of 78 work-months (20 in 1980, 27 in 1981 and 31 in 1982).

9. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee points out that the Secretary-General has not made clear the relationship between the request for additional resources and the contribution to be made by the existing staff of the Outer Space Affairs Division to the preparation of the Conference. Similarly, the related workload information contained in the report is not placed in the context of the over-all programme of work of the Division in 1980-1981. The Committee recalls the statement in the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 under subprogramme 2 on strategy and output that upon decision by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to endorse the convening of the Conference preparation for documentation input for the Conference will receive priority. ^{4/} Given that situation, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that the absorptive capacity available to the Secretary-General for 1980-1981 is limited to the total of 47 work-months stated by him.

10. Temporary staffing resources requested by the Secretary-General consist of:

- 1 ASG post for the Secretary-General of the Conference (see A/C.5/34/45, para. 9);
- 3 D-1 posts for 3 Deputy Secretaries-General of the Conference (ibid.);
- 1 P-5 post for a special assistant to the Secretary-General of the Conference (ibid., para. 13 (a));
- 1 P-4/P-5 post for a technical officer (ibid., para. 13 (b));

^{4/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/33/6/Rev.1), vol. I, para. 4.38.

- 1 P-3 post for a scientific editor (ibid., para. 13 (c));
- 1 P-3 post for an administrative and financial officer (ibid., para. 13 (d));
- 5 GS posts, including 1 at the Principal level (ibid., para. 14).

In this connexion, the Committee notes that the Outer Space Affairs Division would provide the Executive Secretary and the secretariat of the Conference (ibid. para. 8 (b)).

11. The Advisory Committee inquired into the need for three Deputy Secretaries-General of the Conference to assist ... in the co-ordination of the work of the consultants, preparation of the national papers and background papers, and drafting of the final report (ibid., para. 9). Considering the programme of work envisaged and the substantive support to be provided by the Outer Space Affairs Division, and bearing in mind that no previous United Nations conference had three Deputy Secretaries-General, the Committee is not convinced that the proposed arrangement is warranted.

12. The Committee is nevertheless aware that the proposal to appoint three Deputy Secretaries-General of the Conference was contained in the recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space 5/ and endorsed by the Special Political Committee. In response to inquiries the Committee was informed that the Secretary-General intended to recruit the three Deputy Secretaries-General from outside. In view of the availability of internal expertise, the Committee is of the opinion that efforts should be made to have some of these functions undertaken by staff members already serving with the Secretariat.

13. Considering that the Conference secretariat will include three Deputy Secretaries-General, and bearing in mind the professional staff resources already available to the Division, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that there is a need for one technical officer at the P-4/P-5 level to perform the functions described in paragraph 13 (b) of the Secretary-General's statement. Accordingly the Committee cannot support this request.

14. The Committee also believes that the need for one P-3 post to accommodate an administrative and financial officer for the Conference will arise only in 1982. Accordingly it recommends that no provision need be made for this post in 1981.

15. In line with its recommendations in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, and in view of the level of General Service resources already available in the Outer Space Affairs Division, the Committee recommends that recruitment of one of the two G-3/4 posts which the Secretary-General proposes to fill as of 1 October 1981 be deferred and that the need for that post in 1982 be reviewed in the context of requirements in the biennium 1982-1983.

16. The Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 13 to 15 above would entail a reduction of \$79,800 in the estimate for additional temporary posts. The consequential reduction in general operating expenses under section 28D would amount to \$10,000.

5/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/34/20), para. 111 (ii).

17. As indicated in the table following paragraph 5 above, the estimate of \$334,000 for consultants, consists of \$297,900 (\$139,100 in 1980 and \$158,800 in 1981) and \$36,100 in 1982. It provides for 60 work-months of consultants' services: 26 in 1980, 28 in 1981 and 6 in 1982 (A/C.5/34/45, annex III). The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed total number of work-months reflects the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that the Secretary-General take into account the cost of consultants' services "for a maximum of 60 work-months. 6/ The breakdown of consultants' services by activity in annex III shows that half of the total number of work-months is earmarked for the preparation of background papers. The Committee points out that the level and scope of this activity cannot be fully determined in advance of the consideration of the list of topics for background papers by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (designated as the advisory Committee to the Preparatory Committee) at its session early in 1980. 7/ On that basis, the Committee is not convinced that the Secretary-General's estimate of the work-months required has been fully justified. The Committee also notes from annex III that several of the headings for background papers to be prepared by the consultants fall within the competence of the Outer Space Affairs Division. In the circumstances, and bearing in mind, the observation in paragraph 9 above that the Division has the capacity to absorb more additional work than has been estimated by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate of \$297,900 for consultants be reduced to \$250,000, i.e. by \$47,900.

18. The reductions in temporary staff resources and consultants' services recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 16 and 17 above amount to \$137,700. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt draft resolution II submitted by the Special Political Committee in paragraph 10 of its report (A/34/664), a total net additional appropriation of \$725,500 would be required in the programme budget for 1980-1981 consisting of \$687,900 under section 2B and \$37,600 under section 28D. Additional provision of \$91,500 would also have to be made under section 31 to cover the related staff assessment, to be offset by an increase in the same amount in the estimate of income from staff assessment under income section 1.

6/ Ibid., para. 111 (viii).

7/ Ibid., para. 101 (ii).

Fourteenth report

Revised programme and budget proposals under section 15
(United Nations Conference on Trade and Development),
section 31 and income section 1

[Original: English]

[3 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/27 and Corr.1) on revised programme and budget proposals under section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)).

2. These revised estimates arise out of decisions taken at the fifth session of UNCTAD, which took place after the initial programme budget proposals had been prepared. It will be recalled that the initial estimates of \$45,566,900 for UNCTAD were confined to the revaluation of the 1978-1979 resource base with provision for inflation in 1980-1981. 1/ The estimate of \$50,083,800 now submitted by the Secretary-General is \$3,123,500 or 6.6 per cent higher than the revised appropriation for 1978-1979. In table 15.1 of his report, the Secretary-General estimates resource growth at \$1,693,600 at revised 1979 rates and a rate of real growth of 3.7 per cent. The Secretary-General also estimates that extrabudgetary resources available to UNCTAD during 1980-1981 will be of the order of \$23 million.

3. In paragraph 4 of his report, the Secretary-General states that he is not proposing any growth for consultants, ad hoc expert groups, travel or external printing and binding. According to the Secretary-General, the real growth figure of 3.7 per cent reflects a request for 11 new Professional posts and four General Service posts, as well as the reclassification of three posts (including one from the General Service to the Professional category). Table 15.4 of the Secretary-General's report shows that if the proposed additions and reclassifications are approved by the General Assembly, the staffing table of UNCTAD in 1980-1981 will comprise 414 regular budget posts (228 Professional and above and 186 General Service).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session,
Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. II, para. 15.1.

4. The new posts being requested are as follows:

| | <u>Professional</u> | <u>General Service</u> |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| Executive direction and management | 1 D-1, 1 P-5 | - |
| Money, finance and development | 1 P-3 | - |
| Manufactures | 1 P-3 | - |
| Shipping | 1 P-3 | - |
| Transfer of technology | 1 P-4, 1 P-3 | 1 |
| Economic co-operation among developing countries | 1 P-5 | 1 |
| Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries | 1 P-5, 2 P-4 | 1 |
| Conference affairs | - | 1 |

The three reclassifications proposed are as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Trade among countries having different economic and social systems | General Service to P-2/1 |
| Money, finance and development | P-4 to P-5 |
| Trade facilitation | P-5 to D-1 |

5. The request to reclassify the post of Chief of the Trade Facilitation Programme from P-5 to D-1 is contained in paragraph 128 of the Secretary-General's report. On the basis of the evidence, the request does not appear to be related to any change in the functions and/or responsibilities of the post. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends against approval of this request with a consequent reduction in the estimates of \$14,200.

6. Bearing in mind the decisions and resolutions adopted by UNCTAD at its fifth session and the expanding work programme resulting therefrom, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the other new posts and reclassifications requested by the Secretary-General and referred to in paragraph 4 above.

7. The Committee notes from table 15.5 of the Secretary-General's report that the 1980-1981 estimates of \$3,274,000 for ad hoc posts and related costs for the Integrated Programme for Commodities show a marked and unexplained increase over the 1978-1979 appropriation of \$2,733,900. In response to inquiries the Committee has been informed that this is attributable to an error in computation by which the amount required for common staff costs in 1978-1979 was underestimated. This explanation also accounts for the disproportionate relationship between general temporary assistance and common staff costs in the revaluation of the 1978-1979 resource base (at revised 1979 rates) in table 15.12 of the Secretary-General's report.

8. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, 2/ the Advisory Committee provisionally recommended approval of an amount of \$45,566,900 for section 15. Bearing in mind its recommendation in paragraph 5 above, the Committee recommends an additional appropriation of \$4,502,700 under section 15 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.

9. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretary-General's request under section 15 would give rise to a requirement for \$172,200 under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1. Taking into account the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 5 above, the related estimates for staff assessment would be \$166,800 under section 31 and income section 1 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7).

Fifteenth report

Arabic language services: administrative and financial implications
of draft resolution III submitted by the Fifth Committee in document
A/34/848; revised estimates under section 29B

[Original: English]

[3 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee has considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/46) 1/ submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution III submitted by the Fifth Committee in its report (A/34/848, para. 122) concerning Arabic language services at Headquarters and the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/38 and Corr.1) on revised estimates under section 29B (Conference services, Geneva) relating to Arabic language services for UNCTAD. The two documents deal with the strengthening of the Arabic language services with respect to both interpretation and translation at Headquarters and in Geneva.

2. In document A/C.5/34/46, the Secretary-General states that a total amount of \$2,793,300, net of staff assessment, would be required for the purpose of enlarging the Arabic Translation Service and of establishing an Arabic interpretation unit at Headquarters. 2/ In document A/C.5/34/38 and Corr.1, he submits revised estimates in a total amount of \$1,807,800, net of staff assessment, to enable him to achieve during 1980-1981 full capacity of Arabic language services for UNCTAD meetings. On that basis, the amounts involved in the two documents total \$4,601,100, net of staff assessment.

1/ In considering document A/C.5/34/46, the Committee took into account the report by the Secretariat on the current situation with regard to the provision of Arabic language services to the General Assembly and its Main Committees (A/C.5/34/28).

2/ Under the present arrangement, the Arabic Interpretation Section is based in Geneva.

3. The combined estimates of \$4,601,100 may be broken down as follows:

| | <u>Headquarters</u> | <u>UNCTAD</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | (US dollars) | |
| <u>Section 29 (29A for Headquarters and 29 B for UNCTAD)</u> | | | |
| (i) Interpretation | 310,500 | 887,200 | 1,197,700 |
| (ii) Translation | 1,956,700 | 920,600 | 2,877,300 |
| Total, section 29 | 2,267,200 | 1,807,800 | 4,075,000 |
| <u>Section 28D (Common services costs)</u> | | | |
| (i) Interpretation | 55,000 | - | 55,000 |
| (ii) Translation | 471,100 | - | 471,100 |
| Total, section 28 | 526,100 | - | 526,100 |
| Grand total | 2,793,300 | 1,807,800 | 4,601,100 |

4. The Secretary-General's staffing proposals for the Arabic language services for Headquarters (see A/C.5/34/46) and UNCTAD (see A/C.5/34/38 and Corr.1) entail the establishment of a total of 79 posts, distributed as follows:

| | | <u>Headquarters</u> | <u>UNCTAD</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|---|--------------|
| <u>Interpreters</u> | P-5 | 1 | (additional temporary assistance is requested) | 1 |
| | P-4 | 3 | | 3 |
| | P-3 | <u>3</u> | | <u>3</u> |
| Subtotal | | 7 | | 7 |
| <u>Translation Service</u> | | | | |
| Revisers | P-5 | 2 | - | 2 |
| | P-4 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Translators | P-3 | 22 | 4 | 26 |
| | P-2/1 | 4 | - | 4 |
| Typists | GS | <u>26</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>30</u> |
| | (including one at the principal level) | | | |
| Subtotal | | <u>62</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>72</u> |
| Total | | <u>69</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>79</u> |

5. The statement of the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/34/46 relates to the implementation of the provisions of the draft resolution of the Fifth Committee, in the operative paragraph of which the General Assembly

"Requests the Secretary-General to bring the Arabic language services up to a level equal with the services of the other official and working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committees through the adoption of effective measures including:

"(a) The immediate reinforcement of the Arabic Translation Service at Headquarters by a sufficient number of permanent posts so as to ensure the translation of all pre-session, in-session and post-session documentation of the General Assembly and its Main Committees within the specified time-limits and simultaneously with their issuance in the other official languages;

"(b) The establishment at Headquarters of an Arabic interpretation unit with a sufficient number of permanent posts to provide interpretation services to the General Assembly and its Main Committees".

6. The Secretary-General understands the draft resolution to mean that the strengthening of the existing Arabic language establishment should be by means of the addition of established posts, rather than by temporary assistance during certain periods only (A/C.5/34/46, para. 4). His assessment of the situation leads him to propose the establishment of 62 posts for Arabic documentation and 7 posts for Arabic interpretation.

7. The estimate of \$1,956,700 for Arabic documentation, under section 29A, is arrived at as follows (ibid., paras. 5-7):

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|--|-------------------------|
| Cost of 62 new posts (36 Professional and 26 General Service) for 1980-1981 | 3,958,000 |
| <u>Less</u> standard deduction to allow for delays in recruitment (50 per cent for Professional posts and 35 per cent for General Service posts) | (1,726,300) |
| <u>Less</u> temporary assistance (6 Professional posts and 6 General Service posts) provided for the General Assembly in the proposed 1980-1981 programme budget | (275,000) |
| TOTAL | <u><u>1,956,700</u></u> |

The estimate of \$310,500 for Arabic interpretation (under sect. 29A) is calculated on the basis of the full biennial cost of 7 Professional posts (\$589,900), less the standard deduction for delayed recruitment (\$279,400).

8. The Advisory Committee notes the statements of the Secretary-General in paragraphs 7 and 13 that savings which might be realized from reductions in the need for Arabic temporary assistance for the servicing of special conference and meetings would be reflected in the consolidated statement on conference servicing requirements to be submitted towards the close of the current session of the General Assembly (see A/C.5/34/98 and Corr.1). The Committee also notes his statement, in paragraph 9, that he has not been able at this stage to assess the impact of the strengthening of the Arabic language services on requirements for the reproduction, printing and distribution of documentation.

9. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution, additional appropriations would be required under the programme budget for 1980-1981 in the amount of \$2,267,200 under section 29A and \$526,100 under section 28D, and that the related requirements under section 31 (Staff assessment) would be offset by a corresponding increase in revenue under income section 1.

Arabic language services for UNCTAD (A/C.5/34/38 and Corr.1)

10. The revised estimates of \$1,807,800 (under sect. 29B) submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/34/38 are attributable to resolution 115 (V) adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fifth session. Under the terms of that resolution, the Conference recommended that the General Assembly, at its thirty-fourth session, take the necessary steps to ensure that Arabic would have full capacity as an official and working language of UNCTAD with respect to both interpretation and translation facilities and thus be on a par with the other official languages of UNCTAD, with effect from 1 January 1980.

11. In paragraphs 3 to 6 of his report, the Secretary-General reviews the development of the Arabic language services for UNCTAD and the existing situation with reference to the structure, capacity and workload of these services. In order to provide full Arabic services for UNCTAD in 1980-1981, he proposes the establishment of 10 posts for the Arabic Translation Service at a cost of \$920,600 and requests the sum of \$887,200 for additional temporary assistance for Arabic interpretation (para. 10). Upon inquiry the Committee was informed that the 10 posts for Arabic translation (6 Professional and 4 General Service) had been costed on the basis of the standard turnover deduction factor of 5 per cent for Professional posts and of no deduction for General Service posts. In other words, the Secretary-General has applied the formula pertaining to existing posts, while in fact his staffing proposals relate to new posts, for which he should have applied - as he has done everywhere else in his programme budget proposals - the standard delayed recruitment deduction of 50 per cent for Professional posts and 35 per cent for General Service posts. The consequential reduction in the estimates amounts to \$404,200.

12. The Committee notes the statement of the Secretary-General, in paragraph 9, that the extent to which Arabic language services can be extended to other UNCTAD bodies will, in part, be determined by the availability of competent interpreters and translators over the biennium, bearing in mind in particular the increasing demand for these services in other international organizations. The Committee understands that this statement also applies to the Arabic language services for Headquarters. In this connexion, the Committee recalls that in a related report

(A/C.5/31/60 and Corr.1, para. 18) the Secretary-General had envisaged developing the Arabic language services to a level at which the Organization could make such services available to other United Nations bodies on a reimbursable basis. The Committee reiterates its belief that the Secretary-General should take steps towards co-ordinating efforts among the specialized agencies and the Organization in developing Arabic language services. 3/

Recapitulation

13. The effect of the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 11 above would be to reduce the estimates by \$404,200 under section 29B. The additional resources recommended by the Committee would be as follows:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Section 29A | 2,267,200 |
| Section 29B | 1,403,600 |
| Section 28D | 526,100 |

The consequential requirements under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by additional revenue in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment), are \$869,000.

Sixteenth report

Administrative and financial implications of proposals of the First Committee: draft resolution B in document A/34/745, the draft resolution in document A/34/751, draft resolutions E, K and L and the draft decision in document A/34/752, draft resolutions B and E in document A/34/755, and the draft resolution in document A/34/757

(Agenda items 35, 41, 42, 45 and 121)*

[Original: English]

[8 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee has considered the statements submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.5/34/58-A/C.5/34/65 and A/C.5/34/69) on the administrative and financial implications of eight draft resolutions and a draft decision submitted by the First Committee under agenda items 35, 41, 42, 45 and 121.

2. The Secretary-General estimates the substantive requirements related to those proposals at \$926,900 under section 2B. He estimates the related conference-servicing costs, on a full-cost basis, at \$3,778,500 (\$2,629,400 in 1980 and \$1,149,100 in 1981). With respect to conference-servicing costs for 1980, the Secretary-General will review actual requirements; his conclusions will be reflected in the consolidated statement to be submitted towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly (see A/C.5/34/98 and Corr.1).

* Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa.

United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects: report of the Conference.

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session.

General and complete disarmament.

Israeli nuclear armament.

3. The following table summarizes the estimates as contained in the Secretary-General's statements:

| Secretary-General's statement | Draft resolution or draft decision | Section 2B | Section 29 | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------|-----------|
| | | Estimates (excluding conference-servicing costs) | Conference-servicing costs (on a full-cost basis) | | |
| | | | 1980 | 1981 | Total |
| A/C.5/34/58 | A/34/752, para. 38, draft resolution E | 146,900 | 295,300 | - | 295,300 |
| A/C.5/34/59 | <u>ibid.</u> , draft resolution L | - | 1,390,000 | 802,000 | 2,192,000 |
| A/C.5/34/60 | A/34/755, para. 18, draft resolution B | 88,000 | 63,800 | 156,400 | 220,200 |
| A/C.5/34/61 | A/34/751, para. 8 | 45,600 | 665,300 | - | 665,300 |
| A/C.5/34/62 | A/34/752, para. 39, draft decision | 51,000 | - | - | - |
| A/C.5/34/63 | <u>ibid.</u> , para. 38, draft resolution K | 258,500 | - | - | - |
| A/C.5/34/64 | A/34/757, para. 7 | 160,000 | 25,500 | 76,400 | 101,900 |
| A/C.5/34/65 | A/34/745, para. 10, draft resolution B | 36,000 | 75,200 | - | 75,200 |
| A/C.5/34/69 | A/34/755, para. 18, draft resolution E | 140,900 | 114,300 | 114,300 | 228,600 |
| | TOTAL | 926,900 | 2,629,400 | 1,149,100 | 3,778,500 |

4. In its consideration of the statements by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee bore in mind the resources already requested for the Centre for Disarmament in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. 1/ In this connexion, the Committee recalls its own observations on the estimates for the Centre for 1980-1981. 2/ The Committee also bore in mind that the Secretary-General will have the necessary flexibility, within the over-all resources which will be appropriated for the Centre for Disarmament, to meet requirements related to the adoption of the draft resolutions and the draft decision listed in the table above.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. I, paras. 2.35-2.50.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), paras. 2.14-2.17.

Monitoring of disarmament agreements and strengthening of international security (draft resolution E in A/34/752, para. 38)

5. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested to carry out, with the assistance of the existing Group of Governmental Experts, an in-depth study on the technical, legal and financial implications of establishing an international satellite monitoring agency; the study is to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament no later than June 1981. The Secretary-General estimates the related substantive requirements under section 2B at \$146,900 (A/C.5/34/58, para. 4) comprising \$88,000 for travel and subsistence of the experts, \$46,700 for two consultants and \$12,200 for travel and subsistence of two officers from the substantive department. As the Advisory Committee stated in paragraph 2.15 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, 3/ the estimate of \$849,400 for ad hoc expert groups related to the Centre for Disarmament included provision for travel of staff. A detailed breakdown of the latter request which was provided to the Committee showed that travel requirements related to the programme of work of the Group of Governmental Experts are already included in the programme budget proposals. Accordingly, the estimate related to the draft resolution in question should be reduced by \$12,200, to \$134,700.

Document A/C.5/34/59

Committee on Disarmament (draft resolution L in A/34/752, para. 38)

6. The estimates in document A/C.5/34/59, totalling \$2,192,000, relate wholly to conference-servicing costs on a full-cost basis (see para. 2 and the table in para. 3 above). They are attributed by the Secretary-General to two factors:

(a) Provision of Arabic and Chinese language services to the Committee on Disarmament, costed at \$350,000 per language for each year, i.e., \$1,400,000 for the biennium;

(b) Annexing, pursuant to rule XIII of the rules of procedure of the Committee on Disarmament, 4/ of verbatim records, working papers and other relevant documents to the Committee's report to the General Assembly, costed at \$690,000 in 1980 (including \$588,000 for annexing the records for 1979) and \$102,000 in 1981, i.e., \$792,000 for the biennium (A/C.5/34/59, paras. 7 and 9).

7. With respect to the latter factor, the Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of resolution 33/56, section I, reaffirmed its previous decisions, including those in resolutions 2292 (XXII) and 2836 (XXVI), inter alia, that the reports of its subsidiary bodies should not include as annexes material such as verbatim or summary records, working papers or extracts therefrom or any texts already available in easily accessible documents. A resolution by the General Assembly takes precedence over the rules of procedure of a subsidiary body,

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7).

4/ Ibid., Supplement No. 27 (A/34/27), vol. I, appendix I.

in this instance the Committee on Disarmament. In the circumstances, the financial implications of the draft resolution should be confined to \$1.4 million, on a full-cost basis.

Document A/C.5/34/60

Confidence-building measures (draft resolution B in A/34/755, para. 18)

8. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested to carry out, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, a comprehensive study on confidence-building measures. The Secretary-General is requested to submit a progress report on the work of the group and the study itself to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions respectively. In order to implement the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes that the group of governmental experts hold four meetings (two in 1980 and two in 1981) and that one consultant be hired for a total of three months (A/C.5/34/60, para. 3). The Committee understands that the first and fourth meetings would be for one week each and the second and the third for two weeks each. The Secretary-General estimates the related costs at \$308,200 (\$88,000 under sect. 2B and \$220,200 under sect. 29). The estimate of \$88,000 under sect. 2B comprises \$70,000 for travel and subsistence of experts, \$16,500 for consultants and \$1,500 for travel of staff.

9. The Advisory Committee notes that the arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General maximize the travel expenses of the experts. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General endeavour to make more economical arrangements, for example, by reducing the number and/or duration of the meetings. On this basis, the Committee recommends that the related estimate be reduced by \$10,000.

10. The estimate for consultants' services, \$16,500, covers the fees, travel and subsistence of one consultant at the P-5 level for a total of three months to co-ordinate the work of the experts. Upon inquiry the Committee was informed that an officer at the P-5 level from the Centre will be deployed to serve as secretary to the group of experts. Since that officer will also be engaged in co-ordinating the work of the group, the Committee recommends that the consultants' services be limited to one month; the consequential reduction in the estimate would amount to \$11,000 (i.e., from \$16,500 to \$5,500).

Document A/C.5/34/61

United Nations Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of
Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively
Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (draft resolution in
A/34/751, para. 8)

11. Under operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would endorse the recommendations of the Conference to hold another session at Geneva for a period of up to four weeks, starting on 15 September 1980, with a view to completing negotiations in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 32/152 and 33/70. The substantive requirements are estimated at \$45,600, consisting of \$33,000 for travel and subsistence of the substantive secretariat and \$12,600 for

the participation of representatives of national liberation movements (A/C.5/34/61, para. 4). The Advisory Committee concurs with the estimate. The related conference-servicing costs are estimated at \$665,300 (ibid., para. 3 and annex).

Document A/C.5/34/62

Study on a comprehensive nuclear test ban (draft decision in A/34/752, para. 39)

12. Under the terms of the draft decision, the Secretary-General is requested to prepare a study on a comprehensive nuclear test ban, to be submitted to the Committee on Disarmament in the spring of 1980. For that purpose the Secretary-General proposes to engage four consultant experts for a period of two months at a cost of \$51,000. Inasmuch as the part relating to the Centre in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 already includes provision for a study on various aspects of nuclear weapons to be submitted in 1980 5/ the Committee is not convinced that all the additional consultants services requested will be needed. Accordingly the Committee recommends that the estimate be reduced by \$25,000, i.e., to \$26,000.

Document A/C.5/34/63

Study on the relationship between disarmament and development (draft resolution K in A/34/752, para. 38)

13. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested to take appropriate action to provide the resources and expertise necessary for the successful completion of the study on the relationship between disarmament and development. The group of experts on the subject are expected to complete their final report by September 1981. To that end, the Secretary-General requests a total of \$258,500 for three research assistants at the P-4 level and one General Service secretary for 20 months each (A/C.5/34/63, paras. 4-6). Since the part relating to the Centre in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 already provides for the continuation of the study on the relationship between disarmament and development, 6/ the Committee is of the view that the request for general temporary assistance is over-estimated. The Committee recommends that the estimate be reduced by the equivalent of one P-4 post for 20 months (\$76,900) and of one General Service post for 10 months (\$13,900), i.e., by \$90,800.

Document A/C.5/34/64

Israeli nuclear armament (draft resolution in A/34/757, para. 7)

14. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested, with the assistance of experts, to prepare a study on Israeli nuclear armament to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. A progress

5/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. I, para. 2.39 (c) (iii).

6/ Ibid., para. 2.39 (c) (i).

report on the work of the group of experts is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. In order to implement the draft resolution, the Secretary-General requests \$160,000 for fees, travel and subsistence of five consultants for six months each (A/C.5/34/64, para. 3). The Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate be approved.

Document A/C.5/34/65

Nuclear capability of South Africa (draft resolution B
in A/34/745, para. 10)

15. In operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution the Secretary-General is requested, with the assistance of experts, to prepare a comprehensive report on South Africa's plan and capability in the nuclear field, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. For that purpose the Secretary-General proposes to hold two meetings in 1980 of six experts and to hire a consultant at the D-1 level for two months to co-ordinate the work of the experts. The additional resources requested amount to \$36,000 (\$25,600 for travel and subsistence of the experts and \$10,400 for the consultant's fee). The Committee concurs with the estimate.

Document A/C.5/34/69

Study of the institutional arrangements relating to the process
of disarmament (draft resolution E in A/34/755, para. 18)

16. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts, to carry out a comprehensive study assessing present institutional requirements and future estimated needs in the United Nations management of disarmament affairs and outlining possible functions, structure and institutional framework that could meet those requirements and needs, including legal and financial implications, and formulating recommendations for possible later decisions on the matter. The final report is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

17. In order to implement the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes to invite 20 governmental experts to participate in four separate meetings of a total duration of six weeks (one week for the first and the last meetings and two weeks for the second and the third meetings). The cost of travel and subsistence (at the D-1 level) is estimated at \$140,900. For the reason indicated in paragraph 9 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General review the proposed schedule so as to achieve economies in the number and/or duration of the meetings. On this basis, it recommends that the related estimate be reduced by \$20,000.

Recapitulation

18. The Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 5, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 17 above would reduce the Secretary-General's estimates of \$926,900 under section 2B by \$169,000, i.e., to \$757,900. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the eight draft resolutions and the draft decision of the First Committee, additional requirements of \$757,900 would arise under section 2B of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, as follows:

| <u>Draft resolutions and draft decision</u> | <u>Estimate recommended by the Advisory Committee (US dollars)</u> |
|---|--|
| A/34/752, para. 38, draft resolution E | 134,700 |
| <u>Ibid.</u> , draft resolution L | - |
| A/34/755, para. 18, draft resolution B | 67,000 |
| A/34/751, para. 8 | 45,600 |
| A/34/752, para. 39, draft decision | 26,000 |
| <u>Ibid.</u> , para. 38, draft resolution K | 167,700 |
| A/34/757, para. 7 | 160,000 |
| A/34/745, para. 10, draft resolution B | 36,000 |
| A/34/755, para. 18, draft resolution E | 120,900 |
| Total | <u>757,900</u> |

19. The Fifth Committee may also wish to inform the General Assembly that the conference-servicing costs related to the draft resolutions and draft decision in question would be reflected in the consolidated statements of conference-servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly at its current session and at its thirty-fifth session. In the light of the Advisory Committee's observations in paragraphs 6 and 7 above, the conference-servicing costs related to the proposals listed in paragraph 18 above, which the Secretary-General will take into account in preparing the consolidated statement for 1980, would amount to \$1,939,400 on a full-cost basis.

Seventeenth report

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions
A/34/L.21 to A/34/L.24, A/34/L.25/Rev.1, A/34/L.26 to A/34/L.28,
A/34/L.29/Rev.1, A/34/L.30 to A/34/L.33, A/34/L.34/Rev.1,
A/34/L.35 to A/34/L.37 and A/34/L.39

(Agenda item 28)*

[Original: English]

[8 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1) on the administrative and financial implications of the 18 draft resolutions relating to the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa (A/34/L.21-A/34/L.24, A/34/L.25/Rev.1, A/34/L.26-A/34/L.28, A/34/L.29/Rev.1, A/34/L.30-A/34/L.33, A/34/L.34/Rev.1, A/34/L.35-A/34/L.37 and A/34/L.39).
2. The Secretary-General estimates the substantive requirements related to these draft resolutions at a total of \$2,876,200, net of staff assessment, comprising \$752,100 under section 3A, \$290,900 under section 3D, \$1,629,100 under section 27, \$182,300 under section 28 and \$21,800 under section 29. Of the total amount, \$1,148,000 (\$198,700 under sect. 3A and \$949,300 under sect. 27) has already been requested for the same activities in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. ^{1/} Accordingly, the Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 84 of his statement that the adoption of the draft resolutions would entail the need for additional appropriations in an amount of \$1,728,200, net of staff assessment. Furthermore, in paragraph 82 of his statement, the Secretary-General states that conference-servicing costs, estimated at \$227,319 on a full-cost basis, will be dealt with in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted towards the end of the current session (see A/C.5/34/98 and Corr.1).
3. The estimated total additional substantive requirements amounting to \$1,728,200 (net of staff assessment) are summarized as follows:

* Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session,
Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6).

| <u>Draft resolution</u> | <u>A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1</u> | <u>Section 3A</u> | <u>Section 3D</u> | <u>Section 27A</u> | <u>Section 28</u> | <u>Section 29</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| (United States dollars) | | | | | | | |
| A/34/L.22, A/34/L.27, A/34/L.36 and A/34/L.39 | para. 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| A/34/L.21, A/34/L.32 and A/34/L.33 | paras. 3-9 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| A/34/L.24, A/34/L.28, A/34/L.29/Rev.1, A/34/L.31 and A/34/L.37 | paras. 10-16 | <u>a/</u> | - | - | - | - | - |
| A/34/L.23 | paras. 17-23 | 143 200 | 52 400 | - | - | 21 800 <u>b/</u> | 217 400 |
| A/34/L.25/Rev.1 | paras. 24-26 | <u>a/</u> | 33 100 | - | - | - | 33 100 |
| A/34/L.26 | paras. 27-31 | <u>a/</u> | 44 900 | - | - | - | 44 900 |
| A/34/L.30 | paras. 32-44 | <u>a/</u> | - | 1 629 100 | 144 000 | - | 1 773 100 |
| A/34/L.35 | paras. 45-49 | 10 600 <u>a/</u> | 20 400 | - | - | - | 31 000 |
| A/34/L.34/Rev.1 | paras. 50-79 | <u>598 300</u> | <u>140 100</u> | - | <u>38 300</u> | - | <u>776 700</u> |
| Total | | <u>752 100</u> | <u>290 900</u> | <u>1 629 100</u> | <u>182 300</u> | <u>21 800</u> | <u>2 876 200</u> |
| Less the amounts already requested for the same activities in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 | para. 83 | <u>(198 700)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(949 300)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(1 148 000)</u> |
| Total (net) | | <u><u>553 400</u></u> | <u><u>290 900</u></u> | <u><u>679 800</u></u> | <u><u>182 300</u></u> | <u><u>21 800</u></u> | <u><u>1 728 200</u></u> |

a/ Special Committee against Apartheid: The financial implications are subsumed in the amount indicated above for draft resolution A/34/L.34/Rev.1.

b/ Plus conference-servicing costs estimated at \$227,319 on a full-cost basis (see para. 2 of the present report).

International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa
(draft resolution A/34/L.23)

4. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 to 3 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would decide to organize, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), an International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa to be held in 1980; authorize the Special Committee against Apartheid to take all necessary steps for the organization of the Conference and preparatory meetings; and request the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the Special Committee in the organization of the Conference and to appoint a Secretary-General of the Conference. In paragraphs 18 to 23 of document A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, the Secretary-General details the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution, estimated at a total of \$444,719. This amount consists of \$217,400 for travel, subsistence, miscellaneous expenses and temporary assistance, and \$227,319 for conference-servicing costs (on a full-cost basis) referred to in paragraph 2 above.

5. The additional resources requested, i.e., \$217,400, are broken down as follows:

US dollars

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| (a) For the Conference: travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses of 19 representatives of the Special Committee, 26 Secretariat staff members, and 25 experts (under sect. 3A) (A/C.5/34/54/Corr.1, para. 19) | 115,000 |
| (b) For the preparatory meetings of the Conference: travel and subsistence of 15 participants and 3 staff members from the Centre against <u>Apartheid</u> (\$28,200 under section 3A) and of 9 staff members from the Department of Conference Services (\$21,800 under sect. 29) (A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, paras. 20 and 84) | 50,000 |
| (c) Temporary assistance to the Secretary-General of the Conference (who will be appointed from within the staff of the Secretariat): one P-5 post and one General Service post for nine work-months each (sect. 3D) (A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, para. 22) | 52,400 |
| | <hr/> 217,400 <hr/> |

6. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 19 of document A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1 that included among the 26 Secretariat staff members, who would be travelling from Headquarters to attend the proposed five-day Conference in Geneva, are 1 finance officer, 1 administrative officer, 5 secretaries and 2 typists/proof readers. Upon inquiry, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that because of lack of time it had not been possible to consult with the United Nations Office at Geneva to ascertain the extent to which it could contribute to those services. Bearing this in mind and in view of the fact that some of these services can be obtained locally, the Committee recommends that the estimate of \$115,000 referred to in paragraph 5 (a) above be reduced by \$6,000.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimate indicated in paragraph 5 (b) above includes \$21,800 for travel and subsistence of nine staff members from the Department of Conference Services. In accordance with standard practice, this amount should be reflected in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs referred to in paragraph 2 above. Therefore the Committee recommends that the sum in question be deleted at this stage.

Nuclear collaboration with South Africa (draft resolution A/34/L.25/Rev.1)

8. Under this heading the Secretary-General requests \$33,100 (including \$2,000 for travel) under section 3D to provide for the services of two consultants at the equivalent of the P-4 or P-5 level for five months each, to prepare a comprehensive report on South Africa's plans and capability in the nuclear field (A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, paras. 24 and 25). The Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that, subsequent to the submission of the statement of financial implications in document A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, the sponsors of the draft resolution had revised their text; and that, since the draft resolution, as revised, did not call for the preparation of the report in question, the consultants' services costed at \$33,100 would not be required.

Oil embargo against South Africa (draft resolution A/34/L.26)

9. The resources requested under this heading amount to \$44,900 under section 3D and consist of:

(a) \$24,200 (including \$3,000 for travel) to provide for the services of three experts at the equivalent of the P-3 level for three months each to prepare a report, together with proposals, on means to enforce an effective oil embargo against South Africa, for submission to the Security Council and to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution (A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, paras. 27 and 28);

(b) \$20,700 (including \$2,000 for travel) to provide for the services of two temporary staff members at the P-3 level for three months each to undertake studies, in co-operation with OAU, aimed at enhancing and intensifying world-wide support for an effective arms and oil embargo against South Africa, pursuant to operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution (A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, paras. 29 (a) and 30).

10. The Committee notes that the two areas of studies referred to in paragraph 9 (a) and (b) above are complementary. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that it would be possible to combine some of the assignments. Bearing in mind that the Centre has already produced studies on similar topics, the Committee is of the opinion that the tasks envisaged in the draft resolution can be carried out by a total of four persons (instead of five) with a consequential reduction of the estimate by \$8,900, from \$44,900 to \$36,000.

11. Under operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested, inter alia, to ensure that the Department of Public Information gives utmost priority to the dissemination of information on apartheid. In operative paragraph 6, the Secretary-General is requested, in consultation with the Special Committee against Apartheid, to continue, on a regular basis, the radio programmes for broadcast to South Africa and to provide the broadcasting stations of Member States with programmes on the situation in South Africa. The Secretary-General estimates that the implementation of these requests would entail expenditures totalling \$1,773,100, consisting of \$1,629,100 for the dissemination of information on apartheid, under section 27A, and \$144,000 for related common services costs, under section 28. A breakdown of the estimate is provided in paragraphs 37 to 41 of document A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1. In paragraph 42 of the document, the Secretary-General states that since an amount of \$949,300 has already been requested for the same activity in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, under section 27A, the net additional requirements under that section total \$679,800.

12. With regard to the radio programmes on apartheid, the Secretary-General requests that the 15 individuals (2 for research, 3 for writing/narration in English and 10 for adaptation/narration in five other languages), who are currently hired under public information contracts, be given temporary posts (8 P-3 and 7 P-2). He also requests 3 temporary posts (7 P-5, 1 G-5 and 1 other General Service post) in lieu of the 2 temporary posts (1 P-4 and 1 G-5) already requested in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 2/ (A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, paras. 36-38).

13. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the additional resources requested under section 27A in the amount of \$679,800, consist of:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| (a) Additional expenditures for common staff costs due to the proposed granting of temporary posts to 15 individuals currently serving under special service agreements | 241,300 |
| (b) Additional costs due to a new G-4 temporary post | 33,700 |
| (c) Provision for a P-5 temporary post instead of a P-4 post | 16,600 |
| (d) Additional expenditures due to the need to provide for 15 individuals for the whole biennium 1980-1981 rather than for 5 contractors in 1978 and 15 in 1979 (i.e., the delayed impact of 1979 growth over 1978) | 354,800 |
| (e) Impact of other factors concerning the increased level of activity in 1980-1981 over 1978-1979, including a full provision for the co-ordinator of the project | 33,400 |
| Total | <u>679,800</u> |

2/ Ibid., vol. II, para. 27.34.

14. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that the request for temporary posts was made to ensure the continuation of those programmes "on a regular basis", as specified in operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution. Furthermore, it was the policy of the Office of Personnel Services not to employ on special service agreements persons who were expected to serve full-time for periods in excess of six months.

15. The representatives of the Secretary-General also informed the Advisory Committee that the 15 contractors were currently remunerated on the basis of \$200 per programme completed for writing/narration; \$70 per programme for research assistance and \$107.50 per programme for adaptation into one of the languages in which the programmes were broadcast. Those fees were not deemed to be equivalent to any grade level.

16. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee inquired into the grading of regular staff in established posts who were performing similar functions. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that they were currently at the P-2 level but that the Classification Section of the Office of Personnel Services had recommended that all posts of writers/producers in the Radio Service should be graded at the P-3 level. The Advisory Committee was informed that this recommendation was reflected in the tables of classification results in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the classification system (A/C.5/34/37).

17. The Advisory Committee agrees that temporary posts should be created for the performance of the functions now being carried out by the 15 contractors. However, considering that the General Assembly has not yet pronounced itself on document A/C.5/34/37, the Advisory Committee cannot recommend, at this stage, the creation of temporary posts at the P-3 level. The consequential reduction in the estimate related to draft resolution A/34/L.30 would amount to \$120,000. Should the eight posts in question be subsequently reclassified as a result of the Assembly's decision on document A/C.5/34/37, the additional costs would be reflected by the Secretary-General in his performance report on the programme budget for 1980-1981.

18. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General is now proposing that the temporary post for the co-ordinator of the radio programme be graded at the P-5 instead of the P-4 level. In addition, a new G-4 post is being requested. The Committee has not been convinced by the Secretary-General's request and recommends a consequential reduction of the Secretary-General's estimates by \$50,300.

19. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the estimate of \$144,000 for common services costs, under section 28, related to the proposed granting of temporary-post appointments to the 15 contractors referred to in paragraph 12 above. In response to inquiries, the Committee was informed that the persons in question have been provided with makeshift accommodation, and that it is now proposed that they be accommodated in proper offices. While the Committee has no objection to this proposal, it points out that the estimate for common services costs also includes, inter alia, amounts for office equipment, office supplies and communications, which are already provided to the persons in question. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the estimate for common services costs be reduced by \$44,000 to \$100,000.

Apartheid in sports (draft resolution A/34/L.35)

20. The additional appropriation of \$31,000 requested under this heading consists of:

(a) \$20,400 (including \$2,000 for travel) under section 3D for two consultants for three months each to assist the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against Apartheid in Sports in the revision and completion of the draft convention in 1980, in accordance with operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution (A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, paras. 45 (a) and 46);

(b) \$10,600 under section 3A for travel and subsistence to enable the Ad Hoc Committee to consult with representatives of the organizations concerned and experts on apartheid in sports, in pursuance of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution (A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, paras 45 (b) and 47).

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's request for \$31,000.

Programme of work of the Special Committee against Apartheid
(draft resolution A/34/L.34/Rev.1)

21. The Secretary-General estimates the financial implications of draft resolution A/34/L.34/Rev.1 at a total of \$776,700, consisting of \$598,300 under section 3A, \$140,100 under section 3D and \$38,300 under section 28. A breakdown of the estimates is as follows:

Special Committee against Apartheid (sect. 3A):

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---------|
| 4 (a) | Missions to Member States and to the headquarters of specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations (A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, para. 53) | 93 500 |
| 4 (b) | Intensified co-operation with the movement of non-aligned countries, OAU and other appropriate organizations (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 54 and 55) | 47 800 |
| 4 (c) | Attendance at conferences concerned with <u>apartheid</u> (<u>ibid.</u> , para. 56) | 8 900 |
| 4 (e) | Invitations to representatives of the South African liberation movements and other organizations concerned and to experts (<u>ibid.</u> , para. 58) | 27 600 |
| 4 (g) | Attendance at meetings of United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other institutions within the United Nations system (<u>ibid.</u> , para. 60) | 21 500 |
| 7 | Organization of conferences and seminars against <u>apartheid</u> in co-operation with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 73 and 74) | 69 000 |
| 9 | Special annual allocation from the budget of the United Nations for special projects to be decided on by the Special Committee (<u>ibid.</u> , para. 77) | 150 000 |
| 11 | Maintaining the offices in New York of the national liberation movements recognized by OAU - the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 78 and 79) | 180 000 |
| Subtotal (sect. 3A) | | 598 300 |

Centre against Apartheid

| | | |
|-------|---|---------|
| 5 | Strengthening of the Centre (sect. 3D) (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 63-71) | 140 100 |
| | Related common services costs (sect. 28) (<u>ibid.</u> , para. 72) | 38 300 |
| Total | | 776 700 |

22. As can be seen from the table in the preceding paragraph, the estimates include \$180,000 under section 3A for the purpose of maintaining the New York offices of the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania. The Secretary-General submits this request in response to operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that the estimates, which cover the cost of maintaining the two offices in 1980, were based on one-year estimates submitted by the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania.

23. In paragraphs 66 to 70 and tables 1 to 3 of document A/C.5/34/54 and Corr.1, the Secretary-General outlines the measures proposed for strengthening the Centre against Apartheid. His proposals are made on the basis of the survey of the organization and staffing of the Centre which was undertaken by the Administrative Management Service in 1979. They call for the upgrading of the two main components of the Centre as a result of which the Section for Committee Servicing would become the Branch for Committee Services and Research, and the Section for Publicity against Apartheid would become the Branch for Publicity, Assistance and Promotion of International Action. The liaison arrangement which was set up on a temporary basis in Geneva would be discontinued and the liaison function would be controlled from New York by the Director of the Centre.

24. The related staffing proposals comprise:

- (i) The reclassification of the 2 P-5 posts of the chiefs of section to the D-1 level for the chiefs of branch (para. 70 (a)), and of 1 P-3 post to the P-4 level (para. 70 (c));
- (ii) The establishment of: 1 P-4 post in New York (instead of the P-4 temporary post which was maintained for the liaison work at Geneva) (para. 70 (b)); 2 P-3 posts (para. 70 (d)); 1 P-2 post (para. 70 (e)); and 3 General Service posts (para. 70 (f)).

25. The Secretary-General estimates the cost of his staffing proposals at \$140,100 (para. 71) for salaries and common staff costs under section 3D and \$38,300 (para. 72) for common services costs under section 28. The Advisory Committee recommends that these estimates be approved.

Recapitulation

26. In paragraphs 6, 7, 8, 10 and 17 to 19 above, the Advisory Committee has recommended reductions totalling \$284,100 comprising \$6,000 under section 3A (para. 6), \$42,000 under section 3D (paras. 8 and 10), \$170,300 under section 27 (paras. 17 and 18), \$44,000 under section 28 (para. 19) and \$21,800 under section 29 (para. 7). The consequential reductions under section 31 and income section 1 would be \$53,000.

27. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolutions in question, additional appropriations totalling \$1,444,100, net of staff assessment, would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 as follows:

| <u>Section</u> | | <u>US dollars</u> |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 3A | Special Committee against <u>Apartheid</u> | 547,400 |
| 3D | Centre against <u>Apartheid</u> | 248,900 |
| 27 | Department of Public Information | 509,500 |
| 28 | Administration, management and general services | 138,300 |
| 31 | Staff assessment | 228,500 |
| | | <hr/> 1,672,600 |
| Income section 1 | Income from staff assessment | (228,500) |
| Total | | <hr/> <hr/> 1,444,100 |

28. The related conference-servicing costs would amount to \$249,100 on a full-cost basis. They would be reflected to the extent necessary, in the Secretary-General's consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its thirty-fourth session (see A/C.5/34/98 and Corr.1).

Eighteenth report

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution VIII
submitted by the Third Committee in document A/34/821

(Agenda item 80)*

[Original: English]

[11 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution VIII submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/34/821, para. 39), on preparations for the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.
2. In operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly
 - "2. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary budgetary appropriations specified in his note [A/34/657 and Add.1] in respect of the areas listed below:
 - "(a) To ensure the participation of one representative of each of the least developed countries in the Conference;
 - "(b) To ensure the satisfactory preparation of the documentation for the Conference;
 - "(c) To allow adequate preparation for the presentation of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;
 - "(d) In relation to measures proposed by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to strengthen the relevant activities planned for the period prior to and during the Conference;
 - "(e) To make the appropriate arrangements to ensure the success of the preparatory seminars and meetings for the Conference;
 - "(f) To provide the Conference secretariat with the appropriate staff, including staff to carry out information activities after the Conference, and with the resources necessary for the travel of the Secretary-General of the Conference;
 - "(g) To hold a third session of the Preparatory Committee in 1980."

* United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

3. In the addendum to his note on the Conference (A/34/657/Add.1), the Secretary-General estimates additional requirements in 1980-1981 at \$931,623, comprising \$483,720 in non-conference costs and \$447,903 for conference services on a full-cost basis. The Advisory Committee was informed, however, by the representatives of the Secretary-General that, after correcting costing errors identified by the Secretary-General and after taking into account the impact upon the estimates of the provisions of the draft resolution, the additional resources now being requested by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1980-1981 were estimated at \$715,493, of which \$266,390 related to non-conference costs (\$227,490 under sect. 4 and \$38,900 under sect. 27). In addition, conference-servicing costs (sect. 29), estimated at \$449,103 on a full-cost basis, would be taken into account in the preparation of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements in 1980 to be submitted to the General Assembly at its current session (see A/C.5/34/98 and Corr.1).

4. The additional requirements for non-conference-servicing activities are summarized in tables 1 and 2 below:

Table 1

Summary of non-conference costs by activity
for 1980

(In US dollars)

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Participation in the World Conference by representatives of least developed countries | 73 470 |
| Preparation of documentation for the Conference | 37 800 |
| Preparation of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session | 14 100 |
| Information support programme | 38 900 |
| Appropriate arrangements to ensure the success of the preparatory seminars and meetings for the Conference | 7 490 |
| Staff resources and travel of the Secretary-General of the Conference | 60 080 |
| Attendance at the third session of the Preparatory Committee . . . | 22 600 |
| <u>Ad hoc</u> interagency meeting | - |
| Travel of staff from regional commissions to attend the Conference | 11,950 |
| TOTAL | <u>266 390</u> |

Table 2

Summary of non-conference-costs by object of expenditure and
budget section for 1980

(In US dollars)

Section 4: Policy-making organs
(economic and social activities)

General temporary assistance

Salaries 45 300

Common staff costs 14 400

Consultants 37 800

Travel of staff 45 220

Travel of representatives 84 770 227 490

Section 27: Department of Public Information

General temporary assistance

Salaries 29 500

Common staff costs 9 400 38 900

Section 31

Staff assessment 19 400

Income section 1

Income from staff assessment (19 400)

TOTAL 266 390

Participation in the World Conference by representatives
of least developed countries (73,470)

5. This request has been submitted pursuant to operative paragraph 2 (a) of the draft resolution. The Committee notes the costing assumptions in the note by the Secretary-General (A/34/657, para. 11). The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's request.

Preparation of documentation for the Conference (37,800)

6. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 12 and 14 of his note (A/34/657), the Secretary-General requests \$37,800 for nine work-months of consultants services. He relates this request to operative paragraph 2 (b) of the draft resolution. The Advisory Committee notes that the topics enumerated by the Secretary-General (*ibid.* para. 14) relate to areas for which expertise should be sought in the Secretariat, and in particular in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Centre against Apartheid. Accordingly, it recommends that the estimate be reduced by \$7,800 to \$30,000.

Preparation of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly
at its thirty-fifth session (\$14,100)

7. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the secretariat of the Conference comprises the following temporary posts:

| <u>Level and title</u> | <u>Duration provided for in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981</u> |
|---|---|
| 1 Assistant Secretary-General (Secretary-General of the Conference) | 12 months till 31 December 1980 |
| 1 D-1 (Principal Officer) | 12 months till 31 December 1980 |
| 1 P-5 (Senior Social Affairs Officer) | 8 months till 31 August 1980 |
| 1 P-4 (Personal Assistant to Secretary- General and Liaison Officer) | 12 months till 31 December 1980 |
| 1 P-3 (Administrative Officer) | 8 months till 31 August 1980 |
| 1 G-5 | 12 months till 31 December 1980 |
| 2 G-4 | 12 months till 31 December 1980 |
| 2 G-4 | 8 months till 31 August 1980 |

8. In his note (A/34/657, para. 18), the Secretary-General requests that the post of Senior Social Affairs officer in the Conference secretariat be extended by four months from 1 September to 31 December 1980, at a cost of \$14,100, to enable the officer concerned "to prepare the substantive documentation required as a follow-up to the Conference and, in particular, the report of the Conference to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-fifth session". In this connexion, the Secretary-General states that the functions of the other officers in the Conference secretariat are "primarily executive and liaison". Bearing in mind operative paragraph 2 (c) of the draft resolution in question, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of this request.

Information support programme (\$38,900)

9. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the revised estimated cost of the follow-up information activities in accordance with operative paragraphs 2 (d) and 2 (f) of the draft resolution was \$38,900 under section 27: Department of Public Information. The amount requested relates to the proposed extension of four temporary posts by four months, that is, from 1 September to 31 December 1980, as follows:

| <u>Level and title</u> | <u>Salary and common staff costs</u> (US dollars) |
|--------------------------------|--|
| One P-4 (Information Officer) | 14,100 |
| One G-4 (General Service) | 5,200 |
| One P-3 (Writer/Producer) | 11,700 |
| One G-5 (Production Assistant) | 7,900 |
| | <u>38,900</u> |

10. The Secretary-General states (A/34/657, para. 20) that the P-4 and G-4 level posts are required to carry out, inter alia, "post-conference activities ... [such as] the continuation of the monthly bulletin until the end of 1980, the publication of a handbook summing up the results of the Conference, and any other activity which may result from the recommendations of the Conference". His request for the continuation of the P-3 and G-5 level posts relates to the extension until the end of 1980 of the production of weekly radio programmes and sequences in connexion with the Conference (ibid., para. 21).

11. The Advisory Committee notes that the request for \$38,900 is additional to the amount of \$326,100 for information activities for the Conference already included under section 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. 1/ The Committee was informed that, of the \$160,000 appropriated in 1979 for

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. II, table 27.22. The Advisory Committee has recommended acceptance of this request (ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), para. 27.15).

information activities of the Conference, \$65,100 had been expended as at 31 October 1979. The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will administer the credits for information activities of the Conference in 1980 with due regard to economy. Subject to the above-mentioned observations, the Advisory Committee recommends that the request for \$38,900 be approved.

Appropriate arrangements to ensure the success of the preparatory seminars and meetings for the Conference (\$7,490)

12. The Secretary-General's request for additional appropriations in the amount of \$7,490 under this activity cover travel and subsistence costs for the Secretary-General of the Conference and members of the Conference secretariat to attend meetings at Montreal, Helsinki and Vienna. The Secretary-General relates his request to operative paragraph 2 (e) of the draft resolution. Bearing in mind the information provided by the Secretary-General in his note (A/34/657, paras. 26-29 and table 3), the Advisory Committee recommends that the request be approved.

Staff resources and travel of the Secretary-General of the Conference (60,080)

13. The Secretary-General's estimate of \$60,080 under this heading comprises:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|--|-------------------|
| (a) Salaries and common staff costs for four months (September-December 1980) of 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2 (A/34/657, paras. 31-33 and table 4) | 35,200 |
| (b) Salaries and common staff costs for four months (September-December 1980) of 2 G-4/1 staff (A/34/657/Add.1, paras. 1 and 2 and table 1) | 10,400 |
| (c) Post-Conference travel by the Secretary-General of the Conference or her representative (A/34/657, paras. 35-37 and table 5) | 14,480 |
| | <u>60,080</u> |

The Advisory Committee understands that these requests have been submitted pursuant to operative paragraph 2 (f) of the draft resolution.

14. With regard to the request for 2 Professional posts (1 P-3 and 1 P-2) for four months in 1980, the Advisory Committee notes that they do not now form part of the Conference secretariat (see para. 7 above). In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the 2 posts have been requested to replace substantive posts belonging to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, whose secondment to the Conference secretariat would end on 31 August 1980. The Advisory Committee understands that a total of 6 Professional posts (2 P-4, 2 P-3 and 2 P-2 posts) and 3 General Service posts (at the G-4 level) have been seconded from the Centre to the Conference secretariat. According to the Secretary-General,

the 2 substantive posts requested are required "to assist with the post-Conference responsibilities of the Conference secretariat", such as preparation of "the substantive documentation required as a follow-up to the Conference ... [servicing] the ad hoc interagency meeting, the Economic and Social Council, the proposed special session of the General Assembly in 1980 and the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly ..." (A/34/657, paras. 31 and 32).

15. In paragraph 8 above, the Committee has already recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's request to extend the post of Senior Social Affairs Officer in the Conference secretariat until the end of 1980. The functions of that post overlap with those of the two posts under discussion. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that those additional posts will be required. Should the volume of post-conference work require additional staff resources, however, the Committee recommends that they should be provided, in the interests of efficiency and continuity, by extending until the end of 1980 the secondment of the two staff members of the Centre.

16. As can be seen from paragraph 7 above, the post of Administrative Officer in the Conference secretariat is currently occupied at the P-3 level. However, the Secretary-General requests a P-4 post for four months in 1980 for this function (A/34/657, para. 33). The Advisory Committee is not convinced that there will be sufficient work in the post-Conference period to justify a full-time Administrative Officer in the Conference secretariat from September to December 1980. In the Committee's opinion, the necessary administrative services during the post-Conference period should be provided by the Executive Office of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

17. In paragraph 8 above, the Advisory Committee has recommended that the General Assembly accept the request by the Secretary-General for the extension of the Senior Social Affairs Officer until the end of 1980. In the circumstances, and bearing in mind the recommendations in paragraphs 15 and 16 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly provide four months of temporary assistance at the G-4/1 level (instead of eight months, as requested by the Secretary-General).

18. The Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 15 to 17 above entail a reduction of \$40,400 in the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General.

19. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's request for \$14,480 for travel and subsistence during the post-Conference period (A/34/657, paras. 35-37 and table 5).

Attendance at the third session of the Preparatory Committee
(\$22,600)

20. The Secretary-General submits estimates in the amount of \$22,600 covering travel and subsistence costs "to permit attendance of five staff members from the regional commissions as well as five observers from the national liberation movements" at the third session of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference, to be held at New York for two weeks in 1980 (A/34/657, para. 42, and table 7). Bearing in mind that the convening of the third session of the Preparatory Committee is requested in operative paragraph 2 (g) of the draft resolution, the Advisory Committee has no objection to this request.

Travel of staff from the regional commissions to attend
the Conference (\$11,950)

21. The Secretary-General also requests \$11,950 to provide for the travel to the Conference of one staff member from each regional commission (A/34/657/Add.1, para. 5). Bearing in mind the statement by the Secretary-General (*ibid.*, para. 4), the Advisory Committee recommends that the request be approved.

Recapitulation

22. In paragraphs 6 and 18 above, the Advisory Committee has recommended reductions totalling \$48,200 under section 4. The consequential reduction under section 31 amounts to \$9,200.

23. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution of the Third Committee, additional appropriations would be required in the amount of \$179,290 under section 4 (Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)) and \$38,900 under section 27 (Public Information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. An appropriation of \$10,200 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1.

Nineteenth report

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
submitted by the Third Committee in document A/34/782

(Agenda item 79)*

[Original: English]

[11 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution on the International Year for Disabled Persons submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/34/782, para. 11). Pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would approve the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons at its first session, contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/34/158 and Corr.1) and would adopt them as the Plan of Action for the Year. 1/
2. The financial implications of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons are described in document A/34/158/Add.1. They cover both regular budget and extrabudgetary funding and relate to the two biennia 1980-1981 and 1982-1983. The estimates under the regular budget may be summarized as follows:

* International Year for Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General.

1/ The Plan of Action would consist of the text appearing in the annex to document A/34/158 and Corr.1, paras. 56-76, with the following deletions: the phrase following the words "(see subpara. (i) below)" in para. 74 (c); para. 74 (u); and the words following "nationally" in para. 75 (b).

| | | <u>1980-1981</u> | <u>1982-1983</u> <u>US dollars</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Section 6:</u> | Meetings | \$133,700 | | |
| | Secretariat | 703,200 | | |
| | | 836,900 | - | 836,900 |
| <u>Section 8</u> | | 2,000 | 1,600 | 3,600 |
| <u>Section 27</u> | | 618,500 | - | 618,500 |
| <u>Section 28:</u> | Administration, management and general services | 43,200 | - | 43,200 |
| <u>Section 31:</u> | Staff assessment | 169,600 | - | 169,600 |
| <u>Income section 1:</u> | Income from staff assessment | (169,600) | - | (169,600) |
| | Total non-conference costs | 1,500,600 | 1,600 | 1,502,200 |
| <u>Section 29:</u> | Conference costs | 551,300 | 138,900 | 690,200 |
| | Total | 2,051,900 | 140,500 | 2,192,400 |

3. In paragraphs 5 to 23 of A/34/158/Add.1 the Secretary-General discusses requirements in respect of meetings recommended by the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons. These are summarized in table 1 of the addendum, as follows:

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Section 6 | \$133,700 |
| Section 8 | 3,600 |
| Section 29 | 690,200 |
| Total | 827,500 <u>a/</u> |

a/ An additional amount of \$30,000 is to be provided by UNDP.

4. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions understands that the requirements under section 6 relate to travel and subsistence in 1981. The Committee has no objection to this estimate. Of the amount estimated under section 8, \$2,000 would be for 1980. The Committee has no objection to this estimate which also relates to travel and subsistence. The remainder of the estimate under section 8 (\$1,600) relates to 1982-1983.

5. Requirements of \$690,200 under section 29, shown in table 1 of the addendum, cover conference servicing on a full-cost basis. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the regional seminars, the symposium, and the second session of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons are all to take place in 1980. Conference servicing requirements for these activities have been

estimated by the Secretary-General at \$551,300 on a full-cost basis. However, the Advisory Committee has been informed that estimates related to the second session of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons have been over-stated by \$900. The total amount for 1980 should therefore stand at \$550,400. Requirements (on a full-cost basis) for the third session of the Advisory Committee, which is scheduled for July 1982, are estimated at \$138,900; actual requirements will be included in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 1982-1983.

6. In paragraph 24 of document A/34/158/Add.1 the Secretary-General discusses requirements related to the role of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons. For the reasons given in that paragraph the Secretary-General estimates that a provision of \$15,000 in 1980 and \$15,000 in 1981 would be required for the attendance of the Chairman or a designated representative of the Committee at various activities planned or envisaged for the Year. The Advisory Committee has no objection to these estimates.

7. Secretariat support requirements for the implementation of the substantive programme proposed by the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons are discussed in paragraphs 25 to 37 and summarized in table 2 of document A/34/158/Add.1. The Secretary-General estimates these requirements at \$703,200 under section 6 and \$19,200 under section 28 of the programme budget for 1980-1981. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has no objection to the estimates shown under section 6. The Committee recommends, however, that the \$19,200 estimated for common service costs under section 28 should be absorbed within resources already approved.

8. Public information requirements related to the programme of meetings and substantive activities recommended by the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons are dealt with in paragraphs 38 to 77 and summarized in table 3 of document A/34/158/Add.1.

9. The Committee has been informed that an amount of \$5,000 under section 27 of the programme budget for 1980-1981 for the International Year for Disabled Persons logo (emblem) is no longer needed as the necessary design will be donated, with a consequential reduction of the estimate to \$613,500.

10. The estimate under section 27 includes \$100,000 for the production of a newsletter. As can be seen from paragraph 47 of document A/34/158/Add.1 the estimate relates to the proposed issuance of 16 newsletters at \$6,250 each. Of this amount, \$4,000 per issue relates to the cost of outside printing. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that at least part of the newsletter printing can be done "in house" during slack periods throughout the year. The Committee therefore recommends that the external printing estimate be reduced to an average of \$2,500 an issue with a consequential reduction in the estimates of \$24,000.

11. Staff requirements, which are estimated at \$237,100 under section 27, are described in paragraphs 63 and 64 of document A/34/158/Add.1. Four temporary posts are requested to deal with the additional workload in the Division of Economic and Social Information: 1 P-3 and 1 G-5 in New York and 1 P-2 and 1 General Service (other level) in Vienna. The Advisory Committee believes that more effort should be made to absorb the increased workload within existing resources. Accordingly, the Committee recommends against the provision of a temporary G-5 post in New York with a consequential reduction of \$46,600 from the estimates.

12. Estimated requirements of \$24,000 under section 28 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 relate to common service costs described in paragraph 65 of document A/34/158/Add.1. The Committee recommends that this amount be absorbed within already approved resources.

13. In paragraphs 7 and 10 to 12 above the Advisory Committee has recommended reductions totalling \$70,600 under section 27 (in addition to the \$5,000 already deleted by the Secretary-General), and \$43,200 under section 28 of the programme budget for 1980-1981. As a result of the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 11 above, the estimate for staff assessment under section 31 and income section 1 would be reduced by \$13,200.

14. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends to the Fifth Committee that it inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution of the Third Committee, the following additional appropriations would be required under the regular budget for the biennium 1980-1981:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| Section 6: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs | 836,900 |
| Section 8: Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters | 2,000 |
| Section 27: Department of Public Information | 542,900 |

In addition an amount of \$156,400 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

15. Further, as indicated in paragraph 5 above, requirements in respect of conference services under section 29, which have been estimated at \$550,400 for 1980 on the basis of full costs, will be determined within the context of the consolidated statement of total conference servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the close of its thirty-fourth session (see A/C.5/34/98 and Corr.1).

Twentieth report

Revised programme and budget proposals under section 7 (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development), section 31 (Staff assessment) and income section 1 (Income from staff assessment)

[Original: English]

[11 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/72 and Corr.1 and 2) on revised programme and budget proposals under section 7 (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development).
2. The Committee recalled that the initial estimates of \$13,106,400 for the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development as submitted by the Secretary-General were confined "to the continuation of the total resources which were appropriated for the 1978-1979 biennium", "since the structure of the Department and its programmes had not yet been finally determined when these programme budget proposals were prepared". 1/ The Advisory Committee, in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, had recommended a provisional amount of \$12,477,500, equivalent to the revised appropriations for 1978-1979, as adjusted. 2/
3. The estimate of \$13,110,000 now submitted by the Secretary-General takes into account the new organizational and programme structure approved for the Department by the Secretary-General (see A/C.5/34/72 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 2). The revised estimate exceeds the revised appropriation for 1978-1979 by \$632,500, or 5 per cent. In table 7.1 of his report (*ibid.*, annex), the Secretary-General estimates resource growth at \$27,800 at revised 1979 rates and a rate of real growth of 0.2 per cent.
4. The Secretary-General also estimates that extrabudgetary resources available to the Department during 1980-1981 will be on the order of \$236 million. As can be seen in table 7.4 of the annex to the Secretary-General's report, it is estimated that the Department will have in 1980-1981 a total of 335 posts funded from extrabudgetary resources. In this connexion, the Committee recalls that it has recommended to the Fifth Committee that it defer to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly consideration of the Secretary-General's report on services provided by the United Nations to activities financed from extrabudgetary resources (A/C.5/34/21). The Advisory Committee has also requested additional information on

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. I, para. 7.5.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), para. 7.4.

this subject from the Secretary-General, including a statement of the criteria used for the creation of extrabudgetary posts and their grading. Under the circumstances, any comment the Committee may wish to make with regard to the extrabudgetary resources of the Department (and in particular paras. 5 to 8 of the Secretary-General's report) will be included in the report the Committee will issue on services provided by the United Nations to activities financed from extrabudgetary resources.

5. The real growth proposed by the Secretary-General under section 7 is attributable to the request (A/C.5/34/72 and Corr.1 and 2, annex, para. 7.7) for a new D-2 post together with supporting General Service assistance (G-4/1) in the policies and resources planning programme. The new D-2 post would provide a Director for the programme. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the request for these two additional posts.

6. The Advisory Committee notes the appendix to the Secretary-General's report, which provides an analysis of over-all costs by object of expenditure. The Committee understands that such an analysis is to be included as a part of future programme budget submissions.

7. Bearing in mind the amount it had provisionally recommended for section 7 (see para. 2 above) and its recommendations in paragraph 5 above, the Advisory Committee recommends an additional appropriation of \$632,500 under section 7 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.

8. Further, as noted in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report, the request under section 7 would give rise to additional requirements of \$7,600 under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). The estimate of additional requirements for staff assessment is not affected by the difference between the Secretary-General's initial estimates and the Advisory Committee's provisional recommendation.

Twenty-first report

Expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing
and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters

[Original: English]

[11 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters (A/C.5/34/34 and Corr.1 and Add.1). As indicated by the Secretary-General, the report provides "a description of the progress of the work, an explanation of the problems which have developed concerning the cost of certain projects and recommendations for General Assembly consideration" (A/C.5/34/34 and Corr.1, para. 1).

2. Table 1 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/34 and Corr.1) provides a summary of the situation with regard to the Headquarters improvement plan, listing projects approved in 1976 (Phase I), projects approved in 1977 (Phase II) and projects approved in 1978 (Phase III), together with an indication of the status of work and revised cost estimates as compared with previous estimates. The table has not been revised to reflect the latest information with regard to Phase III (see A/C.5/34/34/Add.1). As indicated in that document, the current estimate for Phase III is now \$10,773,000, as compared with the previous estimate of \$7,612,000. If that information is taken into account, the current estimated cost of completing all three phases is \$56,931,000, as compared with previous estimates of 37,500,300. This represents a cost overrun of \$19,430,700 as follows:

| | <u>Previous estimate a/</u> | <u>Current estimate</u> <u>(US dollars)</u> | <u>"Overrun"</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Phase I | 14,019,000 | 14,689,000 | 670,000 |
| Phase II | 15,869,300 | 31,469,000 | 15,599,700 |
| Phase III | <u>7,612,000</u> | <u>10,773,000</u> | <u>3,161,000</u> |
| Total | <u>37,500,300</u> | <u>56,931,000</u> | <u>19,430,700</u> |

a/ Appropriated in the budgets for 1976-1977, 1978-1979 or included in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.

3. Developments in Phase I are reported by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 3 to 6 of his report. In paragraph 7, he indicates that, as a result of these

developments, the final performance report for the biennium 1978-1979 will include provision for an additional amount of \$670,000 under section 26 of the programme budget to close Phase I.

4. The increase from \$15.9 million to \$31.5 million in the estimates for Phase I is described in paragraphs 9 to 12 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/34 and Corr.1). In paragraph 11, the Secretary-General reports that, in May 1979, the Advisory Committee concurred in his carrying out as much of the work in Phase II as possible with the funds already approved, on the understanding that it was his intention to seek the instructions of the General Assembly with respect to the balance of the work.

5. In paragraphs 13 to 16 of his report, the Secretary-General provides his explanation of why the estimates for Phase II prepared in 1977 have proved, two years later, to be substantially below cost. In paragraph 17 he states that he

"has been deeply concerned about the serious divergence between his estimates and the current cost of the work. The methods used and the firms employed to provide cost estimates had proven reliable on previous projects. The inaccuracy of these particular estimates was unexpected. The Secretary-General recognizes the need to establish procedures which would prevent a recurrence of this situation in future projects. Accordingly, he has agreed with the External Auditors, who had been requested by the Advisory Committee to study the matter, to institute a number of changes in the procedures heretofore followed. As appropriate, these changes will be made as existing contracts expire and are replaced or as the need for architectural services and cost estimation arises in connexion with future projects."

The Advisory Committee's request to the Board of Auditors is referred to in paragraph 10 below. A summary of the Board's findings and also of the measures taken by the Administration to meet the Board's recommendations are contained in annexes I and II below.

6. Phase III is discussed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/34/34 and Corr.1, paras. 23 and 24). In this connexion, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 23 that bids "will be available by December 1979, at which time it will be possible to confirm the cost. At present, the Secretary-General has no information which would indicate that the original estimate of \$7,612,000 is not valid." However, he states in the addendum to his report (A/C.5/34/Add.1, para. 2) that:

"On the basis of bids opened on 20 November 1979, it has now developed that the contractors' offers are substantially in excess of the estimates. As against the amount of \$7,612,000 approved by the General Assembly based on the lowest bid, the cost is now projected at \$10,773,000."

7. The Secretary-General concludes in his report (A/C.5/34/34 and Corr.1, para. 25) that "since the current cost estimates far exceed those previously approved, the General Assembly may now wish to review its prior decision". The Secretary-General then goes on to describe those projects which he considers indispensable. As to the remaining projects, the Secretary-General states, in paragraph 26, that "each of these is desirable and justified". Table 3 in the addendum to his report (A/C.5/34/34/Add.1) provides a summary of the estimated cost for Phase II and Phase III with an indication of amounts already appropriated in

the 1978-1979 budget or included in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981. As can be seen from that table, a shortfall exists of just under \$18.8 million.

8. As shown in the table in paragraph 2 above, the total current estimate for Phases I, II, and III is \$56,931,000, against which an amount of \$37,500,300 has already been appropriated in the budgets for 1976-1977, 1978-1979 or is included in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981. The total shortfall, that is, the additional amount which must be appropriated in order to complete the projects as originally approved by the Assembly, is thus \$19,430,700 (see also paras. 3 and 7 above).

9. The Advisory Committee believes that under the circumstances, it is for the General Assembly to take the policy decision whether the projects it initially authorized should be discontinued, modified or carried through to completion. In taking its decision, the Assembly should, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, bear in mind two factors:

(a) Given past experience, final actual costs may be in excess of what is now indicated;

(b) Any decision to discontinue or modify (scale down) projects should be final, since a mere postponement of projects would ultimately prove more expensive to the Organization in view of continually rising costs in the construction industry.

10. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee believes that the current procedures for estimating and bidding for United Nations construction projects leave much to be desired. In dealing with this question, the Advisory Committee requested the Board of Auditors to carry out an investigation of the matter. The findings of the Board have been summarized by the Committee in annex I below.

11. In addition to what has been done by the Board, the Committee is of the opinion that the time has come for an independent full-scale study of procedures for obtaining estimates and soliciting bids on United Nations construction projects at Headquarters and in other United Nations offices. The Committee recommends that the Joint Inspection Unit be requested to conduct this study with the assistance of outside expertise, as necessary. In addition to covering procedures for major construction at all United Nations offices, the study should include comparative information with respect to other organizations in the United Nations system. The study should comment on the adequacy of practices and procedures now in place and should suggest such specific revisions and improvements as may be necessary.

ANNEX I

Summary of main findings

Report of the Board of Auditors to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on construction project estimates at United Nations Headquarters

1. The request by the Advisory Committee to the Board of Auditors was prompted by information made available to the Committee in the spring of 1979 in connexion with the request of the Secretary-General described in paragraph 11 of his report (A/C.5/34/34 and Corr.1). That information revealed, among other things, that a serious miscalculation of basic construction costs by consulting engineers had resulted in a significant underestimation of the original construction estimates prepared in 1977. In view of the magnitude of the error made by the estimators, the Committee considered it desirable for the matter to be investigated by the Board of Auditors with a view, inter alia, to devising ways and means of avoiding similar errors in the future.

2. In response to the Advisory Committee's request, representatives of the Board carried out a review of the procedures used for estimating costs of the construction projects currently in progress at United Nations Headquarters, with particular emphasis on the North Lawn Extension project. The review included an examination of the construction estimates developed by the consulting engineer, the procedures for determining the other costs related to the projects, the management process for the review and approval of project cost estimates and the system for obtaining bids and awarding contracts.

3. In the Board's opinion, the cost estimates developed by the consulting engineer for the Headquarters construction projects did not provide an adequate basis for the accurate determination and measurement of the reasons for the cost overruns. In order to minimize future estimating errors, the Board recommended that the Administration should:

(a) Establish stricter standards and specifications for the development of cost estimates by outside consultants;

(b) Review alternative methods of employing cost estimators;

(c) Verify the mathematical accuracy of future cost estimates;

(d) Use more realistic inflation factors;

(e) Bring up to date the detailed plans and specifications for the existing buildings in the New York Headquarters complex;

(f) Require the review of estimates by professional cost estimators when major structural changes are contemplated;

(g) Call for a detailed examination of current architectural and engineering costs and a review of the present contractual and fee arrangements with the consulting architects.

ANNEX II

Response of the Administration to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors

The information set forth below has been provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General in response to questions raised in the Advisory Committee:

1. At the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions held on 5 December 1979, the representatives of the Secretary-General undertook to provide additional information on the steps to be taken to improve the accuracy of construction project estimates. This note elaborates on the information provided in paragraph 17 of his report (A/C.5/34/34 and Corr.1).
2. It is important to note that construction cost estimates are valid only for the circumstances and assumptions stated at the time they are sought. Since considerable time normally elapses between the preparation of estimates and the receipt of bids (from nine to 11 months in the projects under discussion), there is always the possibility that circumstances will change. For example, between late 1978 and late 1979, construction industry perceptions of the rate of future inflation changed considerably.
3. It is also relevant to note that cost estimates are prepared on the basis of preliminary drawings. It is only after the detailed working drawings have been prepared that more accurate estimates of cost become possible.
4. In order to judge better the quality of estimates, the Secretary-General intends, in future, to require cost estimators to include a detailed explanation of the assumptions used and the time periods for which they are valid. The estimates will also contain narrative descriptions of the source material and indices used. A breakdown of the major cost components and a description of the nature and quality of materials will also be included.
5. Although general contractors have provided reasonably accurate estimates in the past, both general contractors and professional estimators have also provided figures which later proved to be underestimated. In future, the Secretary-General plans to employ only those firms which specialize in cost estimating and these firms will be hired directly by the United Nations, rather than through the architect.
6. With respect to inflation, the Secretary-General also plans to obtain inflation projections from the best available sources in order to cross-check the work of the estimators. With respect to architectural and engineering services, the Secretary-General, in future projects, will explore the possibility of holding architectural competitions and other methods of widening the selection process. The form of contractual arrangements entered into at Headquarters will be based on the standard agreements recommended by the American Institute of Architects.

7. It should be appreciated that the procedural modifications listed above will not affect the Headquarters expansion projects referred to by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/34 and Corr.1 and Add.1), because the cost-estimating phase of these projects has been completed. However, as the need for additional service arises in future, the above-mentioned procedures will be applied.

Twenty-second report

Revised estimates under section 32: United Nations accommodation
at Nairobi

[Original: English]

[11 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations accommodation at Nairobi (A/C.5/34/43), in which he submits revised estimates under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 in connexion with proposed additional construction to accommodate the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS). The Advisory Committee found the presentation of this report to be unsatisfactory, and was obliged to seek detailed oral and written clarifications from the representatives of the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee urges the Secretary-General to ensure that his future reports on this and other matters contain clear and precise information on the problems to be addressed.

2. The Secretary-General's report on accommodation at Nairobi (A/C.5/34/43) is divided into two sections. In section I (paras. 3-15), an attempt is made to provide a progress report on developments to date relating to the basic project for the construction of permanent headquarters facilities for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and accommodation for the other United Nations offices at Nairobi, as approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session (see resolution 32/208, para. 4). The Secretary-General then recalls the adoption by the Assembly of resolution 32/162, in section III, paragraph 7, of which the Assembly decided that the location of the Centre should be at Nairobi, thereby giving rise to the need to expand the original construction project. He further recalls that, in his progress report to the Assembly at its thirty-third session on United Nations accommodation at Nairobi, he indicated that he would submit a full report on the construction of additional office premises for the Centre to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session (A/C.5/33/15, para. 12). In section II of his report (see paras. 16-41), the Secretary-General submits proposals for:

(a) The expansion of the integral common services areas originally approved as part of the basic construction project for the UNEP headquarters facilities and other United Nations offices at Nairobi, to reflect the additional requirements of the Centre (including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF) and Vision Habitat);

(b) The building of three additional office blocks to accommodate existing and projected staff of the Centre and of other users of the Gigiri complex.

3. At the request of the Advisory Committee, the representatives of the Secretary-General provided table 1 below, which indicates, in terms of net usable area (in square metres), both the space authorized under the basic construction project (including temporary premises) and the proposed additional space for the Centre (integral common services area expansion plus office accommodation requirements).

4. The representatives of the Secretary-General also provided table 2 below, which separately identifies the estimated cost in Kenyan shillings (for convenience of calculation and comparability) of the basic construction project authorized in 1977 (K.sh. 191,908,000); the estimated construction cost of the integral additions to the common services and information facilities (K.sh. 33,828,000) and the estimated cost of the proposed construction of additional office space for the Centre (K.sh. 29,208,000).

Table 1

United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

Total net usable area - in square metres
including temporary premises

| | <u>Basic project</u> | | <u>Proposed additions</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | <u>(including temporary premises)</u> | | | |
| Office accommodation | | | | |
| For UNEP (excluding UNHHSF) | 7 378 | | - | 7 378 |
| For UNCHS | | | | |
| Regular budget plus overhead | - | 2 345 | 2 345 | |
| UNHHSF | 572 | (241) | 331 | |
| Project staff a/ | <u>-</u> | <u>1 152</u> | <u>1 152</u> | |
| Subtotal UNCHS | 572 | | 3 256 | 3 828 |
| For other United Nations offices | 2 073 | | - | 2 073 |
| For specialized agencies | 2 485 | | - | 2 485 |
| For expansion reserve | <u>-</u> | | <u>536</u> | <u>536</u> |
| Subtotal | 12 508 | | 3 792 | 16 300 |
| Common services facilities (excluding information) | 10 435 | | 1 851 | 12 286 |
| Conference and information facilities | <u>3 780</u> | | <u>150</u> | <u>3 930</u> |
| TOTAL | 26 723 | | 5 793 | 32 516 |
| Less temporary premises | <u>8 375</u> | | <u>-</u> | <u>8 375</u> |
| New construction | 18 348 | | 5 793 | 24 141 |

a/ Vision Habitat plus staff to support technical co-operation activities financed by voluntary contributions.

Table 2

United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

Estimated project costs

(in Kenyan shillings, inclusive of fees)

| | 1977 estimates "Basic project" authorized by General Assembly res. 32/208 | Proposed "integral additions" to common services etc. | "Basic project" plus integral additions | Proposed "extensions" only three office build- ings and parking 216 m ² reproduction facility | TOTAL Basic project plus proposed additions | Additions only (A/C.5/34/43) |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Estimated cost July 1977 | 131 745 000 | | | | | |
| Allowance for inflation to tendering | 20 415 000 | | | | | |
| Estimated cost at tender | 152 160 000 | | | | | |
| Estimated cost July 1979 | | 24 507 000 | 170 604 000 | 21 160 000 | 191 764 000 | 45 667 000 |
| Inflation to tender July 1979-Jan. 1980 | | 1 838 000 | 7 901 000 | 1 587 000 | 9 488 000 | 3 425 000 |
| Estimated cost at tender Jan. 1980 | | 26 345 000 | 178 505 000 | 22 747 000 | 201 252 000 | 49 092 000 |
| Target at tender, including contingency of 5 510 000 | 157 670 000 | | | | | |
| Allowance for automatic contractual increases | 31 386 000 | 5 433 000 | 36 819 000 | 4 690 000 | 41 509 000 | 10 123 000 |
| Administrative costs | 2 852 000 | 461 000 | 3 313 000 | 399 000 | 3 712 000 | 860 000 |
| Contingencies (already included above) | | 1 589 000 | 7 099 000 | 1 372 000 | 8 471 000 | 2 961 000 |
| TOTAL | 191 908 000 | 33 828 000 | 225 736 000 | 29 208 000 | 254 944 000 | 63 036 000 |

5. As can be seen from table 1 above, the basic project approved by the General Assembly in 1977 provides a grand total of 26,723 square metres of net usable space, of which 18,348 square metres is new construction; the balance of 8,375 square metres corresponds to the existing temporary premises. The Secretary-General now proposes the construction of 5,793 square metres of additional net usable space, which will provide 2,001 square metres for expansion of the integral common services and conference and information facilities, and 3,792 square metres for office space requirements of the Centre (A/C.5/34/43, para. 41). The representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee contained in table 3 below, which gives a detailed breakdown of the intended use of the 2,001 square metres proposed for expanded conference and common services facilities.

Table 3

United Nations accomodation at Nairobi

Total net usable area - in square metres

(including temporary premises)

Breakdown of conference and common service facilities

| | <u>Basic project</u> <u>1977 estimates</u> <u>(A/C.5/32/19)</u> | <u>proposed</u> <u>additions</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Conference | 3,435 | - | 3,435 |
| Information | 345 | 150 | 495 |
| Data processing | 390 | 45 | 435 |
| Documents and publications | 2,426 | 316 | 2,742 |
| Catering | 1,607 | 450 | 2,057 |
| Library and archives | 1,256 | 740 | 1,996 |
| Receiving and storage | 1,480 | 300 | 1,780 |
| Other (telecommunications, medical, language training, staff welfare, building management, security, etc.) | 3,276 | - | 3,276 |
| Total | <u>14,215</u> | <u>2,001</u> | <u>16,216</u> |

6. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in paragraph 9 of its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the institutional and financial arrangements leading to the establishment of UNEP, ^{1/} it had recommended that "on the basis of experience, the Secretary-General consider whether the United Nations should contemplate the construction of a building to house the environment secretariat and other United Nations offices at Nairobi", which in essence proposed the establishment of common premises and services. In adopting the related resolution 2997 (XXVII) at its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly endorsed the idea. Consequently the Advisory Committee concurs with the Secretary-General's view that "the establishment of common premises and services at Gigiri is in the best interest of the United Nations and the specialized agencies for reasons of economy, efficiency and co-ordination" (A/C.5/34/43, para. 31). In the light of the information contained in paragraphs 34 to 39 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/43) and the additional information provided above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposal to construct 2,001 square metres of additional net usable space at an estimated cost of 33,828,000 Kenyan shillings to provide expanded conference and common services facilities incorporating the increased requirements of the Centre.

7. The Advisory Committee also inquired into the assumptions used by the Secretary-General in his calculation of present and projected staffing resources of all the users of the Gigiri complex that had led him to request the construction of three additional office buildings to provide 3,792 square metres of net usable space (1,264 square metres per building) at an estimated cost of 29,208,000 Kenyan shillings. The representatives of the Secretary-General provided table 4 below, which sets forth in detail the current staffing of all United Nations offices and specialized agencies which would be housed in the Gigiri complex and projected growth during the period 1980-1985.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 8A, (A/8708/Add.1-30), document A/8708/Add.23.

Table 4

Staff at United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

(including project staff and temporary assistance)

| | 1979 | | | Growth <u>a/</u> 1980-1985 | | | 1985 | | |
|--|----------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| | <u>P</u> | <u>GS</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>P</u> | <u>GS</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>P</u> | <u>GS</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| UNEP (estimated total including project staff and temporary assistance) | 191 | 266 | <u>457</u> | 24 | 31 | <u>55</u> | 215 | 297 | <u>512</u> |
| UNCHS | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Authorized posts</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Regular budget | 48 | 37 | 85 <u>b/</u> | 5 | 6 | 11 | 53 | 43 | 96 |
| Overhead posts | 20 | 14 | 34 | 19 | 14 | 33 | 39 | 28 | 67 |
| UNHHSF | 9 | 14 | <u>23</u> | - | - | <u>-</u> | 9 | 14 | <u>23</u> |
| Subtotal | | | 142 | | | 44 | | | 186 |
| <u>Project staff</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff to support (now covered technical co- by operation other staff) activities financed by voluntary contributions | | | - | 19 | 43 | 62 | 19 | 43 | 62 |
| Vision Habitat (not yet in Nairobi) | | | - | 11 | 7 | <u>18</u> | 11 | 7 | <u>18</u> |
| Subtotal | | | - | | | 80 | | | 80 |
| TOTAL, UNCHS | | | <u>142</u> | | | <u>124</u> | | | <u>266</u> |
| Other United Nations offices (UNDP, UNICEF, UNIC, UNHCR) | | | 107 <u>c/</u> | | | 12 <u>d/</u> | | | 120 |
| Specialized agencies | | | <u>94</u> <u>c/</u> | | | <u>65</u> <u>d/</u> | | | <u>159</u> |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | <u>800</u> | | | <u>257</u> | | | <u>1 057</u> |

a/ See A/C.5/32/19, paras. 15 and 19; and A/C.5/34/43, paras. 21-25 and 40.

b/ 107 posts less 4 in New York and 18 not in office space.

c/ January 1977.

d/ 1977-1985.

As can be seen from tables 1 and 4 above, the proposed construction of 3,792 square metres of additional net usable space is intended to provide 3,256 square metres of office and special-use space for the current and projected staffing resources of the Centre (including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and Vision Habitat) and 536 square metres of office space by way of an over-all expansion reserve.

8. Table 4 also indicates that the Secretary-General's estimate of 3,256 square metres of net usable space required by the Centre (including United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and Vision Habitat) is based upon the following assumptions:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| (a) <u>102 existing</u> 1979 posts at all levels from all sources of funding (the space requirements of 40 posts belonging to UNHHSF have already been provided for in the basic project and are not included here) at 12 square metres each (see also A/C.5/34/43, paras. 20 and 22); | 1,224 square metres |
| (b) <u>124 projected</u> posts at all levels from all sources of funding during the period 1980 to 1985 at 12 square metres each (see also A/C.5/34/43, para. 23); | 1,488 square metres |
| (c) Special-use areas (see A/C.5/34/43, para. 26) | 544 square metres |
| Total | 3,256 square metres |

9. The Advisory Committee notes that, of the projected increase of 124 posts assumed by the Secretary-General for the Centre during the period 1980-1985, only 11 posts will be provided from the regular budget. The balance of 113 posts are expected to be funded from voluntary sources. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, projections of staffing resources financed from voluntary funds should be treated with caution. In this connexion, the Committee recalls that in chapter I, paragraph 49, of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 it observed that:

"The reliability of the estimates of extrabudgetary posts varies from fairly certain to speculative, depending on the source of funding. Indeed, in its consideration of the material on extrabudgetary resources provided under individual sections of the proposed programme budget, the Advisory Committee on occasion found little or no correlation between estimates of expected resources and the estimated number of posts to be financed therefrom." 2/

10. Bearing in mind that space requirements related to the growth of extrabudgetary staff of the Centre (113 x 12 square metres = 1,356 square metres)

2/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7).

approximately correspond to the net usable space in one of the three buildings proposed for construction (1,264 square metres per building), the Advisory Committee inquired into the financial implications of deferring construction of one building. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the anticipated sequence of construction laid out for the project would allow the deletion of one of the three additional buildings currently proposed without precluding its future reinstatement in the project. Deletion of one building from the project would result in a consequential reduction of the estimated cost of construction by 7,214,000 Kenyan shillings. According to the representatives of the Secretary-General, should construction of the third building subsequently be authorized, the additional cost would depend not only on the intervening rate of inflation, but also on the additional cost of constructing the building as a separate operation. They estimated that, if construction of the third building were authorized for January 1982, the cost would probably be not less than 10,900,000 Kenyan shillings; if construction were to take place in 1984, the cost would be approximately 19 million Kenyan shillings.

11. In the light of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the construction of the three office buildings proposed by the Secretary-General.

12. As regards budgetary requirements for the biennium 1980-1981, the Advisory Committee recalls that, in paragraph 32.6 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, it recommended an amount of \$14,274,000 for the project at Nairobi. ^{2/} In paragraph 48 (c) of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/43), he seeks approval of a net additional appropriation of \$1,916,000 for the biennium 1980-1981, making a total of \$16,190,000. In paragraph 49, the Secretary-General indicates that the balance of the requirements would be sought in the programme budget for 1982-1983.

13. In the light of its recommendations in paragraphs 6 and 11 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve an additional appropriation of \$1,916,000 under section 32 of the programme budget for 1980-1981 for the construction project at Nairobi.

14. The Advisory Committee further recommends that the Secretary-General submit a progress report, including up-to-date cost estimates, to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

Twenty-third report

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I
submitted by the Second Committee in document A/34/676/Add.2

(Agenda item 55)**

[Original: English]

[13 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/73) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.87 which was submitted in the Second Committee.
2. The Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.87 had been superseded by draft resolution I which was submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/34/676/Add.2, para.67). The Advisory Committee was further informed that the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I were identical with those of draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.87.
3. Pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General "to intensify, through, inter alia, the redeployment of existing posts from Headquarters to the regional commissions, the development and application of the decentralization measures" contemplated in his reports on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors 1/ of the United Nations system 1/ and in Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/64.
4. The administrative and financial implications of carrying out the redeployment are grouped in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/34/73), under two headings: (a) decentralization of activities and resources from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to the regional commissions; and (b) decentralization of activities and resources from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development to the regional commissions.

* Incorporating document A/34/7/Add.22/Corr.1 of 15 December 1979.

** Development and international economic co-operation.

1/ A/34/649, E/1979/81 and A/33/410/Rev.1.

5. The Secretary-General describes the administrative and financial implications of the decentralization from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to the regional commissions in paragraph 6 of his statement, in which he proposes to provide one additional P-4 post to each of the regional commissions through redeployment from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. The impact on sections 6 and 10 to 14 of the proposed programme budget is estimated by the Secretary-General as follows:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|--|-------------------|
| Section 6: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs - reduction of five P-4 posts | (472,300) |
| Section 10: Economic Commission for Europe - addition of one P-4 post | 123,300 |
| Section 11: Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific - addition of one P-4 post | 85,900 |
| Section 12: Economic Commission for Latin America - addition of one P-4 post | 104,700 |
| Section 13: Economic Commission for Africa - addition of one P-4 post | 92,400 |
| Section 14: Economic Commission for Western Asia - addition of one P-4 post | <u>86,900</u> |
| Net addition to the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 | 20,900 |

6. The administrative and financial implications of the decentralization from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development to the regional commissions are analysed in paragraphs 7 to 10 of the Secretary-General's statement. In paragraph 7, the Secretary-General proposes to transfer funds within section 24 (Regular programme of technical co-operation) from the Department of Technical co-operation for Development to the regional commissions to finance one regional adviser post at the L-5 level in each commission. As can be seen from paragraphs 8 to 10 of the Secretary-General's statement, the resources to be so transferred within section 24 would amount to \$517,100. As this would involve a transfer of funds within the same section, no action by the General Assembly would be required.

7. As regards paragraph 14 of the statement (A/C.5/34/73) and the annex thereto, the representatives of the Secretary-General have informed the Advisory Committee that the information contained in paragraph 14 and in the annex does not form part of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution and that the Secretary-General is not requesting any of the staff or financial resources mentioned in paragraph 14 and the annex.

8. In this connexion the Advisory Committee notes the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/73, para. 2) that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) will be reviewing the policy and programme issues relating to the distribution of tasks and responsibilities between the regional commissions and

other United Nations units, programmes and organs concerned. The Secretary-General goes on to state that, should any administrative and financial implications result from this review by CPC, they would be reported to the General Assembly, for its approval, at the thirty-fifth session.

9. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that adoption of the draft resolution of the Second Committee would necessitate adjusting the estimates for sections 6 and 10 to 14 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, already approved by the Fifth Committee in first reading, in the manner summarized in paragraph 5 above.

Twenty-fourth report

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II
submitted by the Special Political Committee in document A/34/808

(Agenda item 53)*

[Original: English]

[14 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/81), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/34/808, para. 15) on questions relating to information.
2. The Secretary-General estimates the substantive requirements related to this draft resolution at \$1,347,700, net of staff assessment, under section 27A. He estimates the related conference-servicing costs, on a full-cost basis, at \$661,200 (\$330,600 in 1980 and \$330,600 in 1981). With regard to conference-servicing costs for 1980, the Secretary-General will review actual requirements in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly (see A/C.5/34/98 and Corr.1).
3. In paragraph 2 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the financial implications relate to section I, operative paragraphs 1, 3 and 7, and section II, operative paragraphs 1(a), 2 and 3 of the draft resolution. He also states that the implementation of other operative paragraphs will give rise to an additional workload, but that he intends to absorb this from within the resources to be made available to him under section 27.
4. The Secretary-General relates the estimates to the relevant operative paragraphs of the draft resolution as follows:

* Questions relating to information.

| | Purpose | Estimate |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <u>Section I</u> | | <u>US dollars</u> |
| 1 | Meetings of the Committee on Information,* three session of two weeks each year (see A/C.5/34/81, paras. 3-6) | a/ |
| 3 | Conversion to established posts of two temporary posts, to service the Committee (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 7 and 8) | no additional cost |
| 7 | Participation of the Committee in the work of the Intergovernmental Planning Conference on Communication Development in 1980 (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 9 and 10) | 4,600 |
| <u>Section II</u> | | |
| 1(a) | Adaptation and production of information material in other official languages (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 11-15) | 476,300 |
| 2 | Measures relating to the issue of the <u>United Nations Chronicle</u> (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 16-18) | 466,800 |
| 3 | Contribution from United Nations budget towards the financing of the publication <u>Development Forum</u> (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 19-23) | 400,000 |
| TOTAL | | <u>1,347,700</u> |

* Under operative paragraph 1, the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities would be renamed.

a/ The financial implications relate to the conference-servicing costs, estimated at \$661,200 on a full-cost basis (see para. 2 of the present report).

5. In paragraph 8 of his statement, the Secretary-General requests that the two temporary posts (one P-4 and one General Service) currently providing support for the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities be converted to established posts, at no additional cost. The Advisory Committee recalled that, in paragraph 27.5 of its first report 1/ on the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, it recommended that the decision to convert the two posts in

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7).

question be deferred until after the General Assembly had determined the future mandate and programme of work of the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities. Considering that, pursuant to operative paragraph 1 of section I of the draft resolution, the Assembly would decide to maintain the Committee (to be renamed the Committee on Information), the Advisory Committee recommends that the request be approved.

6. In paragraph 10 of his statement, the Secretary-General estimates at \$4,600 the financial implications of operative paragraph 7 of section I of the draft resolution (see para. 4 above). This estimate relates to travel and subsistence costs for the Chairman, the Rapporteur and the Secretary of the Committee on Information to attend the Intergovernmental Planning Conference on Communication Development at Paris in 1980. The Advisory Committee, noting that the recommendation contained in operative paragraph 7 relates to "the undertaking of the necessary consultations concerning the participation" of the Committee in the work of that Conference, questions the need for three persons to travel to Paris. The Committee recommends that the travel costs in question be absorbed from within the resources to be made available under section 27 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.

7. In operative paragraph 1 (a) of section II of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested to take the necessary measures immediately to ensure a balance in the use of official languages through the establishment of a small adaptation unit. The Secretary-General estimates the financial implications of this request at \$476,300 as follows:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|---|-----------------------|
| Five P-3 and six General Service posts to be established for the production of Arabic, French and Spanish printed information materials <u>a/</u> | 324,400 |
| One P-4 and one General Service post to be established for the preparation, on a weekly basis, of an Arabic television news package and a television news programme for French-speaking African countries | 76,900 |
| Printing and reproduction of the additional material produced in Arabic, French and Spanish (including a provision to meet requests from the information centres) | <u>75,000</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>476,300</u> |

a/ According to the Secretary-General, the task would require three teams of writer-adapters, consisting of two P-3 and two General Service staff each; however, he would be able to redeploy one P-3 post from within the resources to be made available to him for 1980-1981 under section 27.

The Advisory Committee has no objection to this request.

8. In operative paragraph 2 of section II of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested to take the necessary measures to issue the United Nations Chronicle again on a monthly basis, to ensure its simultaneous publication in the English, French and Spanish languages, and also to issue it in Arabic. The Secretary-General estimates that the implementation of this request would entail an additional expenditure of \$466,800. This amount consists of:

(a) \$344,300 for external printing, of which \$250,800 relates to the Arabic edition;

(b) \$91,800 for the restoration of one P-2 and one General Service post ^{2/} which were surrendered in 1979 following the decision by the General Assembly to change the periodicity of the Chronicle from a monthly to a quarterly publication (A/C.5/34/81, para. 17);

(c) \$30,700 for a new P-2 post to be established for a proofreader for the Arabic edition.

9. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's statement that the writer/adapters referred to in paragraph 7 above (five P-3 and six General Service posts) would have as one of their primary responsibilities the adaptation and translation of the Chronicle for the Arabic, French and Spanish editions. In the circumstances, the Committee is not convinced that there is also a need to restore the P-2 post and the General Service post referred to in paragraph 8 (b) above. The Committee recommends that the related estimate of \$91,800 be disallowed. The Committee has no objection to the request for a new P-2 post for an Arabic proofreader.

10. Under the terms of operative paragraph 3 of section II of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would affirm the importance of the role played by the periodical Development Forum in disseminating the objectives of the new international economic order and would decide that the continued publication of Development Forum as an interagency project was essential and that United Nations participation in the production of the publication should be ensured. As indicated in paragraph 4 above, the Secretary-General proposes the allocation of \$400,000 from the regular budget of the Organization for that purpose. In paragraphs 20 to 22 of his statement, he reviews the history of Development Forum since it was launched in 1972 on the basis of voluntary contributions, and refers to the impending financial difficulties that prompted the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) in 1979 to instruct the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) to examine the situation with a view to strengthening the financial and organizational structures of the publication by devising "a system of predictable voluntary contributions based on fixed criteria, to be implemented from 1982 and beyond" (A/C.5/34/81, para. 21). The Secretary-General reports that in the meantime, ACC has urged the organizations of the United Nations system in a position to do so to contribute to the financing of the publication for 1980 and 1981.

^{2/} The Advisory Committee was informed that the estimate for the P-2 post was calculated on the basis of applying the 5 per cent turnover deduction used for continuing posts.

11. In paragraph 23, the Secretary-General states that, in the opinion of ACC, an amount of \$400,000 is a reasonable contribution from the United Nations towards the financing of Development Forum, to be made available for this purpose within the context of a jointly financed activity under the auspices of ACC. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the level of subsidy by the Organization for 1980-1981 was in accordance with a plan devised by JUNIC on the allocation of costs and expected income. The representatives of the Secretary-General have informed the Advisory Committee that the JUNIC plan is as follows:

(In United States dollars)

| <u>Development Forum (general edition) - expected income plan</u> | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>1980-1981 Total</u> | <u>1982</u> |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| United Nations | 200 000 | 200 000 | 400 000 | 220 000 |
| United Nations organizations <u>a/</u> | 250 000 | 267 000 | 517 000 | 285 600 |
| United Nations University | 200 000 | 200 000 | 400 000 | 220 000 |
| | <u>650 000</u> | <u>667 000</u> | <u>1 317 000</u> | <u>725 600</u> |
| Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information <u>b/</u> | 180 000 | 100 000 | 280 000 | - |
| Subscriptions | 40 000 | 90 000 | 130 000 | 100 000 |
| Estimated contribution from business edition | 65 000 | 75 000 | 140 000 | 90 000 |
| Total estimated income | <u>935 000</u> | <u>932 000</u> | <u>1 867 000</u> | <u>915 600</u> |
| Total estimated expenditure | 1 000 000 | 1 100 000 | 2 100 000 | 1 275 000 |
| <u>Deficit</u> | <u>65 000</u> | <u>168 000</u> | <u>233 000</u> | <u>359 400</u> |

a/ Estimated income based on initial indications, including 10 per cent correction for inflation:

| | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>1980-1981</u> | <u>1982</u> |
|--------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| UNDP | 60 000 | 66 000 | 126 000 | 72 600 |
| UNICEF | 25 000 | 27 500 | 52 500 | 30 200 |
| UNFPA | 80 000 | 80 000 | 160 000 | 80 000 |
| UNEP | 20 000 | 22 000 | 42 000 | 24 200 |
| IBRD | 60 000 | 66 000 | 126 000 | 72 600 |
| WHO | 5 000 | 5 500 | 10 500 | 6 000 |
| | <u>250 000</u> | <u>267 000</u> | <u>517 000</u> | <u>285 600</u> |

b/ The Member States, traditionally sponsoring the Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information, have made it clear that they see the publication as a full United Nations system periodical, for which the costs should be covered by the respective budgets of the organizations of the system.

12. The Advisory Committee understands that this plan is based on the assumption that 10 issues of Development Forum will be published each year in three languages (50,000 copies in English, 22,000 in French and 11,000 in Spanish per issue).

13. The representatives of the Secretary-General were unable to provide the Advisory Committee with a detailed budget of Development Forum. The Committee notes that, under the expected income plan as worked out by JUNIC (see para. 11 above), limited support is to be provided by other United Nations agencies in spite of the recommendation contained in operative paragraph 3 of section II of the draft resolution that the publication of Development Forum continue "as an interagency project". In the circumstances, the Committee believes that the Secretary-General should submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, which would contain an analysis of the criteria on which the proposed plan of financing is based, and also full budget details for 1980 and estimates for 1981. Pending consideration of that report by the Assembly at its next session, the Advisory Committee recommends that a lump-sum amount of \$150,000 be appropriated under section 27 of the programme budget for 1980-1981 by way of a subvention to Development Forum in 1980.

14. The Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 6, 9 and 13 above would reduce the Secretary-General's estimates of \$1,347,700 under section 27A by \$346,400, to \$1,001,300. The consequential reduction under section 31 (Staff assessment) and income section 1 would be \$17,600.

15. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution of the Special Political Committee, additional appropriations totalling \$1,001,300 would be required under section 27A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. An additional appropriation of \$94,800 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) and the estimate of income under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) would have to be increased by \$94,800.

16. The related conference-servicing costs would amount to \$661,200 on a full-cost basis (\$330,600 in 1980 and \$330,600 in 1981). The costs in 1980 would be reflected, to the extent necessary, in the Secretary-General's consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its thirty-fourth session.

Twenty-fifth report

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
submitted by the Third Committee in document A/34/830

(Agenda item 75)*

[Original: English]

[15 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/94) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee (A/34/830, para. 18).
2. Pursuant to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would adopt and open for signature, ratification and accession the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the text of which is annexed to the draft resolution.
3. In his statement the Secretary-General identifies three areas of potential financial implications:
 - (a) Conference servicing costs related to the meetings of the States parties to the Convention and of a committee of experts, to be called the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
 - (b) Travel and subsistence of members of the committee of experts;
 - (c) Emoluments for the Chairman and the members of the committee of experts.
4. In paragraph 2 of the statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the Convention will enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession. As it is impossible, at this stage, to foretell when that will take place, the Secretary-General is not seeking any appropriations under the programme budget for 1980-1981 related to the three areas of expenditure listed in paragraph 3 above.
5. As regards the emoluments of the Chairman and the members of the future committee of experts, the Secretary-General, in paragraph 7 of his statement, relates them to the provision in part V (article 17, para. 8) of the Convention which states that:

* Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

"The members of the Committee shall, with the approval of the General Assembly, receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities."

In paragraph 7 the Secretary-General suggests that the Chairman and the members of the Committee receive the same honoraria as are currently paid to the Chairman and the members of the Human Rights Committee.

6. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee notes that the Convention provides that the emoluments would be "on such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may decide". In other words, a separate decision by the Assembly will be required on the terms and conditions of the emoluments. The Committee recalls that the over-all question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations was on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly but that the Fifth Committee, at its 60th meeting, on 27 November 1979, had recommended that its consideration should be deferred until the thirty-fifth session.

7. When the General Assembly considers this question, it will have before it, inter alia, a report which the Advisory Committee submitted at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly. 1/ In paragraph 7 of that report the Advisory Committee referred to the second preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 3536 (XXX) in which the Assembly recalled "the basic principle to the effect that neither a fee nor any other remuneration in addition to subsistence allowances and travel expenses shall normally be paid to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations".

8. In paragraph 8 of its report the Advisory Committee expressed the opinion that, "since it was the Assembly which established the basic principle with regard to the payment of honoraria, and since it was the Assembly which, in each case, decided upon the exceptions, it must be for the Assembly alone to decide whether these exceptions should be maintained, increased or abolished". 1/

9. The above-mentioned considerations apply to the question of the payment of emoluments to the members of the future Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The Advisory Committee recommends that this question be considered in the context of the comprehensive study of the question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, at which time the Secretary-General should submit a proposal related to the future Committee.

10. Subject to the above-indicated observations, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution of the Third Committee, no additional appropriations would be required at this stage under the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.39.

Twenty-sixth report

Revised estimates under section 4 and administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/34/767

(Agenda item 71)*

[Original: English]

[15 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered two reports by the Secretary-General related to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to be held at Nairobi during August 1981. In his report (A/C.5/34/74), the Secretary-General submits revised estimates under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 in the amount of \$4,114,000 for non-conference costs (and \$3,020,760 under sect. 29 for conference costs). In his statement (A/C.5/34/96), the Secretary-General estimates the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee (A/34/767, para. 11) at \$995,600 for non-conference costs under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 and at \$392,000 under section 29 for conference-servicing costs.

A. Revised estimates under section 4

2. The Secretary-General's estimate of \$4,114,000 for additional non-conference costs, net of staff assessment, is summarized in the table below:

* United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy: report of the Secretary-General.

Summary of costs by activity and object of expenditure

| Object of expenditure | Activity | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | Conference secretariat | Technical panels | Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters | Regional preparations | Information activities |
| (in US dollars) | | | | | |
| General temporary assistance | 2 090 500 | - | 37 100 | 318 500 | 209 900 |
| Consultants | 684 600 | - | - | - | - |
| <u>Ad Hoc Expert Groups</u> | 128 800 | - | - | 32 100 | - |
| Travel of staff | 122 700 | - | - | 88 900 | 30 100 |
| Travel of participants | - | 287 700 | - | - | 153 900 |
| Contractual services | - | - | - | - | 475 100 |
| General operating expenses | 20 600 | - | - | - | - |
| Supplies and materials | 27 500 | - | - | - | - |
| Subtotal by activity | 3 074 700 | 287 700 | 37 100 | 439 500 | 869 000 |
| Grand total all activities | | | | | 4 708 000 |
| <u>Less:</u> appropriation for 1980-1981 approved by Fifth Committee in first reading at its 52nd meeting, on 19 November 1979: | | | | | (594 000) |
| Net additional appropriation requested | | | | | <u>4 114 000</u> |

Conference secretariat

3. The Secretary-General requests \$2,090,500 under General temporary assistance for 23 additional temporary posts during 1980-1981 as follows:

Substantive staff

A/C.5/34/74

| | |
|---|---------|
| 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 (technical panel specialists) | para. 7 |
| 1 P-4 (energy economist) | " 8 |
| 3 P-5 (experts for special studies) | " 9 |

Generalist and administrative staff

| | |
|--|------|
| 1 P-4, 1 P-2, 1 G-5, 1 G-3/4 (Administrative Unit) | " 10 |
| 1 P-4 (liaison work) | " 11 |
| 1 P-5, 1 P-3 (special assistants to the Secretary-General of the Conference) | " 11 |
| 1 P-2, 1 G-5 (Documentation Unit) | " 12 |

Secretariat support

| | |
|---------|------|
| 7 G-3/4 | " 13 |
|---------|------|

4. The Advisory Committee inquired into the current deployment of the posts authorized for the Conference secretariat by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session. The Committee was informed that the D-1 post approved for a Senior Technical Adviser who would be responsible for the co-ordination of the work of the substantive panels, including the integration of contributions by individual consultants on those sources of energy not covered by the panels 1/ was being used for an Executive Secretary of the Conference secretariat; that 1 of the 4 posts authorized for P-5 level Technical Officers to service the technical panels 2/ was being used for a liaison officer; and that the P-3 level post approved for a Technical Editor 3/ was being used for an assistant to the Secretary-General of the Conference. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, staffing resources authorized for technical preparations for the Conference should not be used for other purposes.

5. The Advisory Committee recalls also that the Secretary-General had informed the General Assembly at its thirty-third session that "the substantive support for

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.31, para. 10.

2/ Ibid., para. 13.

3/ Ibid., para. 16.

the Conference preparations would be based around the existing capabilities of the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport 4/ at United Nations Headquarters, appropriately strengthened where necessary by a temporary Conference staff and outside expertise" (A/C.5/33/109, para. 5 (f)). The Advisory Committee had been informed in that connexion that fuel wood was the only topic on which in-house expertise was not available. 5/ In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that support from the Division had been confined to the part-time services of two technical advisers and to intermittent assistance by other staff of the Centre. The Advisory Committee urges the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division's input into the preparatory work of the Conference corresponds to the undertaking given to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

6. Bearing in mind the information contained in paragraphs 7 and 9 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/74) and additional information provided orally by his representatives, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the following 6 substantive posts: 1 P-5 for the Technical Panel on oil shale and tar sands, 1 P-4 for wind energy, 1 P-3 for geothermal energy, and 3 P-5s for special studies on the transfer of technology, financing and information flows.

7. The Advisory Committee recommends, however, that the request for 1 P-4 temporary post for an energy economist "to help provide an over-all assessment of the economic viability of the use of new and renewable sources of energy" (*ibid.*, para. 8) not be approved. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee the tasks envisaged for this post should be carried out from within existing resources and utilizing the expertise available in the Centre for Natural Resources and Energy.

8. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General's over-all request for 6 Professional temporary posts for non-technical purposes has not been fully justified. In particular, the Committee believes that the number of posts requested can be reduced by combining functions. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommends that the size of the Administrative Unit should be reduced from 4 (1 P-4, 1 P-2, 1 G-5 and 1 G-3/4) to 3, through the deletion of the proposed P-2 post for an Associate Administrative Officer. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the G-5 post of Documentation Clerk, but not of the P-2 post for a Documents Officer.

9. In the light of the justifications provided by the Secretary-General in paragraph 11 of his report, the Advisory Committee has no objection to his request for 1 P-4 temporary post for liaison work with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Advisory Committee recalls that at its thirty-third session the General Assembly approved a G-5 post for a personal assistant to the Secretary-General of the Conference. In the circumstances the Advisory Committee is not convinced that there is also a need for 2 special assistants to the Secretary-General of the Conference (1 P-5 and 1 P-3), and recommends that only the request for the P-5 post be approved.

4/ This organizational unit is now known as the Division of Natural Resources and Energy (see A/C.5/34/72 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 3).

5/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.31, para. 12.

10. In paragraphs 7 to 9 above the Advisory Committee has recommended that the number of Professional temporary posts be reduced by 4. Consequently, the Committee recommends approval of 5 General Service posts as against 7 requested by the Secretary-General in paragraph 13 of his report.

11. The Advisory Committee notes from foot-note 3 in document A/C.5/34/74 that the Secretary-General has calculated salaries and common staff costs for the new posts on the basis of nine months in 1980. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that difficulties were experienced in the recruitment of staff with the requisite technical expertise. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the posts should be costed on the basis of six months in 1980, on the understanding that, should recruitment be effected more expeditiously, the resulting over-expenditure would be reflected by the Secretary-General in his budget performance report for the biennium 1980-1981.

12. The consequential budgetary reductions of the Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 7 to 11 above are as follows:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| Reduction in the number of posts requested (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 P-2, 2 G-3/4) | 308,300 |
| Increased delayed-recruitment deduction for the 17 posts recommended for approval (5 P-5, 3 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 G-5, 6 G-3/4) | 146,300 |
| Common services costs related to the proposed reduction of posts | 48,400 |
| Total | <u>503,000</u> |

13. In paragraphs 15 to 20 of his report (A/C.5/34/74), the Secretary-General requests \$684,600 for consultant services at \$4,800 per work-month as follows:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| 64 work-months for the 8 Technical Panels (para. 15) | 268,800 |
| 12 additional work-months for 4 of these Technical Panels (para. 16) | 50,400 |
| 4 work-months for a study on energy storage (para. 16) | 16,800 |
| 18 work-months for special studies (para. 17) | 75,600 |
| 40 work-months for regional commissions (para. 18) | 168,000 |
| Subtotal (138 work-months) | <u>579,600</u> |
| FAO subcontract in connexion with comprehensive study on draught animal power (para. 20) | 105,000 |
| Total | <u>684,600</u> |

14. Bearing in mind the Secretary-General's statement that "it is difficult at this stage to identify specifically each assignment to be given to specialized consultants in the service of the respective panels" (ibid., para. 15) the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the Secretary-General's estimate of 76 work-months of consultant services for the panels represents an order of magnitude. Furthermore, in the light of the recommendation in paragraph 6 above that the General Assembly approve the three P-5 posts for the special studies, the Committee is of the opinion that the Secretary-General's projected requirements of 18 work-months of consultants' services for similar studies (ibid., para. 17) can be reduced. The Committee has no objection to the proposed provision of 40 work-months of consultants' services for specific use of the regional commissions. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly should approve a total of 113 work-months of consultants' services (instead of 138 work-months as proposed) at a cost of \$474,600. The Committee further recommends that the request for \$105,000 for a subcontract to FAO for the conduct of a comprehensive study on draught animal power be reduced by \$30,000 to \$75,000. The Advisory Committee recommends therefore, that the request for consultant services should be reduced from \$684,600 to \$549,600, i.e., by \$135,000.

15. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the requests for \$128,800 for ad hoc expert groups and \$122,700 for travel of staff of the Conference secretariat, for the reasons stated by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 21 and 22 of his report.

16. The Secretary-General's request for \$20,600 under General operating expenses for the Conference secretariat is intended to provide \$10,000 for hospitality 6/ and \$10,600 for the rental of a word processor and the purchase of related supplies (ibid., para. 26). The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the request for \$10,000 for hospitality for the Conference. With regard to the rental of a word processor, the Advisory Committee recommends that the cost of \$10,600 should be absorbed.

17. The request for \$27,500 for supplies and materials comprises \$5,000 for books and subscriptions 7/ and \$22,500 for public information supplies, mainly recording tapes for radio programmes (ibid., para. 41). The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this request.

Technical Panels

18. The Secretary-General's request for \$287,700 for this activity covers \$69,100 for travel and subsistence for the Working Group of Panel Chairmen 8/ and \$218,600 for travel and subsistence of members of the eight Technical Panels (ibid., paras. 24-25). The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General has

6/ An estimate of \$10,000 for hospitality is included in the summary table in A/C.5/34/74 but is not mentioned in the text of the document.

7/ An estimate for books and subscriptions is included in the summary table in A/C.5/34/74 but is not mentioned in the text of the document.

8/ An estimate of \$69,100 for the Working Group of Panel Chairmen is included in the summary table in A/C.5/34/74 but is not mentioned in the text of the document.

enlarged by 19 the total membership of the Panels, i.e. from 68 as originally envisaged to 87. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the request for \$287,700.

Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters (OSSECS)

19. The Secretary-General refers to the proposed role of OSSECS in the servicing of the Conference in paragraph 30 of his report (A/C.5/34/74). He states that "in addition to its regular staff members who would be assigned to service the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself", the following additional resources will be required: 1 D-1 Co-ordinator for three months, 1 P-5 Editor for three months and 1 G-4 staff member for four months at an estimated total cost of \$37,100. The Advisory Committee has no objection to this request.

Regional commissions (ESCAP, ECLA, ECA, ECWA)

20. The Secretary-General submits revised estimates in the amount of \$439,500 to provide for (a) general temporary assistance comprising 20 work-months at the P-4 and local levels for each of the regional commissions (\$318,500); (b) expert group meetings at the regional level (\$32,100); and (c) travel of staff to attend regional meetings, meetings of the Technical Panels and the Conference (\$88,900). In the light of the information provided by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 27 to 29 of his report (A/C.5/34/74), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of his request.

Information activities

21. The request for \$869,000 (see A/C.5/34/74) for information activities is intended to provide:

(i) General temporary assistance (\$209,900)

| | |
|--|------------|
| 1 P-4 Information Officer for 24 months | (para. 32) |
| 1 P-2 Information Officer for 9 months | (para. 32) |
| 1 G-4 support staff for 24 months | (para. 32) |
| 1 G-5 Mailing List Clerk for 3 months | (para. 33) |
| 1 P-3 full-time radio programme Writer/Producer | (para. 34) |
| 1 G-5 full-time radio programme Production Assistant | (para. 34) |

(ii) Travel of staff (\$30,100)

| | |
|--|------------|
| Travel and subsistence costs of Information Officers and the radio programme's Writer/Producer | (para. 35) |
|--|------------|

(iii) Contractual services (\$475,100)

(paras. 36-39)

(iv) Travel of participants (\$153,900)

| | |
|---|------------|
| Study tours and pre-conference encounter for selected journalists | (para. 40) |
|---|------------|

22. While the Advisory Committee does not object to the request for general temporary assistance, travel of staff and meeting participants in the amounts indicated in the preceding paragraph, it is not convinced that the request for \$475,100 for contractual services is fully justified. In the Committee's opinion economies can be achieved, for example, in the production of publications and other printed promotional material for the Conference, in the design and printing of the poster and in the proposed conduct of exhibitions. The Committee further questions the request for funds for documentation for non-governmental organizations. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommends that the request for \$869,000 for information activities be reduced at this stage by \$169,000 to \$700,000.

Conference-servicing costs

23. The Secretary-General estimates conference-servicing costs in 1980-1981 related to the Technical Panels, the Panel of Chairmen and the Conference itself at \$3,020,760 on a full-cost basis. Requirements for 1980 will be reflected in the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly at its current session (see A/C.5/34/98 and Corr.1).

Recapitulation

24. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 12, 14, 16 and 22 above, if approved by the General Assembly, would entail an over-all reduction of \$817,600 in the Secretary-General's revised estimates in document A/C.5/34/74 for non-conference costs under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, i.e., from \$4,114,000 to \$3,296,400. There would also be a need for an appropriation of \$477,000 (instead of \$577,600 as requested by the Secretary-General) under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount in the estimates of income under income section 1.

B. Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/34/767

25. Pursuant to operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/34/767, para. 11), the General Assembly would request

"the Secretary-General and the organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system to provide appropriate assistance, including technical assistance, to developing countries at their request and in accordance with established procedures, in their preparations for the Conference at the national level through their national focal points and at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels, using, inter alia, to the greatest extent possible, existing resources".

26. In paragraph 8 of his statement (A/C.5/34/96), the Secretary-General estimates the related requirements, exclusive of conference-servicing costs, at \$995,600 comprising \$20,600 for the travel of regional commission staff and \$975,000 for technical advisory services. Conference-servicing costs are estimated at \$392,000 in 1980 on a full-cost basis.

27. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the request for \$20,600 for travel of regional commission staff. As regards the request for \$975,000 for technical advisory services, the Committee notes that it is intended to provide some 150 work-months of such services. The Secretary-General states that the estimate is based "on experience in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development which had a similar requirement for assistance at the national level" (*ibid.*, para. 6). The Advisory Committee is not convinced that experience at one conference will necessarily be fully repeated at other conferences. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the Secretary-General has not exhausted all possibilities for further redeployment of existing resources to meet these additional tasks, as he is required to do pursuant to operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution. Considering that it takes time for Member States to identify areas of assistance and that delays frequently occur in the recruitment of experts, the Advisory Committee recommends an over-all reduction of \$275,000 under technical advisory services from \$975,000 to \$700,000, on the understanding that, should developments in 1980 warrant it, the Secretary-General may submit revised estimates to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

28. As regards the conference-servicing requirements in 1980 which the Secretary-General estimates at \$392,000 on a full-cost basis, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 4 of his statement that these estimates "will be reviewed in the context of a consolidated statement on total conference-servicing requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session".

29. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution of the Second Committee, an additional appropriation of \$720,600 under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 would be required. Furthermore, conference-servicing costs not exceeding \$392,000 would be reflected in the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly at its current session.

30. Should the General Assembly approve the Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 24 and 29 above, the resources which would be made available in 1980-1981 for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, including the amount of \$594,000 already approved by the Fifth Committee in first reading, would be \$4,611,000, exclusive of conference-servicing costs.

Twenty-seventh report

Accommodation at the Vienna International Centre

[Original: English]

[17 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on accommodation at the Vienna International Centre (A/C.5/34/48 (Part I) and (Part II), and (Part II/Corr.1)), which is in two parts. Part I covers developments since 1978 and administrative matters; part II deals with budgetary matters.

2. In paragraph 1 of document A/C.5/34/48 (Part II), the Secretary-General states that the revised estimates presented by him reflect the budgetary implications of the developments described in paragraphs 29 to 45 of part I of his report. A summary of the Secretary-General's proposals for additional requirements in 1980-1981 in the net amount of \$14,168,700 is provided in paragraph 61 of part II of the Secretary-General's report as follows:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|--|-------------------|
| Section 17 - UNIDO | 128,200 |
| Section 28M - Administrative services, Vienna | 22,341,300 |
| Section 29F - Library services, Vienna | 423,900 |
| Section 31 - Staff assessment | 337,400 |
| Section 32 - Construction, alterations, improvement and major maintenance of premises | 33,400 |
| | <u>23,264,200</u> |

Less:

| | | |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| Income section 1 - Income from staff assessment | 390,800 | |
| Income section 2 - General income | 8,540,100 | |
| Income section 3 - Revenue-producing activities | <u>164,600</u> | |
| | | <u>9,095,500</u> |
| | | 14,168,700 |

3. Since the estimates listed above have been prepared on the basis of only a few months of experience in operating the Centre, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that a thorough review and analysis of actual requirements for the Vienna Centre should take place at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. By that time more than a year of experience will have been gained. Pending such a review, a provisional amount should be provided to meet requirements in 1980.
4. In the paragraphs below the Advisory Committee outlines the proposals of the Secretary-General with an indication of what it believes should now be provided pending the review to be undertaken at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.
5. The additional amount of \$128,200 requested under section 17 for 1980-1981 is to provide for the establishment of one P-5 post and two General Service posts to strengthen the UNIDO Information Service. Pending the review it has recommended in paragraph 3 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that these posts should be approved for 1980 only, and on a temporary assistance basis. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that an additional amount of \$80,000 be appropriated at this time under section 17 to provide temporary assistance to the UNIDO Information Service in 1980.
6. As can be seen from the table in paragraph 2 above, the Secretary-General is requesting an additional amount of \$22,341,300 under section 28M for a total of \$33,515,700 for 1980-1981. The Advisory Committee has been informed that \$17,351,500 of this total amount relates to requirements for 1981. In view of its recommendation in paragraph 3 above, the Committee recommends that consideration of requirements for 1981 should be deferred until the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.
7. The estimate of requirements under section 28M for 1980 is therefore \$16,164,200. Assuming that the entire amount of \$11,174,400 which has been recommended by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 ^{1/} will be available to meet expenses in 1980, a further amount of \$4,989,800 remains to be considered.
8. Under the circumstances, the Committee is of the opinion that an additional amount of \$4.9 million should be provisionally approved and, together with the \$11,174,400 already recommended, be provided as a lump sum in the amount of \$16,074,400 under section 28M for 1980. This lump sum would be available with the understanding that no new temporary or established posts would be created at the current session and that such additional staff resources as may be necessary in 1980 would be provided on a temporary assistance basis. The Committee further recommends that a United Nations Administrative Office at Vienna (see paras. 13 and 14 of document A/C.5/34/48 (Part II)) should be established, but that it should be staffed on a temporary assistance basis until the review at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Moreover, pending such review the level of the post of Director of the Administrative Office should be at D-1.
9. As can be seen from the table in paragraph 2 above, an additional amount of \$423,900 is being requested by the Secretary-General for 1980-1981 under

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), para. 28.137.

section 29F (Library services, Vienna). Pending further consideration of this matter at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee recommends that an additional amount of \$212,000 should be appropriated under section 29F at this time.

10. The Secretary-General is requesting an additional amount of \$33,400 under section 32 to be paid into a common fund to meet the costs of major repairs and replacements at the Vienna Centre. For the reasons given in paragraph 52 of part II of the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the entire amount requested by the Secretary-General.

Recapitulation

11. For the reasons given in this report, the Advisory Committee recommends the following additional appropriations for the programme budget for 1980-1981:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| Section 17 - UNIDO | 80,000 |
| Section 28M - Administrative services, Vienna | 4,900,000 |
| Section 29F - Library services, Vienna | 212,000 |
| Section 31 - Staff assessment | 200,000 |
| Section 32 - Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises | 33,400 |

12. Furthermore, the estimates of income recommended by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 1/ would need to be increased as follows:

| | <u>US dollars</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| Income section 1 - Income from staff assessment | 200,000 |
| Income section 2 - General income | 3,500,000 |
| Income section 3 - Revenue-producing activities | 80,000 |

Twenty-eighth report

Proposals of the Secretary-General for the proposed programme budget of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for 1980-1981 in response to the request in draft resolution IV submitted by the Fifth Committee in document A/34/848

[Original: English]

[17 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the proposals of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/88) for the proposed programme budget of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for 1980-1981 in response to the request in operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution IV submitted by the Fifth Committee in its report (A/34/848). In that paragraph the Secretary-General is requested to submit, during the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, proposals for the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 that would enable UNIDO to execute the programmes in respect of the consultation system, the Industrial and Technological Information Bank and technical assistance, approved by the Industrial Development Board and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council.
2. The additional resources requested by the Secretary-General amount to \$803,500 net of staff assessment, under section 17. They consist of \$476,800 for the system of consultations (paras. 3-15) and \$326,700 for the Industrial and Technological Information Bank (INTIB) (paras. 16-21). The Secretary-General requests no additional appropriations for the technical assistance programme (paras. 22-24).

System of consultations

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Secretary-General, in his proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, did not request additional resources for the system of consultations pending completion of the review of the recommendations of the Industrial Development Board by the Economic and Social Council. 1/ The Council, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 1979/54, endorsed the decision taken by the Industrial Development Board at its thirteenth session on the system of consultations and its programme for the biennium 1980-1981 as contained in paragraph 84 of the report of the Board. 2/ Details of that decision are given in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/34/88.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6, vol. II, para. 17.6, and *ibid.*, Supplement No. 7, para. 17.4.

2/ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 16.

4. The estimate of \$476,800 would cover:

US dollars

| | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| (a) | Establishment of 5 additional posts (2 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 General Service) immediately, and 1 P-4 post for 1981 <u>3/</u> (para. 10) | 296,800 |
| (b) | 10 additional work-months of consultants' services (para. 11) | 50,000 |
| (c) | 2 <u>ad hoc</u> expert group meetings (para. 12) | 30,000 |
| (d) | Travel and subsistence of 50 representatives from least developed countries to participate in the consultation meetings (subject to the decision by the General Assembly to have such expenses charged against the regular budget) (para. 13) | 100,000 |
| | TOTAL | <u>476,800</u> <u>4/</u> |

5. Upon inquiry the Advisory Committee was informed that the estimate of \$296,800 for staffing proposals referred to in paragraph 4 (a) above was calculated on the basis of applying the turnover deduction factor used for new posts. The representatives of the Secretary-General also indicated that common staff costs had been calculated using the percentage recommended by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. 5/ The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's staffing proposals and the related estimate.

6. The Secretary-General requests a total of \$80,000 for consultants (\$50,000, para. 11) and ad hoc expert group meetings (\$30,000, para. 12). In this connexion the Committee notes that four of the eight consultation meetings proposed for 1980-1981 would deal with topics which have been discussed before (para. 3 (i)). Moreover, the Committee believes that it is within the reach of the Secretary-General to maximize the contribution by UNIDO's staff with respect to the industrial sectors and common topics to be covered by the system of consultations referred to in paragraph 10 of his report. Bearing this in mind, and considering that the provisions already made for the system of consultations in the initial proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 total \$3,422,100, the Advisory Committee

3/ The staffing table for this activity in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 consists of 19 posts (1 D-1, 2 P-5, 4 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2 and 7 General Service) (para. 5).

4/ The total provision made for the system of consultations in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 is \$3,422,100 (para. 5).

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7), chap. I, para. 20, and chap. II, para. 17.17.

is not convinced that the request for an additional amount of \$80,000 has been fully justified and accordingly the Committee does not recommend approval of the Secretary-General's request.

7. The Secretary-General's estimate also includes \$100,000 for travel and subsistence of 50 representatives of the least developed countries. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee notes that the relevant decision taken by the Industrial Development Board, 6/ as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1979/54, reads as follows:

"In order to ensure a larger participation of least developed countries in future consultation meetings, the participation of 50 representatives from least developed countries in the consultations to be held in 1980-1981 should be financed from sources to be determined by the General Assembly."

In paragraph 13 of document A/C.5/34/88, the Secretary-General recalls that under relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962, neither travel nor subsistence expenses may be paid in respect of members of organs or subsidiary organs who serve as representatives of Governments, unless the resolution establishing the organ or subsidiary organ provides otherwise. He goes on to say that "Should the General Assembly decide, however, that the travel expenses of 50 representatives of the least developed countries could be charged against the regular budget, it is estimated that an additional sum of \$100,000 will be required for the biennium 1980-1981."

8. The Advisory Committee questioned the interpretation given by the Secretary-General to the Board's decision quoted in the preceding paragraph, namely that funds would necessarily be required for that purpose under the regular budget. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General agreed with the Advisory Committee that the General Assembly would have first to determine whether the source of financing should be the regular budget or other sources. In the circumstances, the Committee is unable to recommend that such expenses be financed from the regular budget of the Organization.

Industrial and Technological Information Bank

9. The Committee recalls that no resources for the Industrial and Technological Information Bank (INTIB) were included by the Secretary-General in his proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, 7/ pending the review by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the related recommendation of the Industrial Development Board at its thirteenth session. In paragraph 5 of resolution 1979/54, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendation in question, including, inter alia, the establishment of INTIB as an ongoing activity of UNIDO. For that purpose the Secretary-General requests a total of \$326,700. In this connexion, the Committee notes the Secretary-General's assumption that INTIB would develop on the basis of a phased growth, bearing in mind the policy of over-all financial prudence (para. 17).

6/ Ibid., Supplement No. 16 (A/34/16), para. 84 (f).

7/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. II, para. 17.7, and ibid., Supplement No. 7, para. 17.4.

10. The Secretary-General's estimate of \$326,700 for INTIB would provide for:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| (a) The establishment of 5 posts (2 P-4 and 3 General Service including 1 at the Principal level) (para. 18) | 226,700 <u>8/</u> |
| (b) Consultants (para. 19) | 100,000 |
| TOTAL | <u>326,700</u> |

The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the General Assembly's staffing proposals for INTIB and the related estimate. As for the request for consultants' services, the Committee is of the view that, given the expertise already available in the United Nations Secretariat, it should be possible to undertake some of the work outlined in paragraph 19 of document A/C.5/34/88 using existing staff resources. Therefore the Committee recommends that the estimate for consultants be reduced from \$100,000 to \$75,000, i.e. by \$25,000.

Recapitulation

11. In paragraphs 6, 8 and 10 above, the Advisory Committee has recommended reductions totalling \$205,000. In paragraphs 7 and 8 the Committee has drawn attention to the need for a policy decision by the General Assembly as regards the question of financing the participation of representatives from least developed countries in the consultation meetings.

12. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution of the Fifth Committee, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$598,500 would be required under section 17. An appropriation of \$114,100 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an increase in the same amount under Income section 1.

^{8/} The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the estimate was calculated on the basis referred to in para. 5 above.

Twenty-ninth report

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
submitted by the Second Committee in document A/34/779

(Agenda item 70)*

[Original: English]

[18 December 1979]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has given preliminary consideration to the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/101) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/34/779, para. 13), concerning the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.
2. In document A/C.5/34/101 the Secretary-General makes two proposals. First, he requests an appropriation of \$1,714,600 gross, exclusive of conference costs, under the expenditure sections of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, and submits increased estimates of income in a total amount of \$1,061,800. On a net basis, therefore, the Secretary-General requests \$652,800 exclusive of conference-servicing costs. Secondly, he seeks authority to commit a further amount of up to \$300,000, over and above the amounts requested by way of appropriations.
3. The request for appropriations is made up as follows:

* United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

Section 5B: Centre for Science and Technology for Development

US dollars

| | | |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| Established posts and related common staff costs | 128,600 | |
| Travel of staff | 38,000 | |
| Consultants | 144,000 | |
| Travel of representatives | 275,200 | |
| Advance to UNDP for the initial administrative and programme support costs of the Interim Fund | <u>1,041,400</u> | 1,627,200 |

Section 28D: Administration, management and general services:
Office of General Services, Headquarters

| | |
|--|--------|
| Common services costs related to the proposed new established posts | 67,000 |
|--|--------|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Section 31: Staff assessment</u> | 20,400 |
| | <u>1,714,600</u> |

Less:

| | |
|---|----------|
| <u>Income section 1: Income from staff assessment</u> | (20,400) |
|---|----------|

Income section 2: General income

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Refund of advance to UNDP | <u>(1,041,400)</u> |
| | 652,800 |

4. In its consideration of the request by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee noted that the estimates in document A/C.5/34/101 were submitted too late to make it possible for the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee to consider them in detail. Furthermore, the extent of the additional requirements in 1980-1981 is still uncertain. In particular, the Secretary-General is not in a position at this stage to indicate exactly which resources of the existing Office for Science and Technology will be transferred to the new Centre. As the Fifth Committee is aware, the question of resources for the new Centre is dealt with in operative paragraph 5 of section III of the draft resolution, pursuant to which the General Assembly would decide:

"... to allocate all the necessary resources from the United Nations regular budget to the Centre, drawing to the fullest extent possible on resources already existing within the United Nations, as well as to abolish the Office for Science and Technology, redeploying immediately most of its posts and budgetary resources to the Centre ..."

Pursuant to the same paragraph, the General Assembly would decide further that the proposed Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development "should determine at the earliest possible time whether such resources should be strengthened".

5. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that, except for the request for established posts, consideration of the financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee be confined at this stage to requirements in 1980. Requirements for 1981 would be considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.
6. In considering the request for established posts, the Advisory Committee noted that pursuant to operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of section III of the draft resolution of the Second Committee, the new Centre for Science and Technology for Development would be an organizationally distinct entity, which would be headed by an Assistant Secretary-General who would be responsible to and report directly to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.
7. In paragraph 15 of document A/C.5/34/101, the Secretary-General estimates requirements for the new post of Assistant Secretary-General and two supporting staff (1 G-5 personal assistant and 1 G-4 secretary) at \$128,600 in 1980-1981 for salaries and common staff costs. In paragraph 16 and 27 he estimates the related requirements for common services costs at \$67,000 for the biennium. The Advisory Committee recommends that these two requests be approved.
8. As is stated in paragraph 17 of document A/C.5/34/101, the request for \$38,000 for the travel of the Assistant Secretary-General and supporting staff relates to 1980 only. The Advisory Committee has no objection to this request.
9. The request for \$144,000 for consultants covers the entire biennium. In paragraph 21 of document A/C.5/34/101 the Secretary-General indicates that the estimate assumes the need for approximately 18 work-months of consultants' services a year for substantive support to the intergovernmental group of experts to be established pursuant to operative paragraph 8 (b) of section VI of the draft resolution of the Second Committee. Given the tentative nature of the assumptions on which the estimate is based, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate \$70,000 for consultants' services in 1980, and that requirements for 1981 be reviewed at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.
10. The estimate of \$275,200 for travel of representatives relates to the intergovernmental group of experts to which reference is made in the preceding paragraph. As can be seen from operative paragraphs 8 (b) and (c) of section VI of the draft resolution, the group is to consist of 27 experts and it is to submit its final report in 1981. In paragraph 19 of document A/C.5/34/101 the Secretary-General estimates that the group will hold two sessions in 1980 of a total duration of three weeks and two sessions in 1981 of a total duration of four weeks. These assumptions are necessarily tentative. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve \$135,000 for travel of representatives in 1980, and that requirements for 1981 be considered at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

11. The request for \$1,041,400 by way of an advance to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) relates to the initial administrative and programme support costs of the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development to be created pursuant to the provisions of operative paragraphs 8 (d) and (e) of section VI of the draft resolution. In paragraph 8 (e) the Secretary-General is requested to call a pledging conference for the Interim Fund not later than March 1980. Paragraph 8 (e) then goes on to state that "the General Assembly should provide the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme with the necessary resources for these initial preparatory responsibilities until the Interim Fund is in operation".

12. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee notes that the initial prospectus for the Interim Fund, which is annexed to the draft resolution of the Second Committee contains the following provisions:

"23. The General Assembly shall provide the Administrator with the necessary resources for the initial preparatory responsibility until the Interim Fund is in operation.

"24. The administrative expenses of the Interim Fund, once it becomes operational, will be met from its own resources.

"25. The Interim Fund will operate with the minimum staff required to perform the functions assigned to it by the General Assembly. Its staff shall be assembled as expeditiously as possible and commensurate with its resources and volume of operations for the interim period."

13. In paragraph 23 of document A/C.5/34/101, the Secretary-General states that the additional appropriation of \$1,041,400 that would be required for the initial administrative and programme support cost of the Interim Fund "would be fully offset by an increase under the income section of the budget reflecting the reimbursement due to the United Nations from the Interim Fund once it is declared operational". The procedure outlined by the Secretary-General is consistent with past practice in the case of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and with the decision taken by the Fifth Committee at its 84th meeting on 17 December 1979 as regards the advance of up to \$1.8 million from the regular budget to enable the financing of the preparatory work required for bringing the Common Fund of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) into operation (A/C.5/34/87).

14. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the estimate of \$1,041,400 in paragraph 23 of document A/C.5/34/101 was incorrect. As can be seen from annex I to document A/34/587/Add.2 the preliminary budget estimates for the core staff for the preparatory period to 31 March 1980 (i.e., until the proposed Pledging Conference) amount to \$247,030. For the whole of the year 1980 they amount to \$794,320. As the Secretary-General states in paragraph 10 of document A/34/587/Add.2, "in view of the uncertainty as to the exact date the Fund will be declared operational, the Secretary-General would propose to remit funds to the Administrator on an 'as required' basis. Accordingly, funds not remitted by the time the Interim Fund is declared operational would be surrendered in the context of one of the performance reports due for the biennium 1980-1981".

15. In the light of these considerations, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's proposal regarding a reimbursable advance to UNDP for the initial administrative and programme support costs of the Interim Fund. For the reasons indicated in the preceding paragraph, the advance would be of up to \$800,000. The Committee recommends further that the Secretary-General apprise the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session of developments in 1980 as regards the advance in question.

16. As was stated in paragraph 2 above, the Secretary-General is seeking commitment authority of up to \$300,000 in 1980 over and above his request for appropriations under the programme budget for 1980-1981. As can be seen from paragraph 29 of document A/C.5/34/101, the request for commitment authority reflects a "potential utilization" of those funds for temporary posts and related common staff costs and common services costs. In document A/C.5/34/101 the Secretary-General gives no indication as to the number or grades of the potential temporary posts. However, the Advisory Committee notes that the amount of \$247,300 for salaries and common staff costs in paragraph 29 of that document also appears in paragraph 10 of document A/C.2/34/L.105 - the statement of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution which was before the Second Committee - where it is related to a total of 13 temporary posts.

17. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee draws attention to two provisions of operative paragraph 5 of section III of the draft resolution. The first of them requires the immediate redeployment of "most" of the posts and budgetary resources of the existing Office for Science and Technology to the new Centre. The second stipulates that the proposed Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development should determine at the earliest possible time whether such resources should be strengthened.

18. Consequently, the redeployment of the existing resources of the Office for Science and Technology to the Centre and the determination by the Intergovernmental Committee of the need for strengthening those resources must precede any commitment of funds by the Secretary-General. In the circumstances, the Committee believes that the commitment authority sought by the Secretary-General should be subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, as in the case of commitments entered into under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. Subject to these observations the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's proposal in paragraph 29 of document A/C.5/34/101 that he be authorized to enter into commitments not exceeding \$300,000.

19. The proposals by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/34/101 involve the creation of a new section, section 5B, in the programme budget for 1980-1981. In paragraph 13 he seeks the authority of the General Assembly to make the necessary transfers in 1980 from section 6 (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) of the programme budget to section 5B in connexion with the redeployment of resources from the Office for Science and Technology to the new Centre. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee recalls that, pursuant to the provisions of the biennial appropriation resolutions, transfers of credits between sections of the approved budget require the concurrence of the Advisory Committee (see, for example, para. 2 of General Assembly resolution 31/213 A on the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979).

Recapitulation:

20. For the reasons stated above the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution of the Second Committee, additional appropriations in a total amount of \$1,259,000 would be required under sections 5B, 28D and 31 of the programme budget for 1980-1981 as follows:

Section 5B: Centre for Science and Technology for Development

US dollars

| | | |
|--|----------------|-----------|
| Established posts and related common staff costs | 128,600 | |
| Travel of staff | 38,000 | |
| Consultants | 70,000 | |
| Travel of representatives | 135,000 | |
| Advance to UNDP | <u>800,000</u> | 1,171,600 |

Section 28D: Administration, management and general services:

Office of General Services, Headquarters 67,000

Section 31: Staff assessment

20,400

1,259,000

The estimates of income would also need to be increased by \$820,400 as follows:

Income section 1: Income from staff assessment 20,400

Income section 2: General income 800,000

820,400

21. Furthermore, the General Assembly would need to authorize the Secretary-General, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, to enter into commitments under sections 5B and 28D in a total amount not exceeding \$300,000.

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