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FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda items 91 and 96

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIIUM 1980-1981

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Administrative and financial implications of the draft amendments  
contained in documents A/C.5/35/L.11/Rev.2 and A/C.5/35/L.12

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

1. Under the terms of the draft proposal contained in document  
A/C.5/35/L.11/Rev.2, the General Assembly would:

(a) Confirm the continued applicability of resolution 34/50 in respect of  
summary records for all those subsidiary organs of the Assembly for which the  
provision of summary records was discontinued, for those organs which did not  
receive summary records prior to adoption of resolution 34/50, and for those  
organs which may be established in the future, unless explicit exceptions are  
approved by the General Assembly:

(b) Decide to grant the following exceptions:

- (i) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian  
People;
- (ii) United Nations Council for Namibia;
- (iii) United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and Legal  
Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for  
meetings devoted to the preparation of draft conventions and other  
legal instruments
- (iv) Special Committee against Apartheid
- (v) Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the  
Strengthening of the Role of the Organization:

and request these bodies to keep their requirements for summary records whenever possible to a reasonable minimum and to dispense, whenever possible, with meeting records.

2. Under the terms of A/C.5/35/L.12, the first paragraph would be the same as in A/C.5/35/L.11/Rev.2, but the second paragraph would request the Committee on Conferences to consider, on a priority basis early in 1981, any requests by subsidiary organs of the General Assembly for reinstatement of summary records which were submitted to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session and would authorize the Committee to grant those exceptions it finds warranted.

3. As a measure of magnitude, on the basis of the standard methods of costing currently applied to estimating meeting requirements in New York, which use short-term rates exclusively, total costs involved in providing summary records for a total of 10 meetings are estimated at approximately \$70,000 if summary records are issued in four languages, \$85,000 in five languages, and \$100,000 in six languages. On the same basis, the current arrangement whereby summary records were discontinued during 1980 would, if continued in 1981, result in a reduction in requirements for 1981 of approximately \$1,250,000 on a full cost basis.

A/C.5/35/L.11/Rev.2

4. The provision of summary records to five of the six bodies which would be granted exceptions under the terms of draft amendment contained in document A/C.5/35/L.11/Rev.2 would result in entitlements for approximately 90 meetings for 1981, on the basis of actual experience during the biennium 1978-1979, and in the light of the planned schedule of meetings in 1981. The sixth body, Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, operates on an annual mandate, renewal of which is yet to be considered by the General Assembly. The following provides the breakdown of the projected 90 meetings among the five bodies.

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	10 (four languages)
United Nations Council for Namibia	20 (five languages)
*United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	10 (five languages)
*Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	20 (five languages)
Special Committee against <u>Apartheid</u>	30 (four languages)
Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	(See above)
	<u>90</u>

\* For meetings devoted to the preparation of draft conventions and other legal instruments.

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5. On the basis of paragraphs 3 and 4 above, provision of summary records for these meetings would cost approximately \$700,000, and therefore the reduction in requirements for 1981 would amount to approximately \$550,000 on a full cost basis.

A/C.5/35/L.12

6. As indicated in paragraph 3 above, reductions in requirements under paragraph 1 of the draft amendment contained in document A/C.5/35/L.12 would amount to \$1,250,000 on a full cost basis. However, should the Committee on Conferences grant exceptions early in 1981 under the conditions envisaged in paragraph 2 of the draft amendment, the amount to be saved would be reduced correspondingly. The amounts of such reductions would be communicated to the Committee on Conferences at the time that such requests were being considered.

Conclusion

7. Should the General Assembly adopt either of the draft proposals, their impact would be taken into account in the consolidated statement on total conference servicing requirements to be submitted towards the end of the current session, together with other decisions the General Assembly may take during the thirty-fifth session having administrative and financial implications on conference servicing.