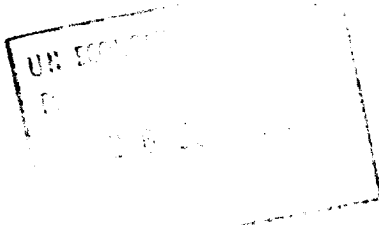




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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Sixth session

28 April - 5 May 1979

Baghdad, Iraq

Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda

REPORT ON THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMISSION  
IN BAGHDAD, IRAQ

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

(d) All costings are made at current 1979 prices, salary levels and post adjustment classifications.'

Cost estimates

3. The estimated operating costs of the Commission, chargeable to its Regular Budget, that would be affected by its location during the biennium 1980-1981, broken down by object of expenditure are listed below:

A. Salary costs

4. It is assumed that by 1980 the staffing table of ECWA will be composed of 97 Professional and 150 General Service posts.

5. The post adjustment at Baghdad reached class 5 (multiplier 28) on 1 February 1979 and class 6 (multiplier 34) on 1 April 1979. The post adjustment at Beirut declined from class 6+1 (multiplier 35) to Class 5+4 (multiplier 32) on 1 April 1979. In view of the recent accelerated upward movement in Baghdad, it is assumed that salary costs in Baghdad and Beirut will be the same.

6. For the information of the Commission, it is estimated that for ECWA in Baghdad in the biennium 1980-1981 at current rates salary costs would be in the order of \$9,034,000, temporary assistance \$151,000, consultants' fees \$115,000, overtime \$6,000 and ad hoc expert groups \$20,000. In addition it is also estimated that non-recurrent termination indemnities of \$65,000 would fall in the biennium 1980-1981.<sup>1/</sup>

B. Common staff costs

7. It can be anticipated that the impact of the proposed move by ECWA to Baghdad on expenditures in this category would be threefold.

(a) Significant costs would be incurred on a non-recurrent basis for the transfer to Baghdad of some 78 Professional and 116 General Service staff members.<sup>2/</sup> The estimated costs to be incurred would amount to \$1,313,000 arrived at as follows:

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<sup>1/</sup> Assuming that 19 General Service staff-members in Beirut will be terminated by abolition of their posts.

<sup>2/</sup> March 1979 payroll figures.

1. The Secretary-General's statement to the resumed sixty-first session of ECOSOC (Document E/L.1738/Add.1 dated 25 October 1976) dealt with the financial implications of the move of ECOWA to Baghdad and the cost of operating the Commission in that city during the biennium 1980-1981. This statement was updated and presented to the fifth session as document E/ECOWA/64/Add.1 dated 4 October 1978. It is now proposed to further update this information.
2. In the light of the latest information available the cost plan is based on the following assumptions:

(a) That the move to Baghdad will be undertaken in stages beginning in September 1979 and ending in June 1980 including the time necessary to phase out existing operations in Beirut. If this assumption is correct, there will be a financial impact on the biennium 1978-1979;

(b) That some 116 General Service staff will be invited to join the Commission in Baghdad as international recruits;

(c) That in the buildings to be provided, all the necessary facilities for the secretariat and for meetings would be available, without additional cost to the regular budget, including furniture, office equipment and conference equipment;

Travel for the purpose of transfer	\$ 58,000 <sup>1/</sup>
Removal costs	423,000 <sup>2/</sup>
Unaccompanied baggage	76,000 <sup>3/</sup>
Transportation of privately-owned vehicles	155,000 <sup>4/</sup>
Installation grant	601,000 <sup>5/</sup>
	<hr/>
	\$1,313,000
	<hr/>

It is further estimated that \$488,000 of the above would be incurred in the biennium 1978-1979 and \$875,000 in the biennium 1980-1981;

(b) On a recurrent basis, there would be costs resulting from the assumption that none of the Professional staff members would immediately exercise their entitlement to household removal and would accordingly be entitled, for a period not exceeding five years, to an assignment allowance. The relevant costs for the biennium 1980-1981 are included in the total estimate for common staff costs in paragraph 8 below;

(c) Non-recurrent freight costs estimated at \$75,000 would be incurred in moving certain items of equipment, documents, books, files, etc., \$25,000 in the biennium 1978-1979 and \$50,000 in the biennium 1980-1981.

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1/ Assuming 194 staff members and 317 dependants.

2/ Assuming that all internationally recruited General Service staff members utilize their maximum entitlements at an estimated cost of \$4,805 for a staff member with dependants and \$2,883 for a staff member without dependants.

3/ Assuming that all Professional staff members utilize their maximum entitlements.

4/ Assuming that all international staff members utilize their maximum entitlements of \$800 per vehicle.

5/ Assuming 114 international staff members with dependants and 80 without dependants.

8. Apart from the above exceptional costs, it is estimated that a further \$2,712,000 would be required over the biennium 1980-1981 to cover regular common staff costs such as staff allowances (including assignment allowance referred to in paragraph 7 (b) above), social security payments, home leave, etc.

C. Travel on official business

9. It is assumed that travel costs will not be significantly affected by the location of the Commission's headquarters. For the Commission's information \$252,000 has been requested for the biennium 1980-1981, but this is subject to General Assembly approval. Extraordinary travel costs in connexion with relocating the Commission's headquarters are dealt with under paragraph 7 (c) and 13 (a) and (b).

D. General operating expenses

10. For the Commission's information \$640,000 has been requested for the biennium 1980-1981, but this is subject to General Assembly approval. In the absence of experience of operating conditions in Baghdad, it is assumed that expenditure under this heading will be roughly comparable with that of Beirut.

E. Acquisition of furniture and equipment

11. On the basis of the proposal made by the Government of Iraq, it is understood that the Government will provide all furniture for the buildings. Additionally, it is understood that the Government will provide all necessary equipment for the catering facilities and library, as well as internal reproduction and conference services, including printing equipment, simultaneous interpretation, video and audio recording and transmission equipment. It is assumed that:

(a) The Government will arrange for installation of any equipment provided by the United Nations such as radio equipment and antenna;

(b) The United Nations will provide all necessary official vehicles.

The cost of radio equipment is tentatively estimated at \$275,000 and the cost of vehicles at \$74,000.

11. Temporary arrangements

12. Given the assumption in paragraph 2 (a) above that the relocation to Baghdad will be staggered over a period of 9 months, additional resources will be required to:

(a) Maintain a dual administration in Baghdad and in Beirut during the period;

(b) Staff a Liaison Office, prior to the relocation which will be concerned with:

- (i) The preparation of the office accommodation in all its ramifications;
- (ii) Setting up, jointly with the Government, a housing service to assist staff members in locating suitable living accommodation;
- (iii) The expansion of existing educational institutions offering instruction in English and French.

13. The estimated costs of the foregoing are:

(a) Dual Administration

(i) Temporary posts (1 P-2, 8 General Service)

	<u>1980-1981</u>	<u>1978-1979</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salaries	\$45,000	\$22,000	\$ 67,000
Common staff costs	13,000	7,000	20,000

(ii) Travel 3,000 1,000 4,000

(b) Liaison Office of 5 staff members

(i) Travel		35,000	35,000
(ii) Rental of office accommodation		10,000	10,000
(iii) Local transportation		2,000	2,000
	<u>\$61,000</u>	<u>\$77,000</u>	<u>\$138,000</u>

CONCLUSIONS

14. The total estimates at current rates, both for the biennium 1980-1981 and the additional expenses which may fall into the biennium 1978-1979 are as follows:

	<u>1980-1981</u>	<u>Additional 1978-1979</u>	<u>Total</u>
Established posts	\$ 9,034,000		\$ 9,034,000
Temporary assistance	151,000		151,000
Consultancy fees	115,000		115,000
Overtime	6,000		6,000
<u>Ad Hoc expert groups</u>	20,000		20,000
Common staff costs	2,712,000		2,712,000
Travel on official business	252,000		252,000
General operating expenses	640,000		640,000
Acquisition of furniture and equipment	349,000		349,000
	<u>\$13,279,000</u>		<u>\$13,279,000<sup>1/</sup></u>
<u>Non-recurrent expenditure</u>			
Termination indemnities	65,000		65,000
Temporary posts	45,000	\$ 22,000	67,000
<u>Common staff costs</u>			
(i) For temporary posts	13,000	7,000	20,000
(ii) Related to the move to Baghdad	875,000	438,000	1,313,000
Travel on official business	3,000	36,000	39,000
Rental of office accommodation		10,000	10,000
Local transportation		2,000	2,000
Freight	50,000	25,000	75,000
	<u>1,051,000</u>	<u>540,000</u>	<u>1,591,000<sup>2/</sup></u>
Total	<u>\$14,330,000</u>	<u>\$540,000</u>	<u>\$14,870,000</u>

1/ It should be noted that these costs, subject to local conditions difficult to predict at present would have to be incurred by ECOM in 1980-1981, irrespective of the location of its headquarters.

2/ Non-recurrent costs attributable to the move from Beirut to Baghdad.