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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution  
contained in document A/C.3/35/L.34

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

1. At its 49th meeting on 7 November 1980, the Third Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.34. It had before it at that time a statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.3/35/L.41).
2. Under paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would recommend that, in their efforts to promote the full participation of disabled persons in all aspects of life, Member States as well as organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system pay particular attention to the participation of disabled persons themselves and of their organizations in the activities undertaken in connexion with the International Year of Disabled Persons and its follow-up. In this connexion, it is recalled that in document A/35/444/Add.3, part B, entitled "Participation of disabled persons and their organizations in the International Year of Disabled Persons" the Secretary-General indicated that a report on this topic to be provided in response to a recommendation of the second session of the Advisory Committee for the International Year would require a study to be undertaken by a consultant for three work-months. The estimated costs of this would amount to \$15,000.
3. Under paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide to accept the offer of the Government of Argentina to act as host in 1981 to the action-oriented international symposium of experts on technical assistance in the field of disability and technical co-operation among developing countries. Under paragraph 5 of resolution 31/140, the General Assembly decided that "United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to

defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved". The "established headquarters" in the case of this symposium would be Vienna, where the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is located. The Secretary-General would hold consultations with the Government of Argentina and make all the proper arrangements for the holding of the symposium.

4. In paragraph 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 for the International Year for Disabled Persons (document A/34/158/Add.1) submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, the Secretary-General estimated the conference servicing costs of holding the symposium in Vienna at \$75,300, based on the following assumptions:

(a) That the session would be held in Vienna in 1981 for a period of 10 days;

(b) That the costs of travel and subsistence of 40 experts would be met by the United Nations;

(c) That documentation, interpretation and other conference services would be provided in English, French and Spanish.

5. Actual requirements in respect of these conference services will be determined in the context of the consolidated statement of total conference servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session with the understanding that the host Government would defray the actual additional costs arising as a result of holding the symposium away from Vienna, as stipulated in paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 31/140.

6. In paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to examine the question of access to United Nations documents and information for persons with sensorial disabilities. The Secretary-General wishes to point out that this was also the subject of recommendation 5 (II) of the second session of the Advisory Committee, in which the Advisory Committee requested the Secretary-General to review the whole question of access to information both in oral and written or printed form. In the same recommendation, the Advisory Committee also requested that special efforts be made to reproduce in braille and on cassette United Nations documents that have elicited a wide degree of interest from the general public. It further recommended that consideration should be given to the establishment of a committee of experts to study the possibility of standardizing gestural interpretation or sign language for the purpose of facilitating interpretation in international meetings. It is envisaged that a review of the whole question of access to information could be undertaken under a consultancy assignment of four work-months at an estimated cost of \$20,000.

7. In paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to strengthen the information activities and to provide the secretariat of the International Year of Disabled Persons with all the resources and personnel necessary for carrying out its work, including information activities. In this connexion, it will be recalled that in the addendum to his report on the

International Year (A/34/158/Add.1), submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, the Secretary-General indicated that the activities then proposed for financing from the regular budget represented a minimum programme of information activities required to ensure a successful celebration of the International Year of Disabled Persons. However, it was also noted that a number of additional activities would substantially increase the impact of the Year, should extrabudgetary funding become available. The Secretary-General intends to continue to proceed on this basis and will strengthen information activities within the restraints existing as to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

8. In paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee in 1981. It is recalled that at its second session the Advisory Committee, by its resolution 10 (II), recommended that a third session of the Advisory Committee should be held in 1981 to consider the draft long-term programme of action. At that session the Advisory Committee would review the draft long-term programme of action, an outline of which was already discussed at its second session, and would evaluate progress made in the implementation of the programme for the Year to ensure an adequate follow-up to the Year. The session previously scheduled for 1982 to draft a report on the observance of the Year would then become the fourth session of the Committee.

9. In his report on the administrative and financial implications of recommendations made by the Advisory Committee at its first session (A/34/158/Add.1), the Secretary-General proposed a second and a third session of the Advisory Committee, the second to be held in 1981 and the third in 1982. The cost estimates provided in the report were \$96,700 for the second session and \$140,500 for the third. The General Assembly, in its resolution 34/154, approved the recommendations made by the first session of the Advisory Committee and the resources requested for the second session. The requirements for the third session in 1982 were to be incorporated in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 1982-1983. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee in 1980 to examine the implementation of the programme for the Year and to begin the consideration of a long-term programme of action. In compliance with that request, the second session was held at Vienna, from 20 to 29 August 1980. Consequently, resources are no longer available in the 1980-1981 programme budget to convene a proposed third session in 1981. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee to hold a third session in 1981, if approved by the Assembly, would, therefore, give rise to financial implications.

10. The estimated cost for holding the third session will be based on the following assumptions:

- (a) The session would be held at Vienna for a duration of eight days;
- (b) Documentation, interpretation and other conference services would be provided in English, French, Russian and Spanish;
- (c) The cost of travel and subsistence of members of the Committee would be borne by their respective Governments;

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(d) There should be 70 pages of pre-session, 100 pages of in-session and 50 pages of post-session documentation;

(e) Travel and subsistence would be required for one staff member of the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters to attend and service the Committee at a cost of \$2,000.

11. Conference servicing requirements for the proposed third session of the Advisory Committee are not the subject of a request for an appropriation at this time, but will be considered within the context of the consolidated statement of total conference servicing costs to be submitted towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly. However, the costs of conference servicing estimated on a full-cost basis are outlined in the annex to the present report and would total \$136,000.

12. By paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons to examine the possibility of continuing the activities of the International Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries in the light of the experience of the Year. In this connexion, the Secretary-General wishes to draw attention to document A/35/444/Add.1 where this subject is discussed. There are no financial implications arising for the regular budget at this time.

#### SUMMARY

13. Should the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.34 be adopted by the General Assembly, additional expenditures for consultancy services under section 6 of the programme budget, and for travel under section 8 of the programme budget would be required as detailed below. A review of available resources indicates that it is not expected to be possible to absorb these amounts from within existing resources and hence an additional appropriation of \$37,000 is requested.

Consultancy study on full participation of disabled people (see para. 2)	\$15,000
Consultancy study on review of whole question of access to information (see para. 6)	20,000
Travel and subsistence of one OSSECS staff member (see para. 10)	<u>2,000</u>
Total	<u>\$37,000</u>

