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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Common Services at the United Nations Centre, Nairobi

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session (A/C.5/34/43) indicated that he considers that the establishment of common premises and services at Nairobi is in the best interest of the United Nations and the specialized agencies for reasons of economy, efficiency and co-ordination. The Advisory Committee had previously endorsed the establishment in Nairobi of common premises and common services. 1/ 2/
2. The General Assembly having considered the Secretary-General's report referred to above adopted resolution 34/233, part XII 3/ requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the common services which are to be established in the United Nations Centre at Nairobi.
3. As a first step in this regard, the Secretary-General has arranged for a survey in Nairobi so as to obtain an assessment of the situation on as broad a basis as possible. The survey was carried out in April 1979, before it became evident that the construction plan for Gigiri would be reviewed.

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1/ A/8708/Add.23.

2/ A/32/8/Add.10.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 46 (A/34/46).

4. There are basically three ways for providing common services in locations containing separate units of the United Nations system.

(a) There is the possibility that each unit carries, according to its own needs, the responsibility for its common services. Insofar as installations are used jointly there would be some arrangement for joint administration with ensuing cost sharing.

(b) Services could be assigned to one of the organizations which would then have to assume the role of providing services to the other organizations on a reimbursable basis.

(c) The third possibility would be to establish a special unit separate from the local organizations which would be responsible to provide services to them as users.

5. The third possibility is found in Geneva where the United Nations Office at Geneva takes care of the common services. There is of course always the question of the delineation of those services which in the case of UNOG include personnel and financial functions, conference and general services, information and library services and computing facilities. The solution mentioned as the second possibility exists basically in Vienna. In Vienna there is also established a local United Nations Office which, among other things, is responsible for the security of the whole of the Vienna International Centre (VIC). As to the present situation and the aspects for further development, reference is made to the Secretary-General's report on accommodation at the VIC. 4/

6. The aforementioned study in Nairobi only constitutes a first phase which must be supplemented by an in-depth analysis of the cost implications for the various organizations concerned. This study could not be undertaken as envisaged because it seemed advisable to wait for the outcome of the review of the construction at Nairobi. As this matter has now been resolved, the examination of the various arrangements in respect of the common services in Nairobi will be resumed with a view to arriving at a comprehensive analysis and recommendation, including relevant cost analyses, as a result of which proposals will be submitted to the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

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