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Thirty-fifth session  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 91

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs  
of the United Nations

The following communication, dated 19 November 1980, has been received by the Chairman of the Fifth Committee from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee:

The Chairman of the International Law Commission, when introducing the Report of the Commission on the work of its thirty-second session on 21 October 1980, emphasized the Commission's view that the level of the special allowance paid to members of the Commission pursuant to article 13 of its Statute was inadequate, and that there was a need for an increase in the honorarium forming part of that allowance.

The Committee is aware that, while the "subsistence" element of the special allowance has been adjusted periodically to reflect in some measure the changes in the cost of living, no corresponding adjustment has been made in the honoraria of members (\$US 100 per week up to a maximum of \$US 1,000 per session) and Special Rapporteurs of the Commission (an additional \$US 1,500 conditional on the preparation of special reports or studies between sessions of the Commission), which was established by the General Assembly some 23 years ago at its 729th meeting on 13 December 1957.

Earlier efforts to resolve this matter have not borne fruit and the Committee is aware that the Fifth Committee expects once again to take up the Reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/2 and A/C.5/33/54) on what was believed to be an appropriate level of increase in 1976.

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It is the sense of the Sixth Committee that non-adjustment of honoraria paid to the members, Special Rapporteurs and chairmen of the International Law Commission has, over the years, eroded the level of the special allowance fixed in 1957, and that its chairman should so inform you, and through you request the Fifth Committee to give consideration to this problem as early as possible.

Should you or any member of the Fifth Committee desire any further information or clarification, the Chairman of the Commission, or I, would be happy to discuss the matter with you.

(Signed) Abdul KOROMA  
Chairman of the Sixth Committee

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