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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

First-class travel in the United Nations organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By paragraph 4 of its resolution 32/198, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on the implementation of the resolution, noting all exceptions made to allow first-class travel and the savings achieved through utilization of economy and other air fares. In the past, the reports have covered the period 1 October of a given year to 30 September of the following year.
2. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, by section X of resolution 35/217, requested that the report by the Secretary-General should cover the period from 1 October 1980 to 30 June 1981, so as to enable the Fifth Committee to consider it at the beginning of the session and that, thereafter, reports should be submitted annually to cover the period from 1 July to 30 June of the following year. Accordingly, the information set out below relates to the nine-month period from 1 October 1980 to 30 June 1981.
3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study on the conditions for travel of permanent representatives accredited to the United Nations when travelling on official missions on behalf of the Organization.
4. Therefore, the present report consists of two parts. Part I covers the exceptions made to allow first-class travel during the period 1 October 1980 to 30 June 1981 and the savings achieved through utilization of economy and other air fares. Part II contains information on the conditions for travel of permanent representatives accredited to the United Nations when travelling on official missions on behalf of the Organization during the period from 1 January 1978 through 30 April 1981.

I. Exceptions made to allow first-class travel and the savings achieved through utilization of economy and other air fares

5. The total savings accrued during the period from 1 October 1980 to 30 June 1981 as a result of the implementation of the resolution are estimated at \$247,226.

6. The Secretary-General exercised his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class travel in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 32/198, as amended by resolution 217, section X, in the following cases:

(a) First-class travel was accorded to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iran and Iraq, who was appointed in efforts to resolve the conflict between the two countries. First-class travel was also exceptionally authorized for the government official who served as his personal assistant and for the senior Secretariat official designated to assist and advise him. On one occasion, another Secretariat staff member selected to assist the Special Representative was authorized to travel via Concorde for one leg of his journey in order that he might make a connecting flight by special aircraft;

(b) Five persons (of whom two were staff members, two were consultants and one a member of a subsidiary organ) were authorized to travel first class on medical grounds, upon the recommendation of the Medical Service;

(c) First-class travel was accorded to an individual of ambassadorial rank for the duration of his special service agreement with the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, on the same basis as for top-echelon officials of the Secretariat;

(d) Travel by first class in respect of two United Nations officials was authorized for a segment of each of their travel itineraries because of time constraints involved to attend scheduled meetings;

(e) In the case of one official, approval was given ex post facto for first-class travel on parts of two of his travel itineraries when it was determined that no economy seat was available and it was not feasible to await a later flight;

(f) First-class travel continued to be authorized for an immediate aide of the Secretary-General accompanying him for security purposes during his official travels.

7. Details of the individual exceptions referred to above have been provided to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

II. Conditions for travel of permanent representatives accredited to the United Nations when travelling on official missions on behalf of the Organization

8. The General Assembly, in resolution 35/217, section X, paragraph 4, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study on the conditions for travel of permanent

representatives accredited to the United Nations when travelling on official missions on behalf of the Organization.

9. Information was compiled for the 40-month period from 1 January 1978 through 30 April 1981 regarding such travel by permanent representatives. In all, 155 cases were recorded during that time. Of that number, 35 trips were made in whole or in part by first class either because they involved a journey of more than nine hours without stopover for the Chairman or Acting Chairman of the subsidiary organ concerned, and thus were covered by paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 32/198, or because exceptions were granted under paragraph 3 of the same resolution.

10. The total actual cost of these trips was \$208,191. If all had been undertaken by first class, that is, if provision 2 (a) of resolution 32/198 had been extended to cover permanent representatives without regard to flight time, the total cost would have been \$297,209, or 43 per cent higher (approximately \$574 more, on average, per trip); if first-class had been limited to flights of nine hours or more, i.e., under paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 32/198, the total cost would have been \$258,855, or some 24 per cent higher (approximately \$301 more, on average, per trip).

11. Apart from the financial considerations set out above, it should be noted that by far the largest proportion of the trips - 119 of the 155 - related to permanent representatives travelling in their capacity as members of one of the following three subsidiary organs of the General Assembly: the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Council for Namibia and the Special Committee against Apartheid. The breakdown by subsidiary organ was as follows:

	<u>No. of trips</u>
Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	24
Council for Namibia	50
Special Committee against <u>Apartheid</u>	45
Total	<u>119</u>

12. It should be pointed out, in this regard, that over the period covered by the statistics presented herein, 448 trips were made by members of the three organs cited above who did not have the rank of permanent representatives to the United Nations.