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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

International drug abuse control strategy

Eighteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/36/76), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution on international drug abuse control strategy, which was adopted by the Third Committee at its 66th meeting, on 30 November 1981 (A/C.3/36/L.77, as orally amended).
2. In paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly urges that the drug control strategy and the programme of action be given priority by all Governments and be implemented as quickly as possible by the relevant bodies of the United Nations and other international organizations.
3. The Secretary-General estimates the related requirements under the regular budget of the United Nations at \$466,400 in 1982, of which \$157,100 has already been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. The balance of \$309,300 would need to be appropriated should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution. Such additional resources as may be needed for activities in 1983 will be requested at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.
4. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee notes that in paragraph 71 of its report to the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, inter alia, stated that:

"The Commission approved the five-year programme of action (see annex II) but agreed to implement projects only during the first year, i.e. 1982, as that would provide more flexibility. Accordingly, a total of 22 projects were

recommended for implementation; 11 funded by the United Nations regular budget and 11 funded by extrabudgetary resources. At the end of that first year the Commission would be able to review those projects and re-establish priorities at future sessions in the light of changing situations." 1/

5. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the activities under the basic five-year programme of action were largely additional to those foreseen in the medium-term plan for 1984-1989.

6. In paragraph 72 of its report to the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs stated that:

"Before considering the draft resolution on 'Strategy and Policies for Drug Control' the Commission had before it document E/CN.7/L.535 on the financial implications of the United Nations basic programme of action for 1982 annexed to that draft resolution." 2/

Those financial implications foresaw that implementation of the 22 projects would entail expenditures of \$16,812,400 in 1982-1983, of which \$16,044,000 (for 11 projects) would be provided by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. The balance of \$768,000 for the biennium (also for 11 projects) was to come from the United Nations regular budget, of which \$464,700 (or approximately \$232,000 per year) would be met through redeployment of resources available for the ongoing programme of international drug control. 3/ Thus, the absorptive capacity of the United Nations regular budget was assumed to be \$232,000 a year, and not \$157,100 as is stated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/36/76.

7. The Secretary-General provides a breakdown of the 1982 requirements under section 20 of the budget in paragraph 4 of his statement (A/C.5/36/76). As can be seen from that breakdown, of the \$309,300 in additional resources, \$125,000 is for travel and subsistence costs of participants in five ad hoc expert group meetings. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that of the 10 participants at each meeting, nine would be experts from nine geographical regions; the rationale for including the tenth expert was not explained. Bearing in mind that all the invited experts will not necessarily attend or stay for the entire duration of the meetings, the Committee believes that economies in travel and subsistence should be within reach.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 4 (E/1981/24).

2/ Ibid.

3/ Ibid., annex II, paras. 56 and 57.

8. The net additional requirements for 1982 also include \$89,300 for temporary assistance (one P-4 for 4 work-months; one P-3 for 12 work-months; and one General Service staff member for 4 work-months). The Advisory Committee is not convinced that this request is justified in full, since several of the 11 projects to be implemented relate to ongoing activities of the Division of Narcotic Drugs. For example, the proposed study on the characteristics of seized heroin to trace its origin (A/C.5/36/76, paras. 3 (h) and 4 (h)) is related to programme element 2.6 of the international drug control programme, the output of which will be:

"Development of methodology for determining the physical and chemical characteristics that would be of assistance in determining the origin of heroin seized in the illicit traffic." 4/

9. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's request for consultants (\$55,000) and for printing and audio-visual materials (\$40,000).

10. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 7 and 8 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General's estimate of additional requirements in 1982 should be reduced by \$34,300 from \$309,300 to \$275,000.

11. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/36/L.77, as orally amended, there would be need for an additional appropriation of \$275,000 under section 20 (International drug control) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. An additional appropriation of \$13,000 (instead of \$16,300) would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) offset by an increase in the same amount in the estimates of income under income section 1.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/36/6 and Corr.1), para. 20.9, subprogramme 2.