



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/36/25
22 October 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 100

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

Revised estimates under sections 26 and 29A, legal activities
and Department of Conference Services, Headquarters

Depositary functions of the Secretary-General and
registration and publication of treaties

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	2
I. Elimination of the backlog	2
A. Recapitulation of the resources approved for the biennium 1980-1981	2
B. Current situation	4
II. Forecast	7
III. Summary	9

Annexes

INTRODUCTION

1. By section I of resolution 35/217 dated 17 December 1980, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report on the depositary functions of the Secretary-General and registration and publication of treaties. 1/
2. In this regard, the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session took note of the plan for the elimination of the backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series proposed by the Secretary-General 2/ and approved the necessary resources for the implementation of the plan for the biennium 1980-1981. Meanwhile, the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 12 of its report, 1/ noted the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 29 of his report 2/ that it would be his intention, should the Assembly approve the proposed plan, to report back to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session and biennially thereafter on the progress made towards the elimination of the backlog, indicating any adjustment that might be warranted to the resource requirements estimated for future years.
3. The present report thus outlines the results obtained during the biennium 1980-1981 and the requirements in respect of the biennium 1982-1983, and is submitted in pursuance of the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution.

I. ELIMINATION OF THE BACKLOG

A. Recapitulation of the resources approved for the biennium 1980-1981

4. In the biennium 1980-1981, additional appropriations were approved under sections 26C, 28D and 29A in the total amount of \$393,000 net of staff assessment, to undertake the publication of 40 volumes per year (new format) and to implement the proposed plan for the elimination of the backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series. 3/ This appropriation was allocated as follows:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/35/7/Add.1-32), document A/35/7/Add.1, paras. 11 and 12.

2/ A/C.5/34/40 and Corr.1 and 2.

3/ A/34/848, A/35/780.

(a) Resources approved to keep abreast of the projected workload level for
1980-1981 of 40 volumes per year (new format)

	\$	\$
(i) Section 26C. Office of Legal Affairs		
Treaty Section (one P-2; three G-4/1; reclassification of one G-4/1 to G-5; conversion of two G-4/2 from temporary posts to established posts)		109 300
(ii) Section 29A. Department of Conference Services, Headquarters		
Publishing Division (one P-3, one P-2)		
Established posts	52 500	
Common staff costs	<u>16 800</u>	69 300
(iii) Section 28D. Office of General Services, Headquarters		
Common services costs related to (ii) above		<u>19 200</u>
Subtotal (a)		<u>197 800</u>

(b) Resources approved to implement the proposed plan for the elimination of the backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series

		\$	\$
(i)	Section 26C. Office of Legal Affairs		
	Treaty Section (one P-2, six months; two G-4/1, 18 months; two G-4/1, six months)		
	Temporary posts	62 300	
	Common staff costs	20 200	
	External printing	<u>62 400</u>	144 900
(ii)	Section 29A. Department of Conference Services, Headquarters		
	Publishing Division (one P-3, six months)		
	Temporary posts	14 200	
	Common staff costs	<u>4 500</u>	18 700
(iii)	Section 28D. Office of General Services, Headquarters		
	Common services costs related to (i) and (ii) above		<u>31 600</u>
	Subtotal (b)		<u>195 200</u>
	Total (a) and (b)		<u><u>393 000</u></u>

5. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 contains amounts of \$330,000 and \$68,500 in respect of sections 26C and 29A which correspond to the costs for a full biennium of the level of resources as in (b) above.

B. Current situation

1. Registration

6. The measures taken in 1980, by the approval of two G-4/1 posts for the registration function, have resulted in an improvement of the situation reported to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. 4/

7. As at 31 August 1981, the registration process, i.e., the administrative and legal processing of files, had been completed up to and including the month of March 1981, thus reducing the backlog in the registration process to five months. This is an indication of a significant improvement as compared to the performance for the same period in 1979, in which there was a 15-month delay, and in 1980, a 10-month delay.

8. Developments with regard to the monthly Statement of Treaties and International Agreements have been less favourable. As at 31 August 1981 the last monthly Statement of Treaties and International Agreements issued covered the registration period of December 1978, reflecting a delay in publication of 30 months, as compared with 34 months in 1979. While the reduction of 4 months in the publication delay over a period of 20 months may not seem significant, it may be noted that 8 additional manuscripts had been completed by 31 August 1981 and were awaiting reproduction.

2. Publication

9. The nine-year plan for the elimination of the backlog in the publication of the United Nations Treaty Series proposed the stabilization of the backlog in 1980 and a gradual increase of production beginning in 1981. Recruitment difficulties experienced in the Treaty Section in 1980 severely curtailed the 1980 phase of the plan. Only 20 manuscripts were submitted to the Printing Section in 1980, but a further 24 manuscripts were compiled in the first 8 months of 1981. In 1980 17 volumes were placed in general distribution and between 1 January and 31 August 1981 10 volumes were issued with an additional 5 volumes at the press and binding stages. At 31 August 1981, 44 volumes were at various stages of production. Of these, 39 were at the typesetting and proof-reading stages, and 5 were at the copy-preparation stage. It is expected that by the end of 1981 an additional 22 volumes will be issued, thereby resulting in a total of 54 volumes published in 1980-1981. The proposed plan had foreseen the publication of 85 volumes of the Treaty Series in that period; thus, the low production of volumes in 1980 has, in effect, delayed the plan by one year. It is, therefore, proposed to adjust the request for resources in 1982-1983 in the light of the results obtained and the estimated output for 1982-1983.

10. In this regard, a modification in the plan as reported in document A/C.5/34/40, paragraph 21, is proposed as follows:

/...

<u>Year</u>	<u>Basic yearly publishing programme (in number of volumes)</u>	<u>Elimination of backlog (in number of volumes)</u>	<u>Total number of United Nations Treaty Series volumes to be compiled a/</u>
1980	40	(20)	20
1981	40	-	40
1982	40	10	50
1983	40	30	70
1984	40	40	80
1985	40	40	80
1986	40	40	80
1987	40	40	80
1988	40	40	80
1989	40	40	80
10 year total	<u>400</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>660</u>

a/ Unless otherwise specified, statistics concerning production of Treaty Series volumes refer to the compilation of manuscripts
(See A/C.5/34/40, para. 20).

Translation Division

11. As noted in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, the capacity in the Translation Division earmarked for translation of the Treaty Series now corresponds to the translation requirements for approximately 60 volumes in the new format. Accordingly, it is expected that sufficient translations will be produced in 1981 so as not to delay any further the implementation of the plan for the elimination of the backlog.

Treaty Section

12. Based on the schedule for the elimination of the backlog included in paragraph 21 of document A/C.5/34/40, the plan envisaged the compilation of 40 manuscripts in 1980 and 50 manuscripts in 1981, and the following temporary posts were requested and approved for the biennium 1980-1981: one clerk and one typist (G-4/1) as of 1 July 1980, one clerk and one typist (G-4/1), and one Professional for manuscript review and control (P-2) as of 1 July 1981.

13. However, because of problems relating to recruitment and training, this level was not achieved during the first eight months of 1980. It was only as of September 1980 that it was possible to send regularly to the Department of Conference Services an average of three manuscripts per month. For 1981, as at 31 August, 24 manuscripts had been compiled, and it is anticipated that the flow will be increased before the end of the year to enable the compilation of another 16 to 20 manuscripts. Sixty manuscripts will, therefore, have been compiled during 1980-1981, which is 30 less than the 90 originally planned. Resources appropriated for this purpose during the 1980-1981 biennium which were not utilized will be reported in the context of the final performance report.

/...

Publishing Division

14. Cwing to the sequence of operations, the workload of the Treaty Series team in the Publishing Division lags approximately six months behind that of the Treaty Section. Therefore, since the production level for 1980 was not achieved in the Treaty Section, the copy preparer (P-3) requested and approved for July 1981 to implement the proposed plan for the elimination of the backlog was not recruited. Furthermore, since the Publishing Division had only 20 volumes to publish in 1980, it did not fill the P-3 and P-2 posts which had been granted for the normal production of 40 volumes annually. In 1981, however, the production of 40 volumes has necessitated the recruitment of a P-2 since May 1981 and a P-3 since July 1981. Further, in order to evaluate the production of the Treaty Series for 1980-1981, one must take into account, in addition to the 27 volumes issued as at 31 August 1981, the 44 volumes which remained at various stages of production at that date (see para. 8). One can then safely say that during the biennium 1980-1981 a minimum of 54 volumes will have been issued, barring unforeseen delays. Since the Division has utilized only some 40 per cent of the resources approved for the biennium 1980-1981, the resources which were not utilized during the biennium 1980-1981 will be reported in the context of the final performance report.

3. External printing

15. As the annual external printing requirement follows the production level of the Publishing Division, the external printing resources of \$62,400 provided for the elimination of five volumes of the backlog will not be utilized during the biennium 1980-1981. The resources not utilized will, therefore, be reported in the context of the final performance report for 1980-1981.

II. FORECAST

16. In 1980-1981, delays at various stages of the production of the Treaty Series volumes prevented the accomplishment of 30 per cent of the plan, and only 70 per cent was accomplished. However, it should be noted that the delays were due in part to the administrative difficulties inherent in the establishment of a plan of such importance, the first of which phase was approved only in December 1979.

17. It therefore follows that the proposed modification to the plan as contained in paragraph 10 will also call for a modification in the resources required for the biennium 1982-1983. This is recapitulated in graph form in annex I to the present report, where the relationship between resources already approved for 1980-1981 (and included in the resource base of the 1982-1983 budget) and new resources required for the biennium 1982-1983 may clearly be seen.

1. Registration

18. It is hoped that by 31 December 1981 the backlog with respect to the administrative and legal aspect of registration will have been practically eliminated. This assumption can be made in the light of the experience gained by the additional staff recruited on a temporary basis.

19. With regard to the publication of the monthly Statement of Treaties and International Agreements, the delay in all probability can be reduced to 20 months by the end of this year, again because of the additional temporary assistance recruited during 1980-1981. From 1982, when the delay in the administrative registration operations will have been completely eliminated, it should be possible to give greater priority to the publication of the monthly Statement, with a view to bringing the publication up to date as soon as possible.

2. Publications

Translation Division

20. The additional resources required for the translation of treaties to enable the compilation of volumes, based on the revised schedule for the elimination of the backlog as set forth in paragraph 9 above, are as follows:

1 reviser (P-4)	July 1983 - June 1988
2 translators (P-3)	July 1983 - June 1988
2 typists (G-4/1)	July 1983 - June 1988
1 reference clerk (G-4/1)	July 1983 - June 1988

Treaty Section

21. Based on experience during the biennium 1980-1981, the revised plan, as contained in paragraph 9, and the requirement of a six-month training period for new staff members, it is proposed to provide temporary posts in addition to those approved for 1980-1981 as follows:

2 clerks (G-4/1)	July 1983 - December 1989
1 typist (G-4/1)	July 1983 - December 1989

Publishing Division

22. As stated in paragraph 15 the workload of the Treaty Series team in the Publishing Division lags approximately six months behind that of the Treaty Section. Consequently, the resources required for the Publishing Division have been revised as follows:

1 proof-reader (P-2)	January 1983 - December 1990
1 copy-holder (G-4/1)	January 1983 - December 1990
1 copy-preparer (P-3)	July 1983 - December 1989
1 proof-reader (P-2)	January 1984 - December 1989
1 copy-preparer (P-3)	July 1984 - December 1989
1 proof-reader (P-2)	January 1985 - December 1989

3. External printing

23. Annual external printing requirements follow the production level of the Publishing Division. For the biennium 1982-1983, printing resources will be required for an additional 15 volumes, based on the revised level of output for the biennium 1982-1983.

III. SUMMARY

24. The total staff requirements, including detailed time-phasing of the additional staff required to implement the plan for the elimination of backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series as revised, are given in annex I. The additional resources required per year (expressed in constant 1981 prices) as they relate to the revised plan are contained in annex II.

25. For the biennium 1982-1983, the additional resources required under sections 26C, 29A and 28D and, therefore, additional appropriations requested may be broken down as follows:

Resources required to implement the 1982-1983 proposed plan
for the elimination of the backlog in the publication of
the Treaty Series

	\$	\$
Section 26C. Office of Legal Affairs:		
Treaty Section (3 G-4/1 - 6 months)		
Temporary posts	27 300	
Common staff costs	8 700	
External printing	<u>231 600</u>	267 600
Section 29A. Department of Conference Services, Headquarters		
Translation Division (1 P-4, 2 P-3, 3 G-4/1 - 6 months)		
Publishing Division (1 P-2, 1 G-4/1 - 12 months; 1 P-3 - 6 months)		
Temporary posts	147 700	
Common staff costs	<u>47 200</u>	194 900
Section 28D. Office of General Services, Headquarters		
Common service costs related to (i) and (ii) above.		77 400
Section 31. Staff assessment		47 800
Income section I. Income from staff assessment		<u>(47 800)</u>
Grand total		<u><u>539 900</u></u>

Annex I

PUBLICATION OF THE TREATY SERIES

Time-phasing of staff requirements

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
<u>Translation Division</u>											
(i) 1980-1981 regular workload (60 vol.) (3 P-4, 6 P-3, 9 G-4/1, including 3 reference clerks)											
(ii) Backlog:											
Reviser (P-4)											
Translator (P-3)											
Translator (P-3)											
Typist (G-4/1)											
Typist (G-4/1)											
Reference clerk (G-4/1)											
<u>Production - volumes</u>	50	50	60	70	80	80	80	80	70		
<u>Treaty Section</u>											
(a) Typing of final translations											
(i) 1980-1981 regular workload (40 volumes) (3 G-4/1)											
(ii) Backlog:											
Typist (G-4/1)											
Typist (G-4/1)											
Typist (G-4/1)											
(b) Manuscript compilation:											
(i) 1980-1981 regular workload (1 P-2, 4 G-4/1)											
(ii) Backlog:											
Clerk (G-4-1)	...										
Manuscript review and control (P-2)	...										
Clerk (G-4/1)	...										
Clerk (G-4/1)				...							
Clerk (G-4/1)				...							
<u>Production - volumes</u>	20	40	50	70	80	80	80	80	80	80	40

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Publishing Division											
(i) 1980-1981 regular work- load (40 vol.)											
Existing (2 P-3, 2 P-2, 1 G-4/1)											
New (1 P-3, 1 P-2)											
(ii) Backlog:											
Copy-preparer (P-3)		...									
Proof-reader (P-2)											
Copy-holder (G-4/1)											
Copy-pre- parer (P-3)				...							
Proof-reader (P-2)											
Copy-pre- parer (P-3)					...						
Proof-reader (P-2)											
Production - volumes	17	37	45	55	75	80	80	80	80	80	41
External printing	17	37	45	55	75	80	80	80	80	80	41

... Training period.

_____ Full productivity.

--- Potential reduction in existing staff.

Annex II

REVISED PLAN FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE BACKLOG IN THE PUBLICATION OF THE TREATY SECTION

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS EXPRESSED AT CONSTANT 1981 PRICES

	<u>1980 a/</u>	<u>1981 a/</u>	<u>1982 b/</u>	<u>1983 b/</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Translation Division	-	-	-	94 200	188 700	188 700	188 700	188 700	94 200	-	943 200
Treaty Section	16 400	66 100	113 000	143 300	173 900	173 900	173 900	173 900	173 900	173 900	1 382 200
Publishing Division	-	18 700	40 000	112 100	183 900	235 700	235 700	235 700	235 700	235 700	1 533 200
External Printing	-	62 400	65 000	195 000	455 000	520 000	520 000	520 000	520 000	520 000	3 377 400
Total	<u>16 400</u>	<u>147 200</u>	<u>218 000</u>	<u>544 600</u>	<u>1 001 500</u>	<u>1 118 300</u>	<u>1 118 300</u>	<u>1 118 300</u>	<u>1 023 800</u>	<u>929 600</u>	<u>7 236 000</u>

a/ Resources approved for 1980-1981.

b/ At 1982-1983 prices, these figures amount to \$861,000. See para. 5 of the present report, in which requirements of \$330,000 under section 26C and \$68,500 under section 29A are indicated, and para. 25, in which requirements of \$267,600 under section 26C and \$194,900 under section 29A are indicated.