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Thirty-sixth session  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda items 100 and 69 (k)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Living conditions of the Palestinian people

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution  
contained in document A/C.2/36/L.31/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with  
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. The Second Committee at its thirty-fifth meeting held on 11 November 1981 adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/36/L.31/Rev.1. A statement of administrative and financial implications was before the Committee in document A/C.2/36/L.41.
2. In operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.31/Rev.1), the Secretary-General would be requested to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive and analytical report on the deteriorating living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories.
3. The report requested, taking into account relevant information in earlier reports, would require an assessment of the living conditions of the Palestinian people over time since the occupation of these territories. Such a study calls for an analysis of available statistical data, a thorough on-the-spot survey and interviews aimed at ascertaining the status of living conditions in the territories concerned.
4. The Fifth Committee might recall that when the General Assembly requested, in its resolution 34/113 of 14 December 1979, the preparation of a comprehensive and analytical report on the social and economic impact of the Israeli occupation on

the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, it was considered necessary to engage a team of three consultants comprising a physical planner, an economist and a sociologist because of the broad, multidisciplinary scope of the report and in order to ensure a balanced view. Provision for the additional expenditure arising during the course of the biennium 1980-1981 was made by an additional appropriation in the amount of \$75,500 which was approved by the Fifth Committee pursuant to the oral recommendations 1/ of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions which were presented at the seventy-fourth meeting of the Fifth Committee of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly. As the team needed to interview and discuss relevant issues with key community leaders and other concerned individuals, proper communication in the Arabic language had to be assured. As it was not possible to find experts with a sufficient knowledge of Arabic, provision was made for interpreters and translators.

5. In the light of experience gained by the approach followed in the present biennium 1980-1981 it is proposed that a similar procedure be adopted in the preparation of the requested report. The necessary data will be gathered by a team of consultants who will work for a total of 9 work-months (as opposed to 14 work-months which was proposed for the previous report). The team will undertake its preliminary work in New York involving the gathering of information available from United Nations Secretariat units concerned with Palestinian questions and meeting with officials of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations.

6. The team will undertake a mission to the following areas and will perform the following tasks.

- (a) Lebanon, to meet with officials of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, other United Nations agencies, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Institute of Palestine Studies and to gather data other than those available from publications;
- (b) Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic, to meet with government officials in both countries and to gather data from the Institute of Planning and other government agencies;
- (c) Jordan, to meet with officials of the Ministry of Occupied Territories, Ministry of Development and Reconstruction, other concerned government agencies, the Royal Scientific Society (Economics Department) and contact other sources which could provide the requisite information;
- (d) Geneva and Vienna, to meet with officials of the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Human Rights Division of the United Nations and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; and
- (e) Occupied Palestinian territories for interviews and an on-the-spot survey.

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1/ Reported in A/C.5/34/SR.74.

7. During its visit to the Middle Eastern countries, the team would be assisted by an interpreter and a translator hired locally on a contractual basis in the mission area.

8. A draft of the report will be prepared by the team at the completion of its mission.

9. The related costs, all of which would be non-recurrent items, are as follows:

	<u>Costs</u>	
	(In United States dollars)	
	\$	\$
<u>Consultants (9 work-months)</u>		
Fees	36,000	
Travel and subsistence	32,100	68,100
<u>Contractual interpretation</u>		
Fees	8,200	
Travel and subsistence	4,900	<u>13,100</u>
<u>Contractual translation into English of collected basic material</u>		
200 pages from Arabic and 50 pages from Hebrew		<u>6,000</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>87,200</u>

10. In summary, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.31/Rev.1), additional appropriations would be required under section 19 (UNCHS: Habitat) in the total amount of \$87,200.