General Assembly

Thirty-seventh session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 103

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

Revised estimates under section 28L, subsection 1, International
Civil Service Commission, and income section 2, General income

Report of the Secretary-General

1.   Article 21, section 2 of the statute of the International Civil Service
Commission (ICSC), as adopted by the General Assembly under resolution 3357 (XXIX)
of 18 December 1974, provides that "the budget of the Commission shall be included
in the regular budget of the United Nations. The budget estimates shall be
established by the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Administrative
Committee on Co-ordination, on the basis of proposals by the Commission".

2.   The International Civil Service Commission, at its sixteenth session, reviewed
the implementation of its programme budget and work programme for the biennium
1982-1983 and decided that the computerization of the Cost-of-Living Division of
the Commission's secretariat should be expanded, three posts in its secretariat
reclassified, an extra meeting of the Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment
Questions (ACPAQ) held and the printing of a booklet explaining the post adjustment
system undertaken. It also noted that the existing provision for the compensation
of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission would need to be increased to
meet the current entitlements as approved by the General Assembly.

3.   The Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General
Administrative Questions), at its fifty-seventh sesson in July, reviewed the
proposed supplementary estimates under the Commission's programme budget and
reaffirmed its full support for the effort being made to computerize the
Cost-of-Living Division, while expressing concern, notwithstanding that position,
about the level of expenditure for the Commission's work. CCAQ, meanwhile, took
note of the Commission's request for the reclassification of three of its posts.

The Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) concurred with the position of CCAQ (Per) at its fifty-seventh session in September.

4.   In this regard, the revised estimated requirements of ICSC, based on the proposals submitted by the Commission and after consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, are as follows.

A.   Computerization of the work of the Cost-of-Living Division

5.   ICSC, at its sixteenth session, recommended that the data-processing capability of the Cost-of-Living Division be enhanced through increased computerization, in order that the data collected in respect of cost-of-living surveys might be processed more expeditiously. At present, ICSC has four computer terminals connected to a large computer in the New York Computing Service, a printer and one-half disk pack available to the Cost-of-Living Division. As of the beginning of 1983, however, additional terminals, printers and disk space will be required, when computerization of the work has reached a more advanced stage and the processing of a large volume of data to be collected in new cost-of-living surveys in New York and other duty stations is started. As part of the data-processing work carried out by the Geneva Unit of the Cost-of-Living Division, computer facilities which can have access to the New York Computing Service will be required in the Geneva Unit as well. The estimated cost for 1983 in respect of the computerization of the Cost-of-Living Division is outlined below.

New York	$	$
Rental of equipment	29,800	
Software	7,000	
Installation	2,000	
Consultant	10,000	
Data entry	80,000	128,800
Geneva		
Rental of equipment	21,200	
Computer time	4,500	
Installation	2,800	28,500
Total		157,300

6.   Of the above sum of $157,300 required for computerization, it is proposed to absorb $40,100 within available resources. On the other hand, it is expected that

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a delay in implementation of the system will be encountered; hence, an allowance of $5,000 for this factor can be made. Should the General Assembly approve the request of ICSC for computerization of the work of the Cost-of-Living Division, the amount of $112,200 would be required at this time.

B. Reclassification

7. Three posts within the present establishment of ICSC (two P-5 and one P-3) are proposed for reclassification, based on a complete review of Professional posts in the ICSC secretariat, by consultants, applying the ICSC Master Standard of Common System Job Classification Standards and Tier II grade level standard for personnel management specialists.

8. One of the P-5 posts proposed for reclassification to the D-1 level is that of the Chief, Personnel Policies Division. The classification review indicated that a level of D-1 is warranted in view of the level of responsibility of the post, which is concerned with the elaboration and establishment of job classification standards and personnel policy formulation for the United Nations common system under the relevant articles of the ICSC statute.

9. The other P-5 post proposed for reclassification to the D-1 level is that of Chief, Cost-of-Living Division. The reclassification is proposed in view of the supervisory responsibilities and responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the post adjustment system required by the post.

10. The post of Job Classification Specialist, P-3, has also been reviewed, and the resulting conclusion is that the post should be upgraded to the P-4 level. This is in line with the level of other posts in the Personnel Policies Division which carry similar responsibilities.

11. Regarding the cost implications of the above reclassifications, the Commission was informed by its secretariat that savings were anticipated in the overall costs of established posts in the biennium which would be sufficient to cover the costs of the reclassifications in 1983. However, in the view of the Secretary-General, any such savings, should they materialize, should be reflected in the context of the final performance report. Consequently, an additional appropriation of $22,600 is requested for the year 1983, reflecting the cost of the proposed reclassifications at the standard rates used in the United Nations budget.

C. Travel of the commission

12. In the course of the biennium 1982-1983, at least four major duty stations will have been surveyed for place-to-place comparison by the Cost-of-Living Division. The results will have to be considered by ACPAQ, and, as the new methodology will be used for the first time, it will be necessary to hold two meetings of ACPAQ. While one meeting is already planned and budgeted for in June 1983, provision in the amount of $24,000 would need to be made for the cost of the second meeting, which it is proposed to hold in New York.

13.   As regards the remaining items, namely, the printing of a booklet explaining the post adjustment system and the automatic increase in the compensation of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, the former is expected to be met from within available resources within the ICSC budget, and the latter will be provided in the context of the first performance report.

Recapitulation

14.   Should the General Assembly approve the above request for supplementary estimates, an additional appropriation in the amount of $158,800 would be required for the 1982-1983 biennium under section 28L, subsection 1, in respect of ICSC as follows:

		$
Computerization (para. 6)		112,200
Reclassification (para. 11)		22,600
Travel (para. 12)		24,000
	Total	158,800

A further provision of $11,400 would be required for staff assessment under section 31 which would be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1.

15.   Estimates of income under income section 2 would need to be increased by $80,600, representing 59.8 per cent of the appropriation requested under section 28L, subsection 1, in respect of reimbursement by the specialized agencies of their share of the costs of ICSC.