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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.29

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 41st meeting, held on 19 November 1982, adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.29. The Committee had before it a statement of administrative and financial implications in document A/C.2/37/L.62.

2. In operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution (A/C.2/37/L.29), the Secretary-General would be requested to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories.

3. The report, taking into account relevant information in earlier reports on this as well as related issues, would require an assessment of changes in the living conditions of the Palestinian people, generally over time since the occupation of the territories in 1967, and particularly since the last report (A/37/238) was prepared. It would involve an analysis of available data, an extensive on-the-spot survey and interviews aimed at ascertaining the quantitative and qualitative status of the living conditions in the territories. This has become more complex in view of the significant events that have occurred in the recent past.

4. It will be recalled that on two previous occasions when a comprehensive report was requested by General Assembly resolutions 34/113 of 14 December 1979 and 36/73 of 4 December 1981 it was deemed necessary to engage a team of three consultants to undertake the research and analysis needed for such a report because of the multidisciplinary nature of the inquiry. The report requested by the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.29 would require the services of a similar team representing the basic disciplines concerned with living conditions, namely, physical and environmental planning, economic analysis and social development. The report will seek to assess the effect on living conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories of such elements as housing, community facilities, economic infrastructure and the social and cultural environment as dynamics in the growth and development of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. As the need would arise for interviews and discussions with key community leaders and other concerned individuals both in the territories and the neighbouring countries, proper communication in the Arabic language will have to be assured. Additionally, many publications in the Arabic language will have to be translated. It will be necessary, therefore, to engage interpreters and translators to the extent that the experts are not sufficiently conversant with that language.

5. Based on past experience, it is proposed that a team of three experts, a physical planner, an economist and a sociologist, be engaged to prepare the report, and that they undertake a mission to the following areas and perform the following tasks:

- (a) The team will visit:
 - (i) Baghdad, to consult with the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) which has been monitoring the situation in the occupied territories;
 - (ii) Beirut, to consult with the Institute of Palestine Studies and examine the most recent data they have been able to collect;
 - (iii) Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic to meet with government officials and to gather data and information from government agencies and ministries;
 - (iv) Jordan, to meet with officials of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, Ministry of Development and Reconstruction, other concerned government agencies, the Royal Scientific Society (Economics Department) and contact other sources which could provide relevant information;
 - (v) Geneva, Vienna, Rome and Paris, to meet with officials of the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;
 - (vi) Occupied Palestinian territories for interviews and an on-the-spot survey;

(vii) New York, for preliminary research and contacts: gathering available information from United Nations Secretariat units and divisions concerned with Palestinian questions and meetings with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic and the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations;

(b) The preparation and submission of the report.

6. During its visit to the occupied territories and the neighbouring Arab countries, the team would be assisted by one interpreter, and the services of translators would be used as required.

7. An estimate of the related costs is summarized below:

	<u>Cost</u>
	(United States dollars)
<u>Consultants</u>	
Nine work-months, including travel and subsistence while on mission	74 900
<u>Interpretation services</u>	
Fees	9 000
Travel and subsistence	5 400
<u>Translation services</u>	
200 pages from Arabic and 50 pages from Hebrew	<u>6 600</u>
	<u>95 900</u>

8. Should the Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.29, an additional appropriation of \$95,900 would be required under section 19 (UNHCS) of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.
