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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1973

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/L.677

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 155 of the rules of procedure

1. Under the terms of the draft resolution contained in document A/L.677, the General Assembly would approve the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1972 (A/8723 and Add.107), including the programme of work envisaged for 1973.

2. As outlined in the Special Committee's report (A/8723, part I, paragraphs 185-196), the programme of work envisaged for 1973 includes the following:

(a) Sending visiting groups to colonial Territories: \$86,000. In paragraph 191 of its report, the Special Committee states its intention to continue to seek the full co-operation of the administering Powers in order to enable it to obtain information by sending, as appropriate, visiting groups to the Territories in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific areas and in Africa. The estimate of \$86,000 provides for the related travel, subsistence and miscellaneous costs in respect of members of the Special Committee and the necessary supporting staff.

(b) Series of meetings away from Headquarters: \$160,000. In paragraph 194 of its report, the Special Committee indicates that, bearing in mind the constructive results flowing from meetings held away from Headquarters in previous years, it had decided to inform the General Assembly that it might consider holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters during 1973 and to recommend that, in making the necessary financial provisions to cover the activities of the Committee during that

year, the General Assembly should take that possibility into account. Based on past experience, the cost of one such series of meetings away from Headquarters may be estimated at approximately \$160,000.

(c) Visiting missions to liberated areas of certain Territories in Africa: \$6,000. As noted in paragraph 187 of its report, the Special Committee, in the light of the positive results achieved as a consequence of the visit by its Special Mission to the liberated areas of Guinea (Bissau), and availing itself of the invitations extended to it by the national liberation movements concerned, expects to dispatch similar missions to visit other colonial Territories in Africa. The related travel, subsistence and miscellaneous costs are estimated at \$6,000.

(d) Consultations by the Chairman of the Special Committee with the President of the Economic and Social Council: \$2,300. This estimate provides for the travel and subsistence costs of the Chairman of the Special Committee, accompanied by the Committee Secretary, for the consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council envisaged in paragraph 190 of the Committee's report, in the event that these consultations take place during a session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva.

(e) Consultations with the Organization for African Unity (OAU): \$6,800. In paragraph 190 of the Committee's report, it is noted that, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolution 2874 (XXVI), the Committee will maintain close contact on a regular basis with the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU, as well as senior members of the organization, with a view to facilitating effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies by the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned. In this connexion, it is estimated that an amount of \$6,800 may be required to cover the related travel and subsistence costs of one member of the Committee and a staff member for two visits to OAU headquarters in 1973.

(f) Participation in the proposed International Conference for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and Apartheid in Southern Africa: \$8,100. In connexion with this proposed conference, the Special Committee, in paragraph 193 of its report, states its belief that the General Assembly would wish it to be represented at the conference, in an appropriate capacity, should it take place, as projected, in 1973. Should the General Assembly approve representation of the Special Committee at the proposed conference, the related travel and subsistence costs are estimated at \$8,100, on the assumption that five members of the Committee, accompanied by two staff members, would attend.

(g) Consultations with non-governmental organizations: \$7,600. Paragraph 182 of the Special Committee's report records the Committee's agreement that it should institute periodic consultations with non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization by dispatching a small group of its members to meet with representatives of the organizations at their respective headquarters. An amount of \$7,600 has been estimated for such consultations in 1973, assuming a visit by three members of the Committee, accompanied by one staff member, to various headquarters in Europe and the Middle East.

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(h) Participation of representatives of national liberation movements in the Committee's work: \$12,000. In paragraph 187 of its report, the Special Committee states that, in view of the need for close and continuing contact with the liberation movements of the Territories concerned, to enable the Committee to discharge effectively the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly and in the light of the relevant provisions of the programme of action contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV), as well as of paragraph 14 of resolution 2878 (XXVI), the Committee will consider inviting, in consultation with OAU and through it, representatives of the liberation movements concerned to participate, whenever necessary and in an observer capacity, in its proceedings relating to their respective countries. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly should take this possibility into account in making the necessary financial provisions to cover the Committee's activities during 1973. The estimate of \$12,000 covers the anticipated costs of travel and subsistence, at Secretariat rates, of up to nine such representatives. As on previous occasions when similar expenditures by the United Nations were envisaged, the Secretary-General considers that specific authority by the General Assembly be required to enable him to enter into commitments of this nature and that adoption by the General Assembly of the draft resolution would constitute such authority.

3. It should be noted that the programme of work envisaged for 1973 by the Special Committee includes activities in the field of publicity on decolonization. Inasmuch as this matter is the subject of a separate draft resolution (A/L.678), the related statement of administrative and financial implications is contained in a separate document A/C.5/1456).

4. In summary, should all the activities described in paragraph 2 above take place in the course of 1973, the total costs, as indicated, are estimated at \$288,800, for which an appropriation would be required under chapter VII, of section 17 (Special missions) of the budget for 1973. In his initial budget estimates for that year (A/8706), the Secretary-General included a provisional estimate of \$165,000 to cover the activities of the Special Committee in 1973, indicating that, should it be necessary, that estimate would be revised when the actual programme of the Committee's activities were made known. In its related report (A/8708), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has similarly indicated that it would review the estimate for section 17 during its autumn session, after the work programmes of the Special Committee and other bodies had been formulated.

5. It is now clear that a final decision by the Special Committee in respect of some of its activities envisaged for 1973 will only be taken in the course of that year, and the estimates given above are therefore of a tentative nature. Consequently, the Secretary-General would recommend that, as was the case for 1972, the amount of \$165,000, which has been provisionally included under section 17 of the budget to cover the activities of the Special Committee in 1973, should be maintained, on the understanding that, if additional funds are required following the completion by the Special Committee of its programme of work, the Secretary-General will be authorized to incur such expenditures under the provisions of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 1973, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee.