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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975
AND MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1974-1977

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.708

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

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 and 3 of the draft resolution contained in document A/L.708, the General Assembly would approve the chapters of 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 relating to the question of publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and would request the Secretary-General, having regard to the suggestions of the Special Committee, to continue to take concrete measures through all the media at his disposal, including publications, radio and television, to give widespread and continuous publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, to the situation in the colonial Territories and to the continuing struggle for liberation being waged by the colonial peoples and, inter alia:

(a) To intensify the activities of all information centres, particularly those located in western Europe, and also to establish additional information centres where appropriate, especially in southern Africa;

(b) To maintain a close working relationship with the Organization of African Unity by holding periodic consultations and a systematic exchange of the relevant information with that organization;

(c) To enlist, from the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and from those non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization, support in the dissemination of the relevant information;

(d) To publish, in consultation with the Special Committee, the periodical Objective: Justice and the bulletin "United Nations and Southern Africa" in other languages besides English and French, as appropriate.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would further request the Secretary-General to establish a Unit on Decolonization within the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization which will, in consultation with the Special Committee and with the Office of Public Information, collect, prepare and disseminate, on a continuous basis, basic material, studies and articles relating to the problems of decolonization, and, to that end, to make provision for the necessary personnel and facilities.

3. Under the terms of operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to report to the Special Committee on the implementation of the present resolution.

4. With respect to the general proposals in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution for continued publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee, in paragraph 205 of its report, (A/9023 (part I)) estimates that approximately \$70,000 would be required for an additional programme of publicity in 1974. These funds would be used in consultation with the officers of the Special Committee.

5. With respect to the specific proposals in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the following financial consequences are foreseen:

(a) Pursuant to subparagraph 3 (a), the Office of Public Information will continue to intensify, within available resources, the activities of all information centres with regard to publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization: no additional funds would be required for this purpose. With reference to the request for additional information centres, it will be recalled that in the 1974-1975 biennial budget it has been proposed to establish two new information centres in Lusaka and Nairobi for which the corresponding appropriation has been requested. In addition, the draft resolution on the dissemination of information on apartheid (A/SPC/L.269/Rev.1), which was adopted by the Special Political Committee at its 888th meeting on 15 November 1973, calls for "the establishment of a United Nations information centre in an independent African State neighbouring South Africa". The financial requirements for such a centre have been presented in document A/C.5/1577. Both these proposals are before the Fifth Committee for consideration. Any additional centres would entail costs of the order of magnitude set forth in A/C.5/1577: \$44,000 for the first year and \$49,000 for succeeding years.

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(b) In accordance with subparagraph 3 (b), the Office of Public Information will continue its close working relationship with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and expects to provide that organization with relevant material on the subject of decolonization with the existing resources.

(c) As to subparagraph 3 (c), the Office of Public Information will continue within the resources of its regular programme and budgetary resources to enlist the support of non-governmental organizations.

(d) Subparagraph 3 (d) calls for publication of Objective: Justice and "United Nations and Southern Africa" in other languages besides English and French. On the assumption that Objective: Justice would be published four times a year in Spanish, it is estimated that a Spanish edition would cost \$20,000 annually for four issues of 5,000 copies each, including the cost of translation, editorial assistance and printing. Editions in additional languages would have approximately the same financial implications. In respect of published and selected issues in various languages, the Office of Public Information has found that the introduction of a new language edition serves a useful purpose only if it can be sustained and that introduction of a new language edition, followed by its discontinuance, gives rise to dissatisfaction. Nevertheless, publication of one issue in an additional language would cost approximately \$5,000. The production of the bulletin "United Nations and Southern Africa" in Spanish on a monthly basis is estimated to cost approximately \$1,200 to cover the cost of translation. In connexion with the publication of additional material, it is important to note that because of a severe paper shortage throughout the world it may not always be possible to produce all publications requested in the desired quantities.

6. Bearing in mind the recommendation contained in document A/C.5/1563 regarding the appropriation to be made for the activities of the Special Committee in 1974, and considering that some of the activities in this field will only be formulated in the course of 1974, the Secretary-General would recommend that the costs of the activities pertaining to paragraph 3 of the present draft resolution be met from within the appropriation to be made under section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975, with the exception of the publications referred to in subparagraph 3 (d), on the understanding that, if additional funds are required following the finalization by the Special Committee of its programme of work for 1974, the Secretary-General will be authorized to incur such expenditures under the provisions of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 1974, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In summary, therefore, and on the further assumption that no additional information centres are to be established other than those proposed separately, as described in paragraph 5 (a) above, the implementation of operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution would require an additional appropriation of \$21,200 in respect of 1974 under section 27 (A) of the proposed programme budget, and a similar amount in respect of 1975, should the Special Committee recommend continuation of the publication in additional languages of Objective: Justice and "United Nations and Southern Africa". The total for the biennium would thus be \$42,100.

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7. With respect to operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that the function of the Unit on Decolonization would be not only to assist the Office of Public Information in the task of collecting information on decolonization for dissemination to the general public but to serve as a centre for the preparation and dissemination of more detailed and specialized information, in the form of studies, articles and documentation, to non-governmental organizations, information media, universities, institutes, experts and groups actively engaged in promoting decolonization and in counteracting the propaganda efforts of the minority colonialist régimes in southern Africa that are seeking to influence public opinion, especially in western Europe.

8. The Unit would, in addition, be responsible for studying and determining the type of information and the form of presentation best suited to achieving the aims of the United Nations and would assist the Office of Public Information and the Special Committee in working out a programme of publicity on decolonization.

9. Implementation of the proposal calling for the creation for the biennium 1974-1975 of a Unit on Decolonization would require the provision of two additional Professional posts (one P-3 and one P-2) and one additional secretarial post (G-3). These would be supplementary to the posts provided for in section 22.9 of the Secretary-General's budget estimates for 1974-1975 for the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization.

10. This would require an additional appropriation of \$57,000 a/ under section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975. Such an appropriation would give rise to an additional amount of \$12,000 under section 34 (Staff assessment), offset by a similar amount under income section 1.

11. The cost of reproducing approximately 300 to 500 pages of studies, articles and documentation in two official languages in a total of 4,000 copies would be \$4,000, which would have to be appropriated under section 22, with a corresponding increase in the deductions shown in part XI under the heading "Printing: deduction for internal reproduction".

12. The total additional requirements under section 22 arising from operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution would therefore be \$61,000.

a/ After applying a turnover deduction of 50 per cent on Professional and 35 per cent on General Service posts for each year of the biennium.