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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/C.6/L.1006

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

1. Under the terms of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.6/L.1006, adopted unanimously by the Sixth Committee at its 1519th meeting on 6 December 1974, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirtieth session on relevant developments concerning human rights in armed conflicts, and would decide to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session an item entitled "Respect for human rights in armed conflicts".
2. In a related statement (A/C.6/L.1007) of administrative and financial implications, the Secretary-General stated to the Sixth Committee that preparation of the requested report would imply, as in 1974, the participation of a legal officer in the United Nations delegation attending the 1975 session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts to be held at Geneva from 3 February to 18 April 1975. It was also stated that for the purpose of the report the presence of a legal officer would be necessary in at least one other major relevant conference or meeting to be convened in 1975, which would probably be the Conference of Government Experts to be convoked by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the use of certain conventional weapons.
3. Attention is drawn to the fact that under the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.691 adopted by the First Committee, the Secretary-General was requested to report on the work of the Diplomatic Conference to the thirtieth session of the Assembly under agenda item "Napalm and other incendiary weapons and all aspects of their possible use"; that draft resolution contained in operative paragraph 3 an invitation to the Diplomatic Conference to continue its consideration

of the question of the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons. To avoid possible duplication of attendance at the Diplomatic Conference and at the Conference of Government Experts referred to in paragraph 2 above, the matter was specifically drawn to the attention of the two Secretariat units at Headquarters concerned. The Secretary-General is assured that, in view of the different technical aspects of the matters to be discussed, and the need to present separate reports to the Assembly on those aspects, it would be necessary for specialist members of the two Headquarters Secretariat units concerned to participate in the United Nations delegations attending the meetings.

4. Accordingly, the Secretary-General estimates that the cost of travel and subsistence required to send a legal officer to the Diplomatic Conference, for the full period of the Conference, would amount to approximately \$3,600. If, as expected, the Conference of Government Experts will meet at Lucerne for three weeks, it is estimated that the related travel and subsistence costs of sending a legal officer to that Conference would amount to \$2,000. These activities were not foreseen in the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975.

5. To the extent possible, the cost of translating and reproducing the requested report, of approximately 65 pages, would be met from within existing appropriations for Assembly documentation. This report, together with other reports not foreseen in the work programme for 1975, will be taken into consideration in the context of any supplementary estimates which may be submitted to the thirtieth session of the Assembly in connexion with preparation of Assembly documentation.

6. In summary, should the Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.6/L.1006, an additional appropriation of \$5,600 would be required under section 26 of the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975.
