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Agenda items 73 and 87

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION  
ON THE WORK OF ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Statement of the administrative and financial implications of the  
draft resolution contained in document A/C.6/L.996

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General 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.996, adopted by consensus of the Sixth Committee at its 1509th meeting, on 28 November 1974, the General Assembly would approve the programme of work planned by the International Law Commission for 1975. Paragraph 5 of part I of the draft resolution would approve a 12-week period for the annual sessions of the Commission, subject to review by the General Assembly whenever necessary.
2. A statement of financial implications (A/C.6/L.997) was before the Sixth Committee when it adopted the draft resolution.
3. It is estimated that extending the duration of sessions by two weeks would affect the following:
  - (a) In-session documentation, which averages 700 pages of documentation for a 10-week session and of which about 350 pages represent summary records, would be increased by about 70 pages of summary records and would total approximately 770 pages;
  - (b) Post-session documentation, comprising editing and printing the report and both volumes of the Year Book, would be increased proportionately to the increase in summary records;
  - (c) Subsistence allowance payable to members of the Commission would be increased by 20 per cent;

(d) Subsistence allowance payable to the six substantive staff members to be detailed from Headquarters would increase at rates appropriate to periods of travel in excess of 60 days.

4. The opinion has been expressed by both the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/9008/Add.14, para. 7) and the Joint Inspection Unit (A/9795, para. 334 a) that a tighter schedule might prove more economical than extending the length of the Commission's sessions. This question was discussed extensively by the Sixth Committee before adopting operative paragraph 6 of part I of the draft resolution, which would recognize the efficacy of the methods and conditions of work by which the International Law Commission has carried out its tasks, and operative paragraph 5 of part I, which specifically would authorize a 12-week period for the annual sessions.

5. The programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975 includes an amount of \$320,000 under section 25 to cover a 10-week session of the Commission during 1975. The amount budgeted covered the costs of recruiting, on a temporary assistance basis, some of the necessary language, conference, technical and other supporting staff required to service the meetings (\$74,000); the honoraria, travel and subsistence of members of the Commission and Special Rapporteurs, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2489 (XXIII) and 2491 (XXIII) (\$140,000); travel and subsistence of six substantive staff members to be detailed from Headquarters (\$21,000); and the printing of the Yearbook of the Commission (\$85,000).

6. In view of the proposal contained in the draft resolution for a 12-week session to be held in 1975, a review was made of the requirements for language and conference staff of such a session in Geneva. The following table indicates in man-weeks for each category of staff the total requirements for a 12-week session, the maximum contribution towards the needs of the session from the regular establishment and the requirements for temporary assistance for 12 weeks.

	Man-weeks		
	<u>Total requirement</u>	<u>Geneva contribution</u>	<u>Temporary assistance</u>
8 Interpreters	96	64	32
25 Translators	300	268	32
11 Revisers	132	116	16
10 Editors	125	38	87
24 Steno-typists	288	256	32
3 Secretaries	36	-	36
7 Documents production/ distribution staff	84	24	60
7 Supporting staff	<u>84</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>72</u>
	<u>1,145</u>	<u>778</u>	<u>367</u>

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7. The total cost of recruiting the necessary temporary staff in 1975 for a 12-week session of the Commission is estimated at \$184,000 (at an exchange rate of SwF 2.98 to \$US 1.00). After taking into consideration that \$74,000 was provided for temporary assistance in 1975 in the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975 and that an amount of \$7,000 is included in the performance report for the biennium 1974-1975 1/ to reflect adjustments of exchange rates from SwF 3.40 to SwF 2.98, an additional appropriation of \$103,000 would be required for temporary assistance.

8. As a result of the increased duration of the Commission's session, it is anticipated that the length of the Yearbook would be increased by approximately 45 pages in each language, for which additional printing costs estimated at \$5,000 would arise.

9. The costs of additional subsistence allowance payable to the members of the Commission would amount to approximately \$18,000, and additional subsistence allowance payments to the six substantive staff to be detailed from Headquarters would amount to approximately \$3,000.

10. In summary, adoption by the General Assembly of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.6/L.996 would give rise to the additional financial requirements mentioned in paragraphs 7 to 9 above, for which an additional appropriation amounting to \$129,000 would be required under section 25 of the programme budget. As a consequence of the increased requirements for temporary assistance, an additional appropriation of \$22,000 would be required under section 34 (staff assessment), offset by an increase of the same amount under income section 1 (income from staff assessment).

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1/ The amount of \$7,000 is included in the total of \$52,000 in table 25.2 of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975, Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/9606).