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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1976-1977

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES

Administrative and financial implications of the draft
resolution contained in document A/SPC/31/L.11

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

1. At its 31st meeting, held on 2 December 1976, the Special Political Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/31/L.11.
2. In operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution the General Assembly, having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/31/218) would request the Special Committee, pending the early termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967; and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to ensure the safeguarding of the welfare and human rights of the populations of the occupied territories.
3. In operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General: (a) to render all necessary facilities to the Special Committee, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories with a view to investigating Israeli policies and practices referred to in the draft resolution; (b) to continue to make available additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks; (c) to ensure the widest circulation of the report of the Special Committee, and of information regarding its activities and fundings, by all means available through the Office of Public Information, and where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee which are no longer available; and (d) to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session on the tasks entrusted to him.

4. For the purpose of arriving at an estimate of 1977 expenditures of the Special Committee, the following assumptions have been made on the basis of indications given by the Special Committee that its activities in 1977 would continue to follow the pattern of the programme of work undertaken by the Committee since 1970.

(a) The Special Committee would meet at Geneva early in 1977, for a period of approximately eight working days, to continue its study and analysis of the evidence and of documentary and other material that it has received. At that meeting, the Special Committee would review developments in the occupied territories, receive further allegations and evidence of violations of human rights, if any, and initiate studies of relevant new developments which may have taken place;

(b) In summer 1977, the Special Committee would meet in Geneva for a period of approximately two weeks (10 working days) to continue its study and analysis of further evidence, receive additional allegations and evidence of violations of human rights, if any, and begin the preparation of its draft report;

(c) In the latter part of September 1977, the Special Committee would meet at Headquarters for a period of approximately six working days in order to complete and adopt its report, which would run to approximately 100 pages in English. Should the Secretary-General as in the past issue the report as a document of the General Assembly, it would have to be translated, and reproduced in all the other official languages;

(d) Interpretation services would be required from and into English and French for the meetings held at Headquarters or in Geneva; documents prepared for the Special Committee's use will be drafted in English, and translation into French would be required;

(e) One member of the Special Committee would be stationed in Colombo, Sri Lanka, one in Dakar, Senegal, and one in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia;

(f) It may be anticipated that the Special Committee will require up-to-date information on current developments in the Middle East region and that, for this purpose, newspapers issued in the region will have to be reviewed on a day-to-day basis for information relevant to the work of the Special Committee; translation from Arabic and Hebrew into English and French of the appropriate articles appearing in Arabic and Hebrew publications would be required;

(g) Prior to proceeding on a field mission to Europe and the Middle East, it is anticipated that the Special Committee will review developments in the occupied territories and decide whether it considers such a mission necessary. Should the Special Committee so decide, the mission would probably take place during the late spring or early summer 1977 for a period of not more than 21 days. Alternatively, the Special Committee may invite witnesses to travel to Geneva or New York to provide the Committee with information relevant to its mandate;

(h) During the field mission, the Special Committee would hear testimony and receive written statements from witnesses; it would be necessary for the Committee to insert paid notices in newspapers for the purpose of informing potential witnesses of its hearings; some witnesses may require financial assistance to make the journey to the place of meeting of the Committee in order to testify;

(i) At the Special Committee's meetings on the mission, interpretation from and into English, French, Arabic and Hebrew would be required. No summary records would be prepared; the oral testimony of witnesses would be recorded on tape and, if and when capacity is available, would be transcribed in Geneva, 1/ and the written testimony would be translated into English and French from Arabic or Hebrew; the records of oral and written testimony of witnesses would run to approximately 2,000 pages in English and would be translated into French.

5. Pursuant to operative paragraph 10 (b), to continue to make available additional staff members as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its task, the Secretary-General proposes the continuation for one year on a temporary assistance basis of the funds made available last year for the addition of a junior staff member to the manning table of the Division of Human Rights for the purpose of assisting the Special Committee in indexing and preparing monthly summaries of transcripts of evidence which it continuously receives. Additional temporary assistance funds will also be required for secretarial assistance to service the meetings of the Special Committee in Geneva and in New York and to transcribe taped testimony.

6. The request to the Secretary-General, in operative paragraph 10 (c) of the draft resolution, to ensure the widest circulation of the report of the Special Committee by all means available through the Office of Public Information can be complied with within available resources.

7. On the above assumptions, the related costs are estimated as follows:

	Human Rights <u>Section 18</u> \$	Conference Services <u>Section 23</u> \$
I. <u>Meeting in Geneva, early 1977 (8 working days)</u>		
(a) Travel and subsistence of 3 members		
Travel (first class)	4,000	-
Subsistence	2,350	-
(b) Conference-servicing costs		
(i) Interpretation (6 interpreters)	-	10,500
(ii) Sound technician	-	1,000
(iii) Temporary assistance for transcription of taped testimony from Arabic and Hebrew into English (approximately 250 pages)	-	10,750

1/ If the mission is undertaken before May 1977, the transcription would be made at the estimated cost of \$4,200 for approximately 2,000 pages in English. However this will be offset by savings created by the possible changes in team composition as explained in foot-note 2.

	Human Rights <u>Section 18</u>	Conference Services <u>Section 23</u>
	\$	\$

(iv) Contractual translation and typing of newspaper articles and/or written testimony from Arabic and Hebrew into English and French (approximately 200 pages)	-	8 000
Subtotal I:	6 350	30 250

II. Meeting in Geneva, summer 1977 (10 working days)

(a) Travel and subsistence of 3 members		
Travel (first class)	4 000	-
Subsistence	2 800	-
(b) Conference-servicing costs		
(i) Interpretation (6 interpreters)	-	12 250
(ii) Sound technician	-	1 000
(iii) Temporary assistance for transcription of taped testimony from Arabic and Hebrew into English (approximately 250 pages)	-	10 750
(iv) Contractual translation and typing of newspaper articles and/or written testimony from Arabic and Hebrew into English and French (approximately 200 pages)	-	8 000
Subtotal II:	6 800	32 000

III. Field mission to Europe and the Middle East in late spring or early summer 1977 (approximately 21 days) - Geneva/London/Middle East region/Geneva 2/

(a) Travel and subsistence of 3 members		
(i) Travel (first class)	6 300	-
(ii) Subsistence	4 400	-

2/ If the Committee finds it necessary to undertake its mission later than May 1977 brief minutes would also be prepared of the testimony of witnesses, as the time for transcription of testimony would be reduced; consequently, it would be necessary to base the preparation of the draft report on minutes taken in the field, in addition to the tape recordings. In that case, the composition of staff would include four précis-writers and two secretarial staff instead of the two verbatim reporters.

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	<u>Human Rights Section 18</u>	<u>Conference Services Section 23</u>
	¢	\$
(b) Travel and subsistence of substantive and administrative staff (composition of staff listed below)		
Principal secretary	1	
Assistant secretary	1	
Administrative and Finance Officer	1	
Information Officer	1	
	—	
	4	
Travel	5 000	-
Subsistence	3 800	-
(c) Travel, subsistence and salaries of conference-servicing staff (free-lance) listed below		
Interpreters (Arabic/French/English/Hebrew to be recruited in the Middle East)	4	
Verbatim reporters or	2	
Précis-writers	4	
Secretaries for verbatim reporters or précis-writers	2 or 4	
Sound engineer	1	
	—	
	9 or 13	
Travel	-	16 250
Subsistence	-	12 300
Salaries	-	21 000
(d) General operating expenses	8 500	
(i) Rental of conference room and office space		
(ii) Local transportation		
(iii) Communications		
Administrative cables, telephone, etc.		
Press cables		
(iv) Air freight (sound equipment, tapes, etc.)		

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	Human Rights Section 18 \$	Conference Services Section 23 \$
(v) Miscellaneous and unforeseen expenses (travel and subsistence of witnesses, costs for notices in newspapers, etc.)		
Subtotal III:	28 000	49 550
 IV. <u>Meeting at Headquarters, September 1977 (6 working days)</u>		
(a) Travel and subsistence of members		
(i) Travel	6 900	-
(ii) Subsistence	1 900	-
(b) Travel and subsistence of staff members from Division of Human Rights		
Travel	2 000	-
Subsistence	1 000	-
(c) Conference-servicing staff		
(i) Interpretation (6 interpreters)		14 900
(ii) Temporary assistance for transcription of taped testimony from Arabic and Hebrew into English (approximately 250 pages)	-	10 750
(iii) Contractual translation and typing of newspaper articles and/or written testimony from Arabic and Hebrew into English and French (approximately 200 pages)	-	8 000
(iv) Contractual translation, typing and reproduction of the Special Committee's report as General Assembly document (approximately 100 pages) in five official languages	-	14 000
(v) Reproduction, printing and distribution of out-of-print documents	-	1 000
Subtotal IV:	11 800	48 650
 V. <u>Temporary assistance for indexing and summarizing of transcripts of evidence and secretarial assistance and overtime to service Special Committee</u>		
	29 000	-

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	Human Rights Section 18 \$	Conference Services Section 23 \$
<u>Summary</u>		
I. Meeting in Geneva, early 1977	6,350	30,250
II. Meeting in Geneva, summer 1977	6,800	32,000
III. Field mission to Europe and the Middle East in late spring or early summer 1977	28,000	49,550
IV. Meeting in New York in September 1977	11,800	48,650
V. Temporary assistance for servicing Special Committee	29,000	-
Total:	<u>81,950</u>	<u>160,450</u>

8. Accordingly, should the General Assembly approve the draft resolution in document A/SPC/31/L.11 and on the assumption that the Special Committee will implement in 1977 a programme of work similar to that carried out in 1976, including field missions, an appropriation of \$81,950 would be required in the proposed programme budget for 1976-1977 under section 18 to cover the general costs of the work programme of the Special Political Committee. Furthermore, an appropriation of \$6,100 would be required for staff assessment under section 25 offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1.

9. In addition, it is estimated that the 1977 programme of work of the Special Committee will require expenditures amounting to \$160,450 in conference-servicing costs. No appropriation is presently being requested for this purpose on the understanding that such a request will await the final "wrap-up" paper to be presented by the Secretary-General with regard to the additional conference-servicing costs for which appropriations will be requested after taking into account the available permanent and temporary conference-servicing resources of the Organization.