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Agenda items 92 and 25

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1976-1977

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/31/L.29

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

1. Under the terms of paragraph 5 of the draft resolution contained in document A/31/L.29, 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 (A/31/23 and addenda) covering its work during 1976 and the programme of work envisaged for 1977 (A/31/23 (part I), paras. 149-161). Under terms of paragraph 12 (d) of the draft resolution the Special Committee would be requested to pay particular attention to the small territories, including the sending of visiting missions thereto as appropriate.

2. The programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 includes provision of \$343,500 for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 1977.

3. The various elements of the proposed 1977 work programme as set out in chapter I of the report of the Special Committee (A/31/23 (part I)) and their related costs, based on assumptions derived from the past activities of the Committee, are as described below:

A. Sending visiting groups to colonial Territories: \$144,000

4. In paragraph 155 of chapter I of its report, the Special Committee states its intention to continue to seek the full co-operation of the administering Powers in

order to obtain first-hand information on the conditions of the Territories through the sending, as appropriate, of visiting groups to the Territories in the Caribbean and Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Ocean areas and to the Territories in Africa. The estimate of \$144,000 provides for related travel, subsistence and miscellaneous costs in respect of five members of the Special Committee and four Secretariat staff.

5. The General Assembly has adopted the draft resolutions, or draft consensuses, listed in annex I, which request the Special Committee to dispatch United Nations visiting missions to colonial Territories. In connexion with each of these resolutions, the Secretary of the Fourth Committee, in oral statements, informed the Fourth Committee, when the draft resolutions were under consideration, that the expenditure which may be incurred in complying with the draft resolutions would be met from within the appropriation that may be made available for the over-all programme of work of the Special Committee in 1977. The amount of \$144,000 above includes the costs of the visiting missions referred to in the draft resolutions and consensuses listed in annex I.

B. Series of meetings away from Headquarters: \$230,000

6. In paragraph 158 of chapter I of its report, the Special Committee indicates that, in keeping with the relevant provisions of resolutions 1654 (XVI) and 2621 (XXV), by which the Assembly authorized the Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions, and bearing in mind the constructive results flowing from the holding of meetings away from Headquarters in the past, it had decided to inform the General Assembly that it might consider holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters during 1977 and to recommend that, in making the necessary financial provision to cover the activities of the Committee during that year, the 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 \$230,000.

C. Consultations with specialized agencies: \$10,000

7. In paragraph 154 of chapter I of its report, the Special Committee notes its intention to continue its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The further consultations and contacts envisaged with the United Nations system of organizations would entail expenditures of \$10,000.

D. Consultations of the Chairman of the Special Committee with the President of the Economic and Social Council: \$5,200

8. This estimate covers travel and subsistence costs in respect of visits to Geneva by the Chairman of the Special Committee, accompanied by the Committee

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Secretary, for the purpose of consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and other related consultations envisaged in paragraph 154 of chapter I of the Committee's report.

E. Consultations with the Organization of African Unity (OAU): \$5,300

9. In paragraph 154 of chapter I of the Special Committee's report, it is noted that, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolution 3421 (XXX), 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 the 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 \$5,300 may be required to cover related travel and subsistence costs.

F. Consultations with non-governmental organizations: \$20,000

10. Paragraph 157 of chapter I of the Special Committee's report records the Committee's intention to seek close collaboration with non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization by dispatching during 1977 groups of its members to hold consultations with organizations concerned at their respective headquarters and to participate in conferences, seminars and other specialized meetings dealing with decolonization. An amount of \$20,000 has been estimated for such consultations in 1976.

G. Participation of the representatives of the national liberation movements in the Committee's work: \$13,000

11. In paragraph 151 of chapter I of its report, the Special Committee states that, in conformity with the relevant decision of the General Assembly and in accordance with established practice, it will again invite representatives of national liberation movements recognized by OAU to participate as observers in the proceedings of the Committee relating to their respective countries. The estimate of \$13,000 covers the anticipated costs of travel and subsistence, at Secretariat rates. Authority for such a commitment exists in terms of General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX).

H. Invitations to individuals: \$22,500

12. In paragraph 151 of chapter I of its report, the Special Committee states its intention to invite in consultation, as appropriate, with OAU and the national liberation movements concerned, individuals who could furnish it with information on specific aspects of the situation obtaining in colonial Territories which it might not otherwise be able to secure. The arrangements anticipated would entail an expenditure of up to \$22,500. As on previous occasions when similar expenditures by the United Nations were envisaged, the Secretary-General considers that specific

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authority by the General Assembly would be required to enable him to enter into commitments of this nature and would proceed on the assumption that adoption by the General Assembly of the draft resolution would constitute such authority.

I. Dissemination of Information

13. The programme of work for 1977 includes, in paragraph 156 of A/31/23 (part I), activities in the field of publicity on decolonization. This matter is the subject of a separate draft resolution (A/31/L.30) in respect of which no additional appropriations are envisaged.

J. Summary

14. In summary, adoption of the draft resolution in document A/31/L.29 would entail expenditures estimated at \$450,000 for 1977. Bearing in mind that an amount of \$343,500 is already included in respect of the programme of work of the Special Committee for 1977, and the possibility that not all of the activities described above will be fully carried out, no additional appropriation is requested at this time. Should the implementation of the approved programme of work of the Special Committee require funds additional to those already provided for this purpose, the Secretary-General would so report to the General Assembly in his performance report on the programme budget.

Annex I

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEM 25 WHICH ENVISAGE DISPATCH  
OF VISITING MISSIONS TO COLONIAL TERRITORIES

Adopted by the Fourth Committee

<u>Document</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
A/C.4/31/L.6/Rev.1	British Virgin Islands	18	8 November 1976
A/C.4/31/L.7	Gilbert Islands and Tuvalu	25	15 November 1976
A/C.4/31/L.12	Brunei	28	18 November 1976
A/C.4/31/L.14	Tokelau Islands	25	15 November 1976
A/C.4/31/L.19/Rev.1	New Hebrides	27	17 November 1976
A/C.4/31/L.20/Rev.1	Bermuda	27	17 November 1976
A/C.4/31/L.20/Rev.1	Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands	27	17 November 1976
A/C.4/31/L.22	American Samoa	28	18 November 1976
A/C.4/31/L.25	United States Virgin Islands	29	19 November 1976
A/C.4/31/L.26	Guam	32	25 November 1976

Draft consensuses relating to agenda item 25 which envisage dispatch  
of visiting missions to colonial Territories

A/C.4/31/L.17	St. Helena	27	17 November 1976
A/C.4/31/L.24	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	28	18 November 1976

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