

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE  
AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS**

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**SECOND TO ELEVENTH REPORTS  
ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET  
FOR  
THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-SECOND SESSION

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DOCUMENT A/42/7/Add.1

Second report

Revised estimates under section 28I.1 (International Civil Service Commission), section 31 (Staff assessment), income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) and income section 2 (General income)

[Original: English]

[8 July 1987]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/1), in which he submits revised estimates under section 28I.1 (International Civil Service Commission), section 31 (Staff assessment), income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) and income section 2 (General income) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. 1/ During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General and of the Executive Secretary of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).
2. In paragraph 2 of his report, the Secretary-General states that provisional estimates for the Commission were included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 because "the Commission had not yet formulated its proposals for the 1988-1989 biennium". That statement notwithstanding, the Advisory Committee notes that the Commission's twenty-fifth session, during which the draft budget estimates prepared by its secretariat were reviewed, was held from 9 to 27 March 1987. The estimates, as revised by the Commission, were subsequently endorsed by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions during its sixty-sixth session held from 30 March to 3 April 1987.
3. In view of that time frame, the Advisory Committee queried why it had not been possible to delay the production of section 28I of the proposed programme budget until after 3 April. According to representatives of the Secretary-General, the issuance of the fascicle at a later date would have been possible; however, had that procedure been followed, the issuance of the introduction to the budget and the overview tables and annexes to the introduction would have been considerably delayed.
4. Taking into account the above, the Committee trusts that ICSC will take appropriate steps in the future to ensure that the Commission's proposals can be taken into account by the Secretary-General when he prepares his initial programme budget proposals. In this connection, the Committee reiterates its opinion that "late submissions and the corresponding use of provisional estimates impede the normal consideration of programme budget proposals submitted to the General Assembly". 2/
5. The revised estimate for ICSC amounts to \$8,045,900. As shown in table 28I.2 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/1), that total is \$335,100 higher than the revised 1986-1987 appropriation; the rate of real growth has been calculated at minus 0.4 per cent. As can be seen from the same table, a decrease of \$61,500 (at revised 1987 rates) is shown under the resource growth column.

6. The revised estimate of \$8,045,900 for ICSC is \$2,000 less than the provisional estimate of \$8,047,900 indicated in table 28I.4 of section 28I of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. As explained by the Secretary-General in paragraph 8 of his report, the decrease of \$2,000 "is the net effect of an increase in the revalued base of \$60,900 ... offset by negative resource growth of \$61,500 in a number of objects of expenditure". The Advisory Committee notes that these adjustments affect the provision for the projected 1988-1989 inflation (ibid., table 28I.2, and A/42/6 (sect. 28I), table 28I.4). When the three factors are taken together, the net result is a decrease of \$2,000 in the overall estimate.

7. The increase of \$60,900 in the revalued base is explained in paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's report. The Advisory Committee notes from the same paragraph that this adjustment has been made to correct an error and that if that had not been done, "ICSC would have provision for only one meeting in Europe rather than the usual two".

8. The decrease of \$61,500 (at revised 1987 rates) in resource growth includes a reduction of \$26,000 under temporary assistance for meetings, as indicated in table 28I.2 of the Secretary-General's report. As explained in paragraph 12 of the report, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will host the spring 1988 meeting of the Commission and will absorb all costs except those relating to Russian language services. Consequently, the resources under temporary assistance for meetings relate primarily to the spring 1989 session, thus giving rise to the non-recurrent reduction of \$26,000 (at revised 1987 rates).

9. As shown in table 28I.3 of the report (A/C.5/42/1), the Commission's secretariat comprises 24 posts in the Professional category and above (1 D-2, 3 D-1, 2 P-5, 10 P-4, 5 P-3 and 3 P-2/1) and 28 General Service posts, including 2 at the Principal level. That composition reflects the reclassification of 6 posts as proposed in paragraph 17 of the report, namely, 2 P-3 posts to the P-4 level, 2 P-4 posts to the P-3 level, 1 P-3 post to the P-2 level and 1 P-4 post to the P-5 level. In this connection, the Secretary-General states in the same paragraph that "the two P-3 to P-4 and the two P-4 to P-3 may be covered by redeployment with no increase in staffing levels. However, the net result of the downgrading of one P-3 to P-2 and the upgrading of one P-4 to P-5 is an increase of \$3,600 [at revised 1987 rates]".

10. The Advisory Committee does not object to these reclassifications, which, as stated in paragraph 18 of the report of the Secretary-General, were recommended by an independent classification review and were endorsed by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions.

11. In chapter I, table 1, of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, 3/ the Advisory Committee has recommended a reduction of \$70,300 for section 28I. Taking into account the Secretary-General's revised estimates for ICSC, the Advisory Committee now recommends a further reduction of \$2,000 under section 28I. In addition, an amount of \$200 will be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). As explained in paragraph 34 of the report of the Secretary-General, the revised estimates would also entail a reduction of \$1,200 under income section 2 (General income).

Third report

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 - Programmatic and budgetary aspects: update of the progress report of the Secretary-General (A/42/234 and Corr.1)

[Original: English]

[12 October 1987]

1. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, 1/ the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions discussed the progress report issued by the Secretary-General at the beginning of May (A/42/234 and Corr.1) on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 and called for an update to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-second session. 2/ The Secretary-General states, in paragraph 2 of the update of the progress report (A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1), that "the present report gives fuller and more detailed programmatic and budgetary information on reforms already implemented, and outlined in the progress report of the Secretary-General, as they relate to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989".
2. In paragraph 3 of the update of the progress report (*ibid.*), it is indicated that, "in order to maintain the integrity and coherence of the budget presentation, the changes to the Secretary-General's proposals ... follow the same principles as the initial presentation and do not involve any net change in the overall level of the proposed budget". The Advisory Committee notes the updated information provided in document A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1. Consistent with what is quoted immediately above, the various transfers and redeployments of posts referred to in that document do not affect the total number of posts in the staffing table.
3. The Advisory Committee points out that in the coming months the pace of reform should accelerate and that, in addition to such further organizational changes as the Secretary-General may deem necessary, work should be completed on the post reduction exercise.
4. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph 14 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 1/ it recommended that

"the Secretary-General should complete the reviews and studies now under way in time to prepare his proposals for revised estimates by 1 April 1988 for submission to CPC [the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination], ACABQ [the Advisory Committee] and the General Assembly at its forty-third session. The revised estimates should be accompanied by information on staffing (in tabular form) that would show the intended result of the application of recommendation 15 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts in comparison with the information included in the proposed programme budget. To the extent that these staffing tables would reflect redeployments among the sections of the budget (since some programmes will have lost more than 15 per cent of their posts, while others less), the estimates for each section should be adjusted accordingly".

5. As requested by the Advisory Committee, the update of the progress report (A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1) contains an annex which indicates, for the purpose of the resolution on budget appropriations for the biennium 1988-1989, the budgetary implications of the measures taken by the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee had pointed out in paragraph 12 of its first report on the proposed programme budget, that "the preparation of such an annex, and action by the General Assembly upon it, would also allow the Secretary-General to implement, at the earliest time, changes that the General Assembly has already accepted, without having to request concurrence for transfers between sections prior to the forty-third session of the Assembly". The following table shows the effect of the proposals contained in table 2 of the annex to the update of the progress report on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as originally contained in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. It should be noted that the total recommended by the Advisory Committee for the budget, as shown in the table below, is unchanged from that recommended in its first report.

Summary of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on  
Administrative and Budgetary Questions compared with the  
Secretary-General's revised programme budget proposals for  
the biennium 1988-1989

Section	Secretary-General's revised programme budget proposals for the biennium 1988-1989 (see A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1)	Related recommendations of the Advisory Committee	Increase/ (decrease)
(Thousands of United States dollars)			
1	43 749.9	42 382.0	(1 367.9)
2A	79 025.1	75 731.8	(3 293.3)
2B	9 075.7	8 755.5	(320.2)
3	31 326.6	30 503.7	(822.9)
4	1 188.0	1 149.4	(38.6)
5A	3 886.1	3 783.0	(103.1)
5B	653.9	628.9	(25.0)
6	-	-	-
6A	40 651.8	39 083.0	(1 568.8)
6B	9 772.1	9 354.2	(417.9)
7	19 810.4	19 042.5	(767.9)
8	-	-	-
9	9 599.5	9 210.3	(389.2)
10	30 156.6	28 926.1	(1 230.5)
11	33 362.9	32 135.9	(1 227.0)

Secretary-General's  
revised programme  
budget proposals for  
the biennium 1988-1989  
(see A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1)

Related recommendations of  
the Advisory Committee

Increase/  
(decrease)

Section

(Thousands of United States dollars)

12	40 486.8	39 458.4	(1 028.4)
13	44 023.0	42 556.0	(1 467.0)
14	33 015.9	31 944.5	(1 071.4)
15	65 805.8	63 215.8	(2 590.0)
16	12 274.8	12 242.8	(32.0)
17	4 037.7	3 887.2	(150.5)
18	10 611.2	10 286.5	(324.7)
19	8 408.5	8 100.0	(308.5)
20	6 977.8	6 698.6	(279.2)
21	36 672.6	35 339.0	(1 333.6)
22	6 300.7	6 082.5	(218.2)
23	14 242.8	13 798.9	(443.9)
24	31 147.1	31 147.1	-
25	11 191.3	11 012.1	(179.2)
26	16 132.2	15 390.4	(741.8)
27	75 745.0	73 426.8	(2 318.2)
28	352 833.3	344 426.7	(8 406.6)
29	309 201.9	296 564.4	(12 637.5)
30	3 459.6	3 520.8	61.2
31	268 504.0	262 282.0	(6 222.0)
32	18 041.8	17 874.8	(167.0)
33	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 681 372.4</b>	<b>1 629 941.6</b>	<b>(51 430.8)</b>

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/42/7).

2/ Ibid., chap. I, paras. 12 and 13.

Fourth report

Construction projects at Bangkok and Addis Ababa: revised estimates under section 32 (Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises)

[Original: English]

[14 October 1987]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/4) on the status of the two projects for construction of additional conference facilities at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at Bangkok and at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at Addis Ababa.
2. In paragraph 3 of his report, the Secretary-General explains why scheduled work on the two construction projects has largely been postponed during the current biennium. A description of developments up to the time that work on both projects was suspended during 1986 is provided in paragraphs 7 to 9, 15 and 16 of the report.
3. In the mean time, on the basis of the rationale outlined in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report (*ibid.*) the Secretary-General has initiated a reassessment of room and seating requirements for the expansion of conference facilities at the two regional commissions. According to the Secretary-General, the conclusions drawn from the review conducted by the Office of General Services at Headquarters in consultation with the ESCAP Secretariat Advisory Group and with the ECA technical panel led him to submit revised proposals that would entail the reduction at ESCAP of between 41 and 48 per cent (*ibid.*, para. 11) and at ECA of between 51 and 57 per cent (*ibid.*, para. 18) in total seating for all conference rooms. There would also be consequential elimination of a number of conference and caucus rooms for both projects. Revised tentative completion dates of mid-1992 for the ESCAP project (*ibid.*, para. 11) and early 1993 for the ECA project (*ibid.*, para. 18) are also envisaged. A comparison of the revised room and seating proposals with the original proposals is provided in tables 1 and 2 of the report.
4. On the basis of his revised proposals, the Secretary-General indicates in paragraphs 12 and 19 of his report, tentative and very preliminary revised estimates of between \$30 and \$35 million for the ESCAP project and between \$40 and \$45 million for the ECA project. This compares with the amounts shown in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the report of \$44,177,700 and \$73,501,000 originally approved by the General Assembly in resolution 39/236 of 18 December 1984 for the ESCAP and ECA projects, respectively.
5. In paragraphs 13 and 20 of his report, the Secretary-General states that he is not seeking additional appropriations at this time since he intends to finance estimated resource requirements in 1988 to implement his revised proposals from the unexpended balance of approved appropriations placed in construction accounts for the two projects.



6. It is pertinent to recall that the Advisory Committee has been considering proposals by the Secretary-General related to both projects since 1982. The General Assembly itself has been considering the ECA project since 1982 and the ESCAP project since 1983. When, in sections III and XI of its resolution 39/236, the Assembly approved in principle the scope and cost of the two construction projects, it did so on the basis of detailed proposals and estimates developed by the Secretary-General up to that point in time that also took into account observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Furthermore, by section I, paragraph 1 (a), of resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the Assembly decided that the implementation of recommendation 5 of the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations 1/ should not prejudice the implementation of projects and programmes already approved by the Assembly.

7. The Advisory Committee notes, from paragraphs 46 to 55 of part two of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-seventh session, 2/ views exchanged between certain delegations and the representatives of the Secretary-General concerning the rationale advanced for submitting the revised proposals. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes the statement in paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/4) that the size and facilities approved for the two projects were originally developed on the basis of global conferences and that the revised proposals correspond to a scaling down of the projects to meet regional conference requirements. However, the Committee recalls that while in paragraph 25 of his report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the ECA construction project 3/ the Secretary-General did indeed associate his expansion factor proposals for the seating capacity in the various conference rooms with the possible future holding of a major United Nations conference in Addis Ababa, it was concluded in paragraph 54 that the primary objective of incorporating such an expansion factor was to meet medium- and long-term needs of ECA. Similarly, in the case of the ESCAP project, incorporation of an expansion factor was envisaged as meeting the Commission's conference needs for some 20 years after construction. 4/

8. The revised projections of the costs of the two projects indicated by the Secretary-General (see para. 4 above) are tentative and very preliminary. It is stated in paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/42/4) that more accurate estimates can be established for the ESCAP project "only after a detailed reassessment of space requirements and the development of a revised concept design, when the related architectural and engineering work has been completed", and will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-third session. In response to its inquiries, representatives of the Secretary-General also informed the Advisory Committee that the preliminary figures indicated were based on 1987 prices and did not include provision for inflation and contingency reserve. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that further delay, either in deciding on the scope of the projects or in undertaking the actual work, could very well lead to higher costs in the future.

#### Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

2/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 16 and addendum (A/42/16 and Add.1).

3/ A/C.5/38/82.

4/ See A/C.5/39/24, para. 21.

Fifth report

Revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1987

[Original: English]

[3 November 1987]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/16), in which he submits revised estimates attributable to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1987.
2. As shown in the annex to the Secretary-General's report, total requirements in 1987 are estimated at \$1,363,800, of which \$770,600 provides for conference-servicing requirements calculated on a full-cost basis and \$593,200 (including \$40,000 in extrabudgetary resources) covers requirements other than those for conference servicing. The Advisory Committee notes that no appropriations are being requested for these estimates since, as the Secretary-General states in paragraph 2 of the report, his intention is "to absorb the additional requirements to the maximum extent possible and report the expenditures to the General Assembly in the context of the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 [see A/C.5/42/40 and Add.1, Add.2, (Parts I and II), Add.3 and 4, Add.5 (Parts I-III), Add.6-16 and Add.18-36]".
3. Total requirements in 1988-1989 are estimated at \$7,535,900 (see A/C.5/42/16, annex). Of this total, \$6,279,800 relates to conference-servicing requirements calculated on a full-cost basis. For the reasons stated in paragraph 4 of his report, the Secretary-General plans to meet the actual cost of these conference-servicing requirements from the appropriation to be approved by the General Assembly at its current session under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, "provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the next biennium is consistent with the pattern experienced over the past five years".
4. The balance of \$1,256,100 is for non-conference-servicing requirements attributable to 15 resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council. In respect of 12 of those resolutions and decisions, the Secretary-General expects to absorb their related costs, estimated at \$328,100, from appropriations to be approved by the General Assembly at its current session under three sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 (*ibid.*, para. 5, and annex, footnote *c*/). Consequently, the Secretary-General requests additional appropriations for 1988-1989 totalling \$928,000, net of staff assessment, under section 4 (\$720,800), section 6B (\$44,100) and section 27 (\$163,100), in respect of three Council resolutions, as follows:

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(United States dollars)		
Resolution 1987/3	44 100	-	44 100
Resolution 1987/21	-	87 500	87 500
Resolution 1987/49	<u>366 400</u>	<u>430 000</u>	<u>796 400</u>
Total (net of staff assessment)	<u>410 500</u>	<u>517 500</u>	<u>928 000</u>

5. The requests for \$928,000 are explained in paragraphs 6 to 34 of the Secretary-General's report. A breakdown of the estimates by object of expenditure is also provided in the table in paragraph 35 of the report. The related observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee are contained in the following paragraphs.

Resolution 1987/3. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

6. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 1987/3, the Economic and Social Council recommended that

"the General Assembly, at its forty-second session, consider the request of the Committee [on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women] for additional meetings, on an exceptional basis, as contained in its report, taking into account the views expressed by delegations, the financial situation of the United Nations and the priorities identified by the Secretary-General in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989".

7. The Advisory Committee notes the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that the General Assembly take into account the financial situation of the United Nations when considering the request of the Committee to hold additional meetings.

8. In paragraphs 10 and 11 of his report (A/C.5/42/16), the Secretary-General states that resources for servicing the seventh session of the Committee in New York in 1988 have been included in his programme budget proposals for the biennium 1988-1989. He indicates his understanding that should the General Assembly approve the Committee's request for additional meetings, this would involve the addition of eight serviced meetings to its seventh session at an additional cost of \$44,100 under section 6B (Activities on global social development issues). Of this amount, \$26,600 covers additional subsistence requirements for members of the Committee. 1/ The balance of \$17,500 provides for travel and subsistence costs for substantive servicing staff from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs located at Vienna.

9. In response to its inquiries, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the estimate for additional subsistence requirements for members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had been prepared on a full-cost basis. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, on the basis of past experience, account should have been taken

of non-attendance or attendance for less than the full duration of the session by members of the Committee. Accordingly, should the General Assembly approve the request for additional meetings, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate be reduced by \$5,300 (approximately 20 per cent), from \$26,600 to \$21,300.

10. With regard to the estimate for travel and subsistence of staff, the Advisory Committee does not object to the request for additional subsistence for three substantive servicing staff from the Centre if the General Assembly approves the request for additional meetings. However, the Committee is not convinced by the request to provide for travel and subsistence costs of three more staff members on the grounds that "with the separation of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, additional staff from the Centre will be required for servicing the Committee's session when it meets in New York" (A/C.5/42/16, para. 10). In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate for travel and subsistence of staff be reduced by \$15,000, from \$17,500 to \$2,500.

11. The Advisory Committee recalls that article 20, paragraph 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 2/ states that "the meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee". In response to its inquiries, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that it was the practice of the Committee to alternate its sessions between New York and Vienna. In view of the separation of the Centre, the substantive servicing unit for this Committee, from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and bearing in mind the economies that can be achieved, the Advisory Committee trusts that the Committee will review its practice and consider holding all its future sessions at Vienna.

Resolution 1987/21. Improving the ability of the Commission on the Status of Women to carry out its mandate

12. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 1987/21, the Economic and Social Council decided that, commencing with its thirty-second session (in 1988), the Commission on the Status of Women should meet annually until the year 2000. In paragraph 7 of his report (A/C.5/42/16), the Secretary-General states that resources for the thirty-second session of the Commission have already been included in his programme budget proposals for the biennium 1988-1989. However, he indicates that the cost of convening the thirty-third session of the Commission at Vienna in 1989 has not been provided for and would require additional resources totalling \$87,500 under section 4 (Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)). The estimate comprises \$65,000 for travel of 32 representatives of member States and \$22,500 for travel and subsistence of six staff members (two technical servicing staff members from New York and one staff member each from four of the regional commissions).

13. In response to its inquiries, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the estimate for travel of representatives had been prepared on a full-cost basis. For the same reason stated in paragraph 9 above, the Committee recommends that this estimate be reduced by \$13,000 (20 per cent), from \$65,000 to \$52,000.

14. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the request for travel of staff from the regional commissions. With regard to the request for travel of staff from New York for technical servicing, the Committee points out that

consistent with the separation of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the subsequent incorporation of the Centre in the United Nations Office at Vienna, arrangements should be made for the provision of such services at Vienna. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate for travel of staff be reduced by \$5,600, from \$22,500 to \$16,900.

Resolution 1987/49. Preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

15. Resolution 1987/49 deals with preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be convened in 1990. On the basis of assumptions discussed in paragraphs 26 to 33 of his report (A/C.5/42/16), the Secretary-General estimates resource requirements to carry out preparatory work for the Congress at \$796,400. Of this amount, \$633,300 (under section 4 of the proposed programme budget) relates to substantive activities and covers the cost of regional preparatory meetings (\$181,500), interregional preparatory meetings of experts (\$187,000), requirements for the temporary strengthening of the Centre (\$245,100) and participation of regional commissions in the tenth session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (\$19,700). The balance of \$163,100 (under section 27) is for public information activities.

16. In response to its inquiries, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the scope and cost of preparatory activities proposed for the Eighth Congress were largely comparable with those authorized for the Seventh Congress, held in 1985. However, during its review of the estimate for substantive preparatory activities, the Advisory Committee has concluded that judicious management of resources, particularly those proposed for consultants, should give rise to economies. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that this estimate be reduced by \$33,300, from \$633,300 to \$600,000.

17. The estimate for public information activities includes a request for two temporary non-recurrent posts for 12 work-months each (one at the P-4 level for a project manager and one General Service support post). In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the functions ascribed to these temporary posts are largely for co-ordination and should be carried out by existing staff in the Department of Public Information. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that this request not be approved, with a consequential reduction in the estimate for preparatory public information activities of \$103,800, from \$163,100 to \$59,300.

Recapitulation

18. In paragraphs 9, 10, 13, 14, 16 and 17 above, the Advisory Committee has recommended reductions totalling \$176,000. It therefore recommends that the following additional amounts attributable to resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1987 be approved for the biennium 1988-1989:

<u>Section</u>	<u>United States dollars</u>
4. Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)	668 900
6B. Activities on global social development issues	23 800
27. Public information	<u>59 300</u>
Total	<u><u>752 000</u></u>

19. There will also be need to appropriate an additional amount of \$39,300 (instead of \$59,100 as requested by the Secretary-General) under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

#### Notes

1/ The reference to travel and subsistence in paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General is incorrect.

2/ General Assembly<sup>o</sup> resolution 34/180, annex.

Sixth report

Loan to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization:  
special appropriation under General Assembly resolution 40/253 A

[Original: English]

[3 November 1987]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/10) regarding the United Nations loan to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). During its consideration of the matter, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General and of UNIDO.
2. Background information with respect to the loan approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/253 A of 18 December 1985 is contained in paragraphs 1 to 6 of the Secretary-General's report. As recalled in paragraph 4 of the report, \$16 million of the approved loan of \$24 million was advanced by the United Nations in 1986; in accordance with modalities approved by the Advisory Committee, 1/ this amount was to be repaid by 31 December 1987. However, in the light of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, 2/ the Assembly, in its resolution 41/209, sect. VI, of 11 December 1986, decided, inter alia, that income from the repayment of the loan would be credited to income section 2 (General income) only in 1988, unless UNIDO found it possible to repay the loan in 1987. In that case, the repayment would be reflected in the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.
3. As stated in paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/42/10), "according to information received from UNIDO, the organization will not be able to make any loan repayment in 1987". Moreover, as proposed by the Director-General of UNIDO to that organization's Industrial Development Board in June 1987, UNIDO would make payments "from assessed contributions received in 1987 and 1988 whenever the outstanding balance for assessed contributions is less than the amount of the Working Capital Fund established for UNIDO by the General Conference plus the outstanding balance of the United Nations loan". 3/
4. After considering this proposal, the Industrial Development Board requested the Director-General to continue to negotiate a revised modality for repayment of the loan and to submit a programme for repayment to the fourth session of the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee to be held in June 1988. That modality has not yet been agreed upon; indeed, the Advisory Committee notes that "the Secretary-General doubts that it will be possible to conclude negotiations on a modality for repayment of the loan prior to June 1988, given the continued financial uncertainties of UNIDO and the formula proposed by the Director-General, which appears to give a relatively low priority to loan repayment" (A/C.5/42/10, para. 10).
5. The Advisory Committee also notes that UNIDO has already concluded "that it seems unlikely that it would have funds available to repay any part of the loan before the fourth quarter of 1988, and that it would appear possible only to

commence repayment in 1989, depending on the level of its outstanding contributions" (ibid., para. 12).

6. In paragraph 13 of his report, the Secretary-General recalls that, "pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/209, section VI, provision has been made in income section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 to reflect repayment of the loan, in full". The Secretary-General also notes in the same paragraph that, in accordance with financial regulation 5.2 (b), "Member States' assessments to the United Nations would be reduced, in anticipation of UNIDO loan repayments, by \$8 million in 1988 and by a further \$8 million in 1989".

7. Since it is unlikely that UNIDO will make any repayments in 1988, the application of financial rule 5.2 (b) would result in a cash shortfall of \$8 million in 1988. According to the Secretary-General, in paragraph 14 of his report, "the financial situation of the United Nations is not strong enough" to absorb such a shortfall. Consequently, as stated in the same paragraph, the Secretary-General proposes that the matter "be considered separately in the annual financing resolutions for the budget". The Secretary-General also proposes that "the assessment on Member States for 1988 not be reduced by any part of this loan, and that the assessment for 1989 be reduced only by that part of the loan which is actually repaid in 1988".

8. The Advisory Committee regrets that UNIDO has not been able to repay even a part of the loan. While not unsympathetic to the difficult financial situation of UNIDO, it nevertheless is concerned by the continued deferral of the loan repayment. The Committee's concern is exacerbated by UNIDO's conclusion, as noted in paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's report, that even in 1989, repayment would depend on the level of its outstanding contributions. Consequently, in the Committee's view, deferrals beyond 1988-1989 are not inconceivable.

9. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee believes that a pragmatic and realistic modality for repayment, including a specific schedule of payments, should be negotiated and submitted to the Advisory Committee no later than at its fall 1988 session. Once approved, the schedule of payments should be strictly adhered to.

10. Pending submission of the above-mentioned repayment plan, the Advisory Committee concurs with the proposal of the Secretary-General that assessments on Member States for 1988 should not be reduced by the above-mentioned \$8 million. The Committee recommends that a decision regarding the 1989 assessments be taken by the General Assembly at its forty-third session, once a modality for repayment has been approved.

#### Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/40/7/Add.1-18), document A/40/7/Add.14, para. 5.

2/ A/C.5/41/33.

3/ See IDB.3/32, para. 11.



## Seventh report

Revised estimates under section 28E (Management Services Division)

[Original: English]

[6 November 1987]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/18) on revised estimates under section 28E (Management Services Division) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.
2. The Secretary-General's initial proposals under section 28E amounted to \$18,688,800. As stated in paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General (*ibid.*) the revised proposals entail an additional amount of \$3.5 million. The Advisory Committee notes that this represents the 1988-1989 requirements of a project aimed at developing and implementing an Integrated Management Information System. According to the Secretary-General, this System, which is described in paragraph 49 of the progress report of the Secretary-General (A/42/234 and Corr.1) on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 as "an overall framework for administrative and financial systems", is needed "to ensure that accurate, timely and consistent administrative and financial information is available to decision makers, that key operations and functions are properly supported and that available technology is used in the most effective manner" (A/C.5/42/18, para. 4).
3. In paragraphs 5 and 6 of his report, the Secretary-General explains that information systems in the United Nations have been developed in isolation and have not been integrated. As a result,
 

"few systems in the financial, human resources and related programmes capture and utilize common information efficiently; there is much duplication of clerical effort relating to the same information elements; many operations which should be automated continue to be performed manually; multiple or geographically dispersed implementation efforts for similar systems, facilitated by the availability of easy-to-use, low-cost hardware and software, have resulted in further fragmentation of information; and the expected impact of productivity gains from automation efforts has been reduced" (*ibid.*, para. 6).
4. In paragraph 7 of his report, the Secretary-General concludes that if the administrative functions of the Organization are to be carried out by fewer staff members, the current labour-intensive procedures must be redesigned. In his view, the planned Integrated Management Information System "would help reduce existing bureaucratic overlay of functions and administrative costs", in that all of its sub-systems would be compatible, with common data entered only once. Consequently, each sub-system could draw upon information entered or generated by another.

5. According to the Secretary-General, another benefit to be gained from such a system relates to decision-making. As stated in paragraph 8 of his report, an integrated system "would facilitate decisions relating to the reallocation of scarce resources" and "would allow various levels of management to examine, within their respective areas of responsibility, the potential consequences of alternative decisions under consideration". Along the same lines, the Secretary-General states in paragraph 10 that the System would become a "source of decision-making information throughout the Organization". In this connection, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that, more precisely, the System would become a source of decision-making information on management and administrative issues.

6. As stated in paragraph 12 of the report of the Secretary-General, the project would take approximately six years (from 1988 to 1993) to complete, at an estimated cost of \$12 million. The components of the project are briefly described in paragraphs 9 to 11; the table in paragraph 13 lists the work planned for the biennium 1988-1989 and the related estimated resource requirements, as follows:

	<u>(United States dollars)</u>
(a) Overall design of system strategy .....	500 000
(b) Acquisition of key infrastructural elements .....	500 000
(c) Financial management sub-system .....	2 500 000
(d) Personnel management sub-system .....	<u>500 000</u>
Total resources .....	<u>4 000 000</u>

The requirements relating to the overall design of system strategy (\$500,000) would be funded from the following two extrabudgetary sources: the Trust Fund for Management Improvements and Systems Development and income in support of extrabudgetary administrative structures.

7. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the integration or linkage of the current information systems and of new ones to be developed in the United Nations should be encouraged. Indeed, the Committee has previously pronounced itself on the need for co-ordination and compatibility among various sub-systems that have been developed in the Organization. 1/ At the same time it has also cautioned against duplication. 2/ In the Committee's view, such integration is vital for efficient and effective management.

8. The Advisory Committee points out that because a master plan for the development of an Integrated Management Information System has yet to be designed (phase one), it is premature for the Secretary-General to describe the subsequent components of the project and the related time frame. For the same reason, the Advisory Committee also questions the accuracy of the estimate of resource requirements. Although the Secretary-General states that "the experience of other international agencies that have undertaken similar projects is indicative of the order of magnitude of the total costs" (A/C.5/42/18, para. 12), the Advisory Committee believes that a more accurate estimate of costs will be possible only

after the development of the overall design of system strategy, on which basis the subsequent phases can be established. As indicated in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's report, this initial phase would be funded from extrabudgetary sources. For these reasons, the Advisory Committee believes that the proposal should not be approved in its entirety at this time.

9. In response to inquiries, the Advisory Committee was informed that the first phase would begin in January 1988 and would be completed by approximately the end of June 1988. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General proceed with the development of the design strategy. As mentioned in paragraph 6 above, this phase would be partly funded from income in support of extrabudgetary administrative structures. In this connection, the Advisory Committee trusts that the redeployment of these funds to the Integrated Management Information System project will not adversely affect the activities for which they were originally intended.

10. The Advisory Committee further recommends that on the basis of the outcome of the overall design of system strategy, the Secretary-General resubmit his proposal for the subsequent phases of the project in the context of his revised estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, to be considered by the Advisory Committee at its spring 1988 session. In this connection, the Advisory Committee trusts that the proposal will be presented with sufficient detail and supporting information so as to define and explain fully, inter alia, the existing situation as well as the objectives, stages, scope and benefits of the project.

#### Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1), chap. II, para. 28.29.

2/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/40/7), chap. II, para. 28C.6.

Eighth report

Administrative and financial implications of the recommendations and decisions contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission and of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

(Agenda items 123 and 124)\*

[Original: English]

[11 November 1987]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/23) on the administrative and financial implications of the recommendations and decisions contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission (A/42/30 and Corr.1) and the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/42/9 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the matter, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

I. Report of the International Civil Service Commission

2. In paragraph 1 of his statement, the Secretary-General cites the following six areas in which the Commission has made recommendations and decisions that entail financial implications for the bienniums 1986-1987 and 1988-1989:

- (a) Methodology for the determination of the net remuneration margin;
- (b) Staff assessment for staff in the Professional and higher categories;
- (c) Operation of the post adjustment system, including:
  - (i) Rental subsidies;
  - (ii) Adjustments due to currency fluctuations;

(d) Results of the survey of best prevailing conditions of service for staff in the General Service and related categories at Vienna;

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\* United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission.

United Nations pension system: report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board.

- (e) Conditions of service in the field:
  - (i) Duty stations with low or negative post adjustment;
  - (ii) Assignment allowance;
  - (iii) Financial incentive for staff serving at Beirut;
- (f) Long-service step.

3. According to paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's statement, the Commission also made several other recommendations and decisions with financial implications for the common system "but not for the United Nations regular budget in view of their nature and scope of application".

4. With regard to (a) in paragraph 2 above, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's statement that "on the basis of the anticipated increase in the salaries of United States federal civil service employees to be effective as at 1 January 1988, the effect of the application of the methodology, as modified in 1986, would be to advance the granting of the next class of post adjustment in New York by some five months to 1 January 1988", with consequential changes in post adjustment levels at some other duty stations. The Committee also notes from the same paragraph that "the salary costs used in the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 already reflect, based on the inflation assumption, the movement to the next class of post adjustment in New York as of 1 January 1988", and that the only duty station for which an adjustment would have to be made is Baghdad.

5. In response to inquiries, the Committee was informed that the calculations to determine the average level of the margin are done prospectively for a 12-month period, e.g. October 1987-September 1988. The Committee was also informed that if the salaries of United States federal civil service employees were increased as at 1 January 1988, the margin would drop to a level below 115 in 1988. The granting of the next class of post adjustment in New York in January 1988 would restore the level of the margin to approximately 115, and, barring changes in other variables, it was expected that the average level of the margin for the period October 1987-September 1988 would be 115.

6. The Advisory Committee was further informed that if the salaries of United States federal civil service employees were not increased, the current estimated margin level (115) would not change and consequently there would be no cause for a post adjustment increase at the base of the system - New York. This in turn would involve a consequential reduction in the 1988 salary costs, but that adjustment would be offset in part by the higher rate of inflation now anticipated for 1989.

7. In paragraphs 10 to 12 of his statement (A/C.5/42/23), the Secretary-General discusses adjustments due to currency fluctuations in the operation of the post adjustment system. The Advisory Committee notes that the Commission has decided on a local currency "floor" protection "to be applied in those countries where the dollar had devalued by more than 20 per cent since the last place-to-place cost-of-living survey". At the same time, it also decided on a "ceiling" for the local currency take-home pay, equivalent to a revaluation of 20 per cent of the United States dollar; this would be applicable in those countries where the "floor" protection measures applied. The estimated financial implications of these

measures for 1987 and for the biennium 1988-1989 are provided in paragraph 12 of the statement. However, in this connection, the Committee was informed that the amounts for both 1987 and the biennium 1988-1989 would need to be adjusted in order to reflect actual 1987 rates of exchange and the revised projected rates for 1988-1989. The adjustment for 1987 would be made in the context of the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 (see A/C.5/42/40 and Add.1, Add.2 (Parts I and II), Add.3 and 4, Add.5 (Parts I-III), Add.6-16 and Add.18-36). Changes relating to the biennium 1988-1989 would be made in the context of the exercise on the recosting of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 and would be considered before the adoption of the budget at the current session of the General Assembly.

8. The results of the survey of best prevailing conditions of service of the General Service and related categories at Vienna are discussed in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Secretary-General's statement. In this connection, the Committee notes that a 2 per cent cost-of-living increase had been due at Vienna as at 1 February 1987. The scale recommended as a result of the Commission's survey would result in a further average increase of 7.8 per cent, as at 1 March 1987. However, as part of the economy measures for 1987, the Secretary-General had decided "to defer implementation of up to 5 per cent of any increase due to staff in the General Service and related categories during that year". As a result, the 2 per cent increase due in February 1987 was deferred and 3 per cent of the 7.8 per cent increase due under the Commission's revised scale would also be deferred. Consequently, "there would be a 4.8 per cent average increase as of 1 March 1987", but the implementation of the entire 9.8 per cent increase is planned for completion in 1988-1989.

9. The financial implications of the Commission's recommendations and decisions that affect the United Nations regular budget are summarized in section I of the table in paragraph 26 of the Secretary-General's statement. As shown therein, the additional costs for 1987 are estimated at \$1,275,000 and the additional costs for the biennium 1988-1989 amount to \$5,365,000. However, for the reasons given in paragraph 7 above, those figures will have to be adjusted. A further adjustment may also be necessary, as discussed in paragraph 6 above. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 28 of the statement that the Secretary-General proposes to deal with the additional costs for 1987 in the context of the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. Adjustments relating to the biennium 1988-1989 would be made in the context of the exercise on the recosting of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 and, as mentioned in paragraph 7 above, would be considered prior to the close of the forty-second session of the General Assembly.

10. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 27 of the statement that implementation of the Commission's recommendations and decisions would also entail, under section 31 (Staff assessment), increases of \$410,000 for 1987 and \$32,920,000 for the biennium 1988-1989, which would be offset by increases in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

11. The total of \$32,920,000 relates to the recommendation and decision of the Commission concerning staff assessment rates for the Professional and higher categories (\$31,200,000) and the salary increase for General Service staff at Vienna (\$1,720,000) (see A/C.5/42/23, paras. 7 and 14). With regard to the \$31.2 million, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 27 of the Secretary-General's statement that appropriate modifications under section 31 and

income section 1 would be made to replace the amount of \$52.2 million originally estimated by the amount of \$31.2 million. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that, in paragraph 24 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/42/6 and Corr.1 (Introduction)), the Secretary-General explained that, of the \$94 million requested for inflation in 1988-1989, \$52.2 million related to staff assessment, "owing to an anticipated consolidation of some classes of post adjustment". Because the Commission has not recommended this consolidation (see A/C.5/42/23, para. 7), the figure of \$52.2 million must be revised. The Committee understands that this will be done before the adoption of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 at the current session of the General Assembly.

## II. Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

12. In paragraph 25 of document A/C.5/42/23, the Secretary-General states that the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board's recommendation to increase the rate of contributions from 21.75 per cent to 22.5 per cent as at 1 January 1988 would result in an estimated increase in expenditure of \$4.6 million for the biennium 1988-1989. In its report on the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/42/682), the Advisory Committee reiterates its previous position that the Board's recommendation should be accepted (*ibid.*, para. 5). The Committee notes that the additional costs would be dealt with in the context of the above-mentioned exercise on the recosting of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

Ninth report

Programme budget implications of draft resolution C submitted  
by the Fifth Committee in document A/42/704

(Agenda item 120)\*

[Original: English]

[23 November 1987]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/29), submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of draft resolution C submitted by the Fifth Committee in its report (A/42/764, para. 8). During its consideration of this statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.
2. In paragraph 1 of his statement (A/C.5/42/29), the Secretary-General summarizes the action called for in operative paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 6 of draft resolution C. On the basis of the considerations outlined in paragraphs 3 to 5 of the statement, the Secretary-General expresses the view that "the implementation of these requests would not have financial or programmatic implications" (*ibid.*, para. 2) and considers that "the resources requested in his proposed programme budget for 1988-1989 would be sufficient to meet the requests made in the draft resolution" (*ibid.*, para. 6).
3. The Advisory Committee concurs with the understanding expressed in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's statement that "the purpose of draft resolution C is not the elimination of the present distinction between official languages and working languages in the United Nations deliberative bodies".
4. The Advisory Committee sought clarification of the references made in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Secretary-General's statement to present practices and procedures on the use of languages. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that these references related to the practices and patterns of utilization of languages and language-related services that had evolved over the whole life of the Organization up to and including 1984-1985. In this connection, the Advisory Committee is of the view that practices that are not in conformity with legislative decisions or rules of procedure related to the use of languages should be rectified.
5. The Advisory Committee inquired into how future economy measures would affect the implementation of draft resolution C. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that if it became necessary to implement economy measures as approved by the General Assembly, care would be taken to ensure that any economy measures would affect each language service proportionately.

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\* Pattern of conferences: report of the Committee on Conferences.



6. As regards practice with respect to the production of United Nations publications, the Advisory Committee recalls that there are two types of United Nations publications: parliamentary publications, which are those documents used by Member States in the decision-making process, and non-parliamentary publications, which comprise technical and other publications that are subsequently issued in various languages as mandated by specific decisions. At the request of the Advisory Committee, the representatives of the Secretary-General confirmed that the reference in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's statement to practice with respect to the production of United Nations publications related to non-parliamentary publications.

7. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution C submitted by that Committee in its report (A/42/764, para. 8), no additional appropriations would be necessary, and that the clarifications and understandings stated in paragraphs 3 to 6 of the present report of the Advisory Committee should be taken into account in the implementation of draft resolution C.

Tenth report

Problems of storage and its costs in organizations  
of the United Nations system

(Agenda item 119)\*

[Original: English]

[30 November 1987]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on problems of storage and its costs in organizations of the United Nations system, transmitted by the Secretary-General's note (A/41/806 and Corr.1) and an addendum to the report of the Unit transmitted by the Secretary-General's note (A/42/724 and Corr.1), as well as the comments of the Secretary-General (A/42/295, annex) on the initial report. The Advisory Committee also had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/42/673) transmitting the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the initial report. During its consideration of these items the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided it with additional information.
2. As shown in section V of the report of the Unit (see A/41/806 and Corr.1) and recapitulated in the addendum to it (see A/42/724 and Corr.1), the Inspectors have made nine recommendations to the organizations of the United Nations system. For its part, during its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee focused on the implementation of the recommendations by the United Nations.
3. Recommendation 1 of the Joint Inspection Unit relates to the volume of documentation and the application of resolutions pertaining to its limitation. The Secretary-General discusses this recommendation and its implementation in section II, paragraphs 1 to 5, of his comments (A/42/295, annex). The Advisory Committee notes, however, from paragraph 8 of document A/42/724 and Corr.1, that the Inspectors have observed only limited progress with respect to recommendation 1.
4. Recommendations 2 and 3 relate to the management of storage and records. According to the Secretary-General, the Publications Board has reviewed and issued an administrative instruction governing the monitoring and disposal of stocks of official records, publications and documents and has agreed to a drastic reduction in the number of materials to be retained and the length of time they are stored (A/42/295, annex, sect. II, para. 6).
5. Recommendation 4 deals with the management of space at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Inspectors have recommended that the United Nations warehouses in Long Island City and on Park Avenue should be vacated and stocks moved to the United Nations garage. In a related recommendation (9 (b)), the

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\* Joint Inspection Unit: reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Inspectors recommended that agreement should be made with the Park Avenue warehouse landlord to secure the buy-out money for moving it, along with the Long Island City warehouse, to United Nations Headquarters. The Advisory Committee notes from the comments of the Secretary-General (A/42/295, annex, sect. II, para. 8) and from the addendum to the report of the Unit (see A/42/724 and Corr.1, para. 13) as well as from its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, 1/ that the lease of the Long Island City warehouse was terminated as at 31 March 1987 and that the stock remaining after the disposal of 60 per cent of the contents of the warehouse was transferred to United Nations Headquarters. With regard to the Park Avenue premises, the Committee notes from the comments of the Secretary-General and the addendum to the report of the Unit that negotiations are under way concerning the possibility of a buy-out agreement and the relocation of the archives to Headquarters.

6. Recommendation 5 relates to the management of space at the United Nations Office at Geneva. According to the Secretary-General (A/42/295, annex, sect. II, para. 10), the relocation of storage at that Office began on 9 March 1987 and is proceeding. The Advisory Committee notes, however, from paragraph 15 of document A/42/724 and Corr.1, that although major improvements have occurred in the storage of documents, the programme is "far from being completed and much remains to be done". The Inspectors also indicate that "real opportunities for gains in efficiency and economy are being jeopardized by a lengthy process of implementation".

7. Recommendation 6 concerns the application of automation systems for storage purposes. The Secretary-General discusses this recommendation and its implementation in document A/42/295, annex, section II, paragraphs 11 to 15. The Advisory Committee notes the observation of the Inspectors (see A/42/724 and Corr.1, para. 16), that "there seems to be a general eagerness to benefit from technological advances restrained only by financial constraints".

8. Optical-disc-based systems are the subject of recommendations 7 and 8. The Advisory Committee notes from the comments of the Secretary-General (A/42/295, annex, sect. II, paras. 16-18) that it would be preferable to undertake several small pilot projects using optical-disc technology rather than concentrating on a single, costly test project such as the one recommended by the Inspectors for the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Advisory Committee was informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that the small pilot projects could be done within existing resources. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the potential exists for enhancing efficiency and effecting savings through the judicious application of optical-disc technology. On this basis the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General should proceed, within existing resources, with a number of small pilot projects using the optical-disc technology. The Advisory Committee expects to be kept fully informed of all stages of these projects.

9. Recommendation 9 concerns the question of funding for the implementation of a certain number of the recommendations of the Inspectors with regard to storage. Recommendation 9 (b) has been included in the discussion regarding the Park Avenue and Long Island City warehouses in paragraph 5 above. With regard to recommendation 9 (a), the Secretary-General has indicated that in view of the continuing financial crisis it would not be realistic to contemplate redeployment of resources for the implementation of an optical-disc test project along the lines

Eleventh report

Salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General  
and salary of the Director-General for Development and  
International Economic Co-operation and the Administrator  
of the United Nations Development Programme

[Original: English]

[16 December 1987]

1. By resolution 41/209, section X, of 11 December 1986, the General Assembly concurred with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report 1/ regarding the gross salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General. In paragraph 5 of that report the Committee noted that if the new staff assessment rates proposed by the International Civil Service Commission were approved by the Assembly, it would be necessary to revise the gross salary of the Secretary-General on 1 April 1987 from \$163,300 to \$131,161 as a consequence of the reverse application of the new staff assessment rates to the current "with dependants" rate of the net base salary (\$85,000).
2. The Advisory Committee also noted, in paragraph 3 of its report, 1/ that because the new methodology recommended by the International Civil Service Commission for determining pensionable remuneration for staff in the Professional and higher categories linked pensionable remuneration to net remuneration, there would be, as already was the case, no direct link between pensionable remuneration and gross salary. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee stated in paragraph 4 that a stronger case existed for linking changes in the Secretary-General's maximum retirement allowance to changes in net remuneration rather than to changes affecting gross salary. In the circumstances, the Committee recommended that the maximum annual retirement allowance of the Secretary-General be maintained at the level of \$81,650 and that the amount of the retirement allowance payable to a former Secretary-General and to a widow of a former Secretary-General should also be maintained.
3. In paragraphs 119 and 120 of its report to the General Assembly at its current session, 2/ the International Civil Service Commission recommends the introduction of revised rates of staff assessment, with effect from 1 April 1988, to be used in conjunction with gross base salaries and the gross amounts of separation payments for staff in the Professional and higher categories. The Advisory Committee notes that if these rates are accepted by the General Assembly, it will be necessary to increase the gross salary of the Secretary-General from \$131,161 to \$144,615 as at 1 April 1988, as a consequence of the reverse application of the new staff assessment rates to the current "with dependants" rate of the net base salary (\$85,000). For the reason cited above, i.e. the linkage between pensionable remuneration and net remuneration, the Advisory Committee recommends that the current maximum retirement allowance of the Secretary-General (\$81,650) be maintained; the amounts currently paid to a former Secretary-General and to a widow of a former Secretary-General should also be maintained.

4. The Advisory Committee points out that as a consequence of the reverse application of the new staff assessment rates recommended by the Commission, it will also be necessary to increase the gross salaries of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme from \$119,429 to \$131,981, with effect from 1 April 1988.

#### Financial implications

5. Should the gross salary of the Secretary-General be increased from \$131,161 to \$144,615 and that of the Director-General from \$119,429 to \$131,981, there would be an increase in expenditure for staff assessment under section 31 estimated at \$19,500 for the period from April to December 1988, and \$26,000 for 1989, for a total increase of \$45,500 for the biennium 1988-1989. This increase would be offset by an increase in the same amount in respect of income from staff assessment under income section 1. However, in view of the fact that no change is involved on a net basis, the Advisory Committee recommends that the necessary changes be incorporated in the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

6. A draft resolution embodying the Advisory Committee's recommendations is annexed to the present report.

#### Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/41/7 and Add.1-11), document A/41/7/Add.11.

2/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/42/30 and Corr.1).

ANNEX

Draft resolution

Salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General  
and salary of the Director-General for Development and  
International Economic Co-operation and the Administrator  
of the United Nations Development Programme

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [A/42/7/Add.10],

1. Concurs with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning the gross salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 3 of its report;
2. Also concurs with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee concerning the gross salary of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, contained in paragraph 4 of its report;
3. Approves the amendment to annex I to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations with effect from 1 April 1988, as set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Amendment to annex I to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations

In paragraph 1, the salary figure for the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation shall read \$US 131,931.

Annex

REPORTS PRESENTED ORALLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS AT MEETINGS OF THE  
FIFTH COMMITTEE

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Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained  
in document A/42/L.1, concerning agenda item 24\*

1. At the 8th meeting of the Fifth Committee, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions stated that as indicated in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/42/12), no additional appropriation in the regular budget for the biennium 1988-1989 would be required should the draft resolution be adopted. Requirements for the Ad Hoc Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea had already been included under section 3E (Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization - South-East Asia: political and humanitarian affairs) of the proposed programme budget in accordance with the decision by the General Assembly in annex I, section C, paragraph 7, of its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, to include in the initial programme budget estimates the requirements for political activities of a perennial character whose mandates were renewed annually.

2. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee also stated that should it be decided in the course of 1988 to reconvene the International Conference on Kampuchea, the Secretary-General would endeavour to meet the requirements from within resources allocated under sections 3 (Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization) and 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. However, if that was not possible, the Secretary-General would request the Advisory Committee to authorize additional commitments. (See A/C.5/42/SR.8, paras. 66 and 67.)

Programme budget implications of the recommendations of the United  
Nations Council for Namibia in part five, chapter I, of its report  
(A/42/24 (Part III) and Corr. 1)

3. At the 22nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/26) dealt with the programme budget implications of five draft resolutions, A to E, recommended by the United Nations Council for Namibia in part five, chapter I, of its report (A/42/24 (Part III) and Corr.1). The Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/42/26) should be read in conjunction with a separate statement contained in document A/AC.131/269, which had been submitted to the Council by the Secretary-General.

4. The financial implications of the five draft resolutions, calculated on a full-cost basis, were estimated at \$6,300,300; \$661,000 of that amount represented conference-servicing requirements. As indicated in paragraph 15 and annex II to document A/C.5/42/26, the estimate covered servicing requirements for four 5-day international and regional meetings in 1988, as well as four journalist encounters that would precede those meetings. The Advisory Committee had noted that, for reasons explained in paragraph 28 of the same document, the Secretary-General planned to meet the actual conference-servicing costs of those activities from the appropriation to be approved by the General Assembly at its current session under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. The

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\* The situation in Kampuchea.

Advisory Committee had also noted that, as indicated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 16, the holding of meetings away from Headquarters would constitute an exception to General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985. Furthermore, the preparation of verbatim transcripts of the proceedings would require authorization for an exception to be made to resolution 37/14 C of 16 November 1982.

5. The Secretary-General had estimated total non-conference-servicing requirements in 1988 at \$5,639,300, as summarized by budget section and by proposed activity in paragraph 25 of his statement (A/C.5/42/26). In paragraph 33 of document A/AC.131/269, the Secretary-General had stated that the estimate took into account economies arising from past expenditure experience over the previous three bienniums. The estimate of \$5,639,300 included an allocation of \$1.5 million to the United Nations Trust Fund for Namibia and an allocation of \$500,000 to the Council's programme of co-operation with non-governmental organizations. The Advisory Committee had noted that, for the reasons given in paragraphs 3, 4, 25 and 27 of his statement (A/C.5/42/26), the Secretary-General planned to meet non-conference-servicing requirements of \$5,639,300 from the appropriation to be approved by the General Assembly at its current session under sections 3 (Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization) and 27 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

6. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General's estimates as contained in his statement and elaborated in document A/AC.131/269, and accordingly recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that should it adopt draft resolutions A to E contained in the report of the United Nations Council for Namibia, no additional appropriations over and above those already requested under sections 3, 27 and 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 would be required to implement the Council's proposed programme of activities for 1988. (See A/C.5/42/SR.22, paras. 10-13.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution  
contained in document A/42/L.16, concerning agenda  
item 31\*

7. At the 24th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Committee had been informed that the resources authorized by the General Assembly in connection with its resolution 41/33 on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security had been insufficient and that it had been necessary to allocate additional funds to cover the activities called for under the resolution. The additional expenditure incurred would be reported in the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. (See A/C.5/42/40 and Add.1, Add.2 (Parts I and II), Add.3 and 4, Add.5 (Parts I-III), Add.6-16 and Add.18-36.) As indicated in his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/42/27), the Secretary-General had requested resources for 1988 totalling \$104,000, approximately the amount which had been spent in 1987. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of that request. (See A/C.5/42/SR.24, para. 45.)

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\* The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

Establishment of an office of Ombudsman in the Secretariat  
and streamlining of the appeals procedures

8. At the 31st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that in considering the matter, the Committee had taken into account not only the two reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/41/14 and A/C.5/42/28), but also the information on appeals procedures in the specialized agencies contained in the Advisory Committee's report on the administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-first session (A/41/671), the opinion of the Board of Auditors referred to in paragraph 67 of the Advisory Committee's report on the financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (A/42/579), and the comments made by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on the administration of justice in the United Nations. (See A/41/640.)

9. In the Advisory Committee's opinion, the Secretary-General's reports indicated his intention to take steps to reform the current system of administration of justice in the United Nations; however, few tangible achievements in that regard had been cited. The Committee recalled that more than two years had elapsed since the matter had been raised and the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations had stated in its recommendation 60 that corrective measures should be taken as rapidly as possible.

10. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should report again on the matter to the General Assembly at its forty-third session and provide specific information on what had already been done to simplify rules and procedures; the steps taken to identify those aspects of staff administration which gave rise to an inordinate number of appeals; and the steps taken to provide for the quick settlement of minor disputes prior to the appeals stage and to establish a mechanism to reject frivolous applications for review. The report should also propose steps for a more efficient handling of cases that reached the judicial bodies, provide information on the results of the consultations between the staff and the Administration with regard to the establishment of an office of Ombudsman, including a complete statement of the administrative and financial implications, and indicate what steps had been taken to correct the deficiencies in the established process for disciplinary action. (See A/C.5/42/SR.31, paras. 5 and 6.)

Revised estimates under section 2B (Disarmament  
affairs activities)

11. At the 31st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/17) dealt with the programme budget implications of the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research for a subvention. The procedure for recommending subventions required that the amount should not exceed half the assured income of the Institute. In 1986, the Board of Trustees of the Institute, in view of the financial crisis of the United Nations, had requested a subvention considerably less than half of the assured income of the Institute. Representatives of the Institute had informed the Advisory Committee that this amount, which was subsequently authorized by the General Assembly, had placed the

Institute in a very difficult position and that, accordingly, the Board had been obliged to request the maximum subvention for 1988. The Advisory Committee had also been informed that if the requested amount of \$169,700, or half of the Institute's assured income of \$339,500 for 1988 was not approved, the operations of the Institute would be considerably hampered. The Advisory Committee recommended that a subvention of \$169,700 should be included under section 2B (Disarmament affairs activities) of the proposed programme budget). (See A/C.5/42/SR.31, para. 57.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions  
contained in documents A/42/L.26 and Corr. 1, L.27 and  
Corr. 1, L.29 and Corr. 1, L.30 and Corr. 1, and L.31,  
concerning agenda item 33\*

12. At the 37th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that, as shown in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/42/41), the 1988 requirements arising from the five draft resolutions contained in documents A/42/L.26 and Corr.1, L.27 and Corr.1, L.29 and Corr.1, L.30 and Corr.1 and L.31, on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa, were estimated at \$1,165,200, including conference-servicing costs of \$69,700.

13. As indicated in paragraph 21 and annex II to the Secretary-General's statement the total of \$69,700 would cover the cost of conference services for the meetings to be held in 1988 by the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa. In that context, the Secretary-General's representatives had informed the Advisory Committee that the estimated amount had been determined on the assumption that the Intergovernmental Group would hold the equivalent of a maximum of four 1-day sessions, at Headquarters. The Advisory Committee noted that for the reasons explained in paragraph 25 of the statement, the Secretary-General planned to finance the conference-servicing requirements by the appropriation to be approved by the General Assembly at the current session under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. Total resource requirements for 1988 apart from conference services were estimated at \$1,095,500, a breakdown of which was given in the table in paragraph 22 of the statement.

14. The activities called for in the draft resolutions were described in greater detail in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989; the paragraph references to those descriptions were provided in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/42/41). The estimate of \$1,095,500 took into account savings from the application of expenditure experience over the past three bienniums. The amount included a sum of \$290,200 for grants to national liberation movements and a special allocation of \$390,000 for the special projects of the Special Committee against Apartheid. The Advisory Committee had been informed, at its request, that the total estimate of \$1,095,500 was related to the estimates in sections 3A.3 (Policy-making organs - Apartheid: Special Committee and other bodies) and 3D (Centre against Apartheid) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

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\* Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa.

15. However, the resources needed for information activities connected with the programme of work of the Special Committee against Apartheid had not been separately identified and evaluated for the purposes of the Secretary-General's statement. The Advisory Committee had been informed that some elements in the programme of work of the Special Committee had already been taken into account in section 27 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

16. With regard to the other non-programmed elements, it was the Secretary-General's intention to finance additional requirements out of the total appropriation under section 27. The Advisory Committee noted that on that basis, and for the reasons explained in paragraphs 3, 4 and 24 of the statement, it was the Secretary-General's intention to finance expenditures, apart from conference services, from appropriations to be approved by the General Assembly at the current session under sections 3 and 27. The Advisory Committee had no objection to this proposal.

17. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the five draft resolutions in question, no additional appropriation would be required over and above those already requested under sections 3, 27 and 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. (See A/C.5/42/SR.37, paras. 53-58.)

Revised estimates under section 15 (United Nations  
Conference on Trade and Development)

18. At the 41st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that the changes indicated in the Secretary-General's report on revised estimates under section 15 (A/C.5/42/5) were not related to the reform measures being implemented by the Secretary-General. Rather, the revised proposals appearing in section I of the report had been drawn up in response to decisions taken at the seventh quadrennial session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held from 9 July to 13 August 1987. Revised estimates for preparatory work for bringing the Common Fund for Commodities into operation were given in section II of the report.

19. The Secretary-General's initial estimates under section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), which had been based on existing mandates and orientations of UNCTAD had amounted to \$65,805,800. The Advisory Committee noted from paragraphs 2 to 4 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/42/5) that the outcome of the seventh quadrennial session of UNCTAD and the adoption by consensus of its Final Act had necessitated a revision of the initial estimates, which affected five programmes and focused on programmatic aspects. The Secretary-General proposed to finance the revision using resources requested in the initial 1988-1989 estimates.

20. Background information on the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund and the Preparatory Commission was given in paragraphs 8 to 11 of document A/C.5/42/5. The General Assembly had approved an advance of \$1,750,500 under section 15 of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 to finance the preparatory work for bringing the Fund into operation. An estimate of income in the same amount had also been made under income section 2 (General income) of the programme budget. By resolution 40/253 A, the General Assembly had appropriated \$942,000 under

section 15 for the biennium 1986-1987. That amount represented the unspent balance of the advance of \$1,750,500 which the Assembly had approved in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. The General Assembly had also approved an amount of \$1,750,500 under income section 2, representing reimbursement for expenditures of \$808,500 incurred against the advance in the bienniums 1980-1981 and 1982-1983 and the appropriation of \$942,000 made for the biennium 1986-1987. No expenditure had been incurred in the biennium 1986-1987 from the \$942,000 appropriated. That amount would therefore be surrendered in the context of the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 (See A/C.5/42/40 and Add.1, Add.2 (Parts I and II), Add.3 and 4, Add.5 (Parts I-III), Add.6-16 and Add.18-36.)

21. However, as explained in paragraph 12 of document A/C.5/42/5, it was confidently expected that the Fund would go into operation by the end of 1987 and that the meetings of the Preparatory Commission originally foreseen for 1986-1987 would be held in 1988. The Secretary-General therefore estimated that the unspent balance of the advance, \$942,000, would be required in the biennium 1988-1989, and the estimates under section 15 would thus be increased by \$942,000, making the Secretary-General's total estimate \$66,747,800.

22. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, a/ the Advisory Committee had recommended an appropriation of \$63,215,800; that amount was unaffected by the proposals in the Secretary-General's progress report (A/42/234 and Corr.1) on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 and the update of the progress report (A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1). In view of the additional appropriation of \$942,000 requested, the Advisory Committee now recommended an appropriation of \$64,157,800 under section 15. That amount represented the appropriation of \$63,215,800 recommended by the Advisory Committee in document A/42/7/Add.2 above, and the additional appropriation of \$942,000. An amount of \$49,700 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). (See A/C.5/42/SR.41, paras. 5-10.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions contained  
in documents A/42/L.33 to L.35, concerning agenda item 38

23. At the 42nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that the programme budget implications of the three draft resolutions contained in documents A/42/L.33 to L.35, relating to the question of Palestine, had been presented by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/42/45 and Corr.1. The activities proposed for the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the draft resolution contained in document A/42/L.33 were summarized in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's statement and provided for under section 1A.7 (Policy-making organs: Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, as indicated in paragraph 7 of the statement. The activities of the Division for Palestinian Rights, called for in the draft resolution contained in document A/42/L.34, were summarized in paragraph 9, where the Secretary-General

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\* Question of Palestine.

stated that with the exception of the resources for the substantive servicing of one symposium in Europe in 1989, which was estimated to cost a total of \$48,200, all activities had been programmed in section 1 (Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination) of the proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee noted, nevertheless, from paragraph 10 that no additional appropriation would be needed to finance the symposium. The draft resolution contained in document A/42/L.35 concerned public information activities relating to the question of Palestine, which were summarized in paragraph 12. The adoption of that draft resolution would not require any additional appropriation. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that should it adopt draft resolutions A/42/L.33 to L.35, no additional appropriation would be required under section 1 or section 27 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. (See A/C.5/42/SR.42, para. 37.)

#### International Computing Centre: 1988 budget estimates

24. At the 44th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that as stated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/8), the Centre's budget estimates for 1988, based on an exchange rate of 1.68 Swiss francs to the dollar, totalled \$9,025,600. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of that amount. The Chairman pointed out that this recommendation was separate from the Committee's recommendation under section 28E (Administration and Management: Management Services Division) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, which included only the amount needed to cover the United Nations share of the Centre's operating expenses, \$1,863,000 for 1988 which would be met out of the \$3,822,500 included for the biennium. In endorsing the Advisory Committee's recommendation under section 28, the Fifth Committee would ipso facto be approving the amount corresponding to the United Nations share in the Centre's budget. (See A/C.5/42/SR.44, para. 7.)

#### Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in its report (A/42/755, para. 8), concerning agenda item 67\*

25. At the 45th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that as indicated in the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/42/44), it had been proposed, inter alia, to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and to hold three 1-week preparatory sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1988. Provision for the substantive servicing of the Ad Hoc Committee had been included under section 2A (Political and Security Council affairs; peace-keeping activities) of the proposed programme budget. However, additional conference-servicing requirements, estimated at \$837,600 calculated on a full-cost basis, would arise in respect of the holding of the three one-week sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee. As shown in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/42/44), that estimate had been prepared on the assumption that all three sessions would be held in New York. In paragraph 7, however, the Secretary-General stated his understanding that, in accordance with

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\* Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, should the Ad Hoc Committee decide to accept the offer of the Government of Sri Lanka and hold one session at Colombo, the host Government would defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in meeting away from New York. The Secretary-General also stated in paragraph 12 that if the Ad Hoc Committee met at Colombo, the provision of verbatim transcripts would necessitate an exception to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 37/14 C of 16 November 1982. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that pursuant to that resolution the Ad Hoc Committee was entitled to summary records when it met at a recognized United Nations conference centre, in this case, New York. Should the Ad Hoc Committee decide to hold a session at Colombo, there would be a need for the General Assembly to take a specific decision as to whether the Committee would be entitled to written meeting records for that session and, if so, whether they would be summary records or verbatim transcripts. The Advisory Committee noted that for the reasons stated in paragraph 10 of the statement, the Secretary-General intended to meet the actual cost of conference-servicing requirements from the appropriation to be approved by the General Assembly at the current session under section 29. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution in question, no additional appropriations would be required over and above those under section 2A or section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 in order to implement the activities envisaged in the draft resolution. (See A/C.5/42/SR.45, para. 45.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution I submitted  
by the First Committee in its report (A/42/751, para. 38),  
concerning agenda item 63 (f)\*

Programme budget implications of draft resolution C submitted  
by the First Committee in its report (A/42/750, para. 18),  
concerning agenda item 61\*\*

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted  
by the First Committee in its report (A/42/753, para. 8),  
concerning agenda item 65\*\*\*

26. At the 45th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/42/39) related to draft resolution I on the implementation of the United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament, including advisory services and training programmes, submitted by the First Committee in its report (A/42/751, para. 38). The Advisory Committee had noted

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\* Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament.

\*\* Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament.

\*\*\* World Disarmament Conference.



that no additional appropriation would be requested under section 2B (Disarmament affairs activities) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 in order to implement the activities envisaged in that draft resolution.

27. The Secretary-General's statement in document A/C.5/42/42 indicated that the Secretary-General would be requested, under the terms of draft resolution C, submitted by the First Committee in its report (A/42/750, para. 18), to develop technical guidelines and procedures for the investigation of reports concerning the possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons. In paragraphs 4, 7 and 9 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicated that three consultant experts would be engaged and that an additional appropriation of \$24,400 would be required under section 2B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 in order to cover the cost of fees, travel and subsistence allowances for those experts. No conference-servicing requirements were expected to arise. It was the view of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General should endeavour to meet the additional requirement of \$24,400 from the total resources to be appropriated under section 2B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. Should that not prove to be feasible, the Secretary-General could revert to the issue in the context of the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the request for an additional appropriation of \$24,400 should not be approved at the current stage.

28. The Secretary-General's statement contained in document A/C.5/42/43 concerned the renewal of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference and the holding in 1988 of one session of the Committee of two days' duration, as called for in the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in its report (A/42/753, para. 8). In paragraph 6 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicated that the substantive servicing of the Ad Hoc Committee by the Secretariat had been included under section 2B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. Paragraph 7, however, indicated that additional conference-servicing requirements amounting to \$83,000, calculated on a full-cost basis, would arise. For reasons stated in paragraph 8, the Secretary-General intended to meet the cost of those conference-servicing requirements from the appropriation under section 29 of the proposed programme budget to be approved at the current session of the General Assembly.

29. The Advisory Committee accordingly recommended that the General Assembly should be informed that should it adopt the three draft resolutions in question, no additional appropriations would be required over and above those requested under sections 2B and 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. (See A/C.5/42/SR.45, paras. 50-53.)

Unified conference services for the United Nations organizations  
at the Vienna International Centre

30. At the 46th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Secretary-General's report on the possible establishment of unified conference services at Vienna (A/C.5/42/22) contained the background of the question, an account of recent developments, the observations of the Secretary-General and the annexed conclusions and recommendations of an advisory committee which had been established by the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency to consider the

The results of the consultations as described in the Secretary-General's report were disappointing. The Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's report. (See A/C.5/42/SR.46, para. 33.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in its report (A/42/816, para. 10), concerning agenda item 134\*

31. At the 49th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the requests contained in the draft resolution were outlined in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/42/47). As shown in paragraph 5 of that statement, the related conference-servicing requirements were estimated on a full-cost basis at \$307,300. The Advisory Committee recommended, however, that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that no additional cost would be incurred under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution. (See A/C.5/42/SR.49, para. 48.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/42/L.38 and L.39, concerning agenda item 18\*\*

32. At the 49th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/42/L.38 were set forth in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/48). As shown in annex I to the statement, the Secretary-General had estimated resource requirements for implementing the activities in question in 1988 at \$230,700, after taking account of the economies that should be possible in the light of the actual pattern of expenditure over the past three bienniums, as shown in annex II. In that connection, the Advisory Committee noted that, for the reasons set forth in paragraphs 3, 4 and 8 of his statement, the Secretary-General was planning to meet the requirements in question from the appropriations to be approved by the General Assembly at its current session under section 3 (Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. If, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples were to hold a series of meetings away from Headquarters in 1988, the Secretary-General had indicated that he would seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedures.

33. The activities envisaged in the draft resolution contained in document A/42/L.39 were set forth in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's statement of

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\* Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries.

\*\* Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

programme budget implications (A/C.5/42/48). The related resource requirements for the proposed activities had not been identified and costed for inclusion in the statement. In that connection, the Advisory Committee noted that for the reasons stated in paragraphs 3, 4 and 11 of the statement, the Secretary-General intended to meet the requirements in question from the appropriations to be approved by the General Assembly under sections 3 and 27 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

34. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the estimates, as set forth in the Secretary-General's statement, and accordingly recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolutions A/42/L.38 and L.39, no additional appropriations would be required over and above those already requested under sections 3 and 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. (See A/C.5/42/SR.49, paras. 51-53.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted  
by the Sixth Committee in its report (A/42/817, para. 10),  
concerning agenda item 137\*

35. At the 49th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the requests set forth in the draft resolution were discussed in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/42/46). As shown in paragraph 4 of that statement, the related conference-servicing requirements had been estimated on a full-cost basis at \$314,200. The Advisory Committee recommended, however, that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that no additional cost would be incurred under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution. (See A/C.5/42/SR.49, para. 56.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution I submitted  
by the Third Committee in its report (A/42/781, para. 22),  
concerning agenda item 104\*\*

36. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the draft resolution called for the convening of the Intergovernmental Expert Group on the preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for a period of two weeks immediately prior to the tenth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in order to continue consideration of the draft convention. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to make arrangements for the convening of a conference of plenipotentiaries in 1988.

37. In his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/42/51), the Secretary-General had indicated that the meetings of the Intergovernmental Expert Group would give rise to conference-servicing costs estimated at \$716,900 on a

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\* Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

\*\* International campaign against traffic in drugs.

full-cost basis. However, as indicated in paragraph 11, the Secretary-General had not requested additional appropriations under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. The proposed plenipotentiary conference would also give rise to conference-servicing costs which had been reflected in an earlier report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/16) on the revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1987. No additional appropriations were being requested for the conference of plenipotentiaries. (See A/C.5/42/SR.54, paras. 28 and 29.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution VII submitted  
by the Third Committee in its report (A/42/803/Add.1, para. 112),  
concerning agenda item 12\*

38. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the draft resolution would authorize the open-ended Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families to continue its work and to hold an inter-sessional meeting of two weeks' duration in New York and also to meet during the forty-third session of the General Assembly. According to the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/42/52), if the inter-sessional meeting of the Group was held at Geneva and the meeting during the Assembly session was held in New York, the amount involved would be \$484,500. If both sessions were to be held in New York, the conference-servicing costs would amount to \$555,900. Regardless of the option chosen, no additional appropriations would be required since the item was regarded as a perennial activity and provision had already been made under section 29 of the proposed programme budget to cover such activities. (See A/C.5/42/SR.54, para. 32.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution D submitted  
by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/42/811,  
para. 27), concerning agenda item 75\*\*

39. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the total requirement for the programme of work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories was estimated at \$790,900, of which \$319,300 represented non-conference-servicing costs and the balance, amounting to \$471,600, conference costs. As indicated in the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/42/53), no additional appropriations were being requested. (See A/C.5/42/SR.54, para. 39.)

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\* Report of the Economic and Social Council: measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers.

\*\* Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories.

Programme budget implications of draft decision V submitted by  
the Second Committee in its report (A/42/821/Add.1, para. 45),  
concerning agenda item 82 (a)\*

40. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that by the draft decision the General Assembly would approve the preparation of summary records of the plenary meetings of the seventh session of UNCTAD. As noted in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/42/54), the cost had been estimated at \$180,300; however no additional amount was being requested for that purpose under section 29 of the proposed programme budget. (See A/C.5/42/SR.54, para. 48.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained  
in document A/42/L.11/Rev.1, concerning agenda item 21\*\*

41. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that pursuant to the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly to prepare for the review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. As noted in the statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/42/55/Rev.1), the meetings of the Committee of the Whole would give rise to conference-servicing costs of \$285,100, but no additional appropriations were being requested under section 29 of the proposed programme budget. (See A/C.5/42/SR.54, para. 54.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted  
by the Second Committee in its report (A/42/821/Add.2, para. 11),  
concerning agenda item 82 (b)\*\*\*

42. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the draft resolution would authorize the convening of a United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1990. Prior to the Conference there would be a meeting of governmental experts of donor countries and of multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions with representatives of the least developed countries and a meeting of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries, to prepare for the Conference. As noted in paragraph 8 of the statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/42/57), the meeting of governmental experts would be held in 1989 at a cost of \$159,000 and the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries would meet early in 1990,

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\* Development and international economic co-operation: trade and development.

\*\* Critical economic situation in Africa: United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

\*\*\* Development and international economic co-operation: implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries.

giving rise to conference-servicing costs estimated at \$226,700. It was estimated that the Conference itself would cost \$259,200. However, no additional resources were being requested in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, since the portion of expenditure relating to that biennium would be met within the resources already included under section 29. Resource requirements for the biennium 1990-1991 would be considered in the context of the review of the programme budget proposals for that biennium. (See A/C.5/42/SR.54, para. 59.)

#### Financial emergency of the United Nations

43. At the 56th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that section II of the Secretary-General's report on the financial emergency of the United Nations (A/C.5/42/31) dealt with the current and foreseen deficit and the cash-flow situation of the Organization. The short-term deficit, as defined in paragraph 8, projected to 31 December 1987, was estimated at \$351.6 million. Paragraphs 14 to 20 provided information on the payment of assessed contributions to the regular budget. The Advisory Committee had noted that despite the willingness of certain Member States to advance their dates of payment, the percentage of contributions paid as at 30 September 1987 was lower than the corresponding 1986 percentage. It had also noted that total contributions outstanding as at 30 September 1987 amounted to \$522.1 million, as compared with the amount of \$356.8 million outstanding as at 3 December 1987, as mentioned in the Advisory Committee's report on the current financial crisis (A/42/861).

44. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/204 A, section III of the Secretary-General's report contained a review of practices of other organizations of the United Nations system for achieving prompt and full payment of assessed contributions. The Advisory Committee noted from paragraph 38 of the report that the United Nations did not apply penalties or incentives based on the timing of payment of assessed contributions and that the experience of the other organizations of the United Nations system did not yet provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of such schemes.

45. Annex IV of the report showed the results of the suspension of the provisions of regulations 4.3, 4.4 and 5.2 (d) of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, in respect of the surpluses existing at the end of 1972 and at the end of the period 1980-1985. The maximum amount expected to be realized as a result of that suspension was estimated at \$59.6 million. Although it was not clear from the report whether there was a definite proposal that those regulations should be suspended in respect of any regular budget surpluses existing at the end of the biennium 1986-1987, the Advisory Committee recommended that in view of the situation described by the Secretary-General, they should indeed be suspended for that biennium. Should the situation with respect to unpaid assessments improve in the future, the General Assembly could at that time decide on the disposition of the amounts held in suspense (or portion thereof). (See A/C.5/42/SR.56, paras. 15-17.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A submitted by  
the Fifth Committee in its report (A/42/764, para. 8),  
concerning agenda item 120\*

46. At the 57th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that pursuant to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would renew the mandate of the Committee on Conferences for one year from 1 January 1988. In his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/42/11), the Secretary-General had indicated that conference-servicing requirements were estimated at \$559,200. However, as stated in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's statement, no additional appropriation would be requested under section 29. The Chairman concluded by stating that in future the item should be regarded as perennial and therefore should be included in the Secretary-General's initial estimates. (See A/C.5/42/SR.57, para. 45.)

Revised estimates resulting from resolution 1987/94 of the  
Economic and Social Council on broad representation in the  
Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

47. At the 59th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the revised estimate resulting from Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/94 related to the Council's recommendation to increase the membership of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination from 21 to 34 members. As explained in document A/C.5/42/16/Add.1, the Secretary-General was requesting an additional amount of \$148,500 for that purpose. Having considered that requirement, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the additional amount should be appropriated under section 1 (Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. (See A/C.5/42/SR.59, para. 5.)

Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of  
exchange and inflation

48. At the 65th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that of the increase of \$108,690,400 attributable to currency fluctuations, \$95.4 million, or 87.8 per cent, could be attributed to the decrease in the value of the United States dollar against the Swiss franc and the Austrian schilling alone.

49. The Chairman also drew the attention of the Fifth Committee to the breakdown of additional requirements arising from the application of revised rates of inflation (\$30.8 million) in paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/42/58 and Corr.1). Of the \$5.9 million attributable to the implementation of the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, \$4.6 million related to the assumed implementation of the Pension Board's recommendation to increase the rate of contributions to the Pension Fund as at 1 January 1988. However, as the Fifth Committee had just adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/42/L.19, dealing with the report of the Pension Board, the estimated \$4.6 million would now have to be further reduced by \$2,050,000.

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\* Pattern of conferences.

50. With regard to changes in average salary levels, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the current average level had increased by almost one step, from P-4, step 6 to P-4, step 7. The Chairman drew attention to paragraphs 117 and 118 of the first report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. a/ On the basis of the recommendations contained therein, and taking into account the reduction of \$2,050,000 to be applied as a result of the Fifth Committee's decision regarding the recommendations of the Pension Board, the Advisory Committee had found no technical basis for objecting to the Secretary-General's revised estimates as set out in document A/C.5/42/58 and Corr.1, and accordingly transmitted them to the Fifth Committee for consideration. (See A/C.5/42/SR.65, paras. 47-49.)

Notes

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/42/7).