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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Comprehensive United Nations study on nuclear weapons

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/43/L.46

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

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/43/L.46, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to carry out, with the assistance of qualified governmental experts and taking into account recent relevant studies, a comprehensive update of the study on nuclear weapons that provides factual and up-to-date information on and pays regard to the political, legal and security aspects of:

- (a) Nuclear arsenals and pertinent technological developments;
- (b) Doctrines concerning nuclear weapons;
- (c) Efforts to reduce nuclear weapons;
- (d) Physical, environmental, medical and other effects of use of nuclear weapons and of nuclear testing;
- (e) Efforts to achieve a comprehensive nuclear-test ban;
- (f) Efforts to prevent the use of nuclear weapons and their horizontal and vertical proliferation;

(g) The question of verification of compliance with nuclear arms limitation agreements.

2. Under operative paragraph 4, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit the final report to the General Assembly well in advance of its forty-fifth session.

B. Relationship of proposed request to approved programme of work

3. The above request is related to the activities referred to under (a) chapter 1, Political and Security Council Affairs activities, programme 2, Activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, subprogramme 3, Studies on disarmament, of the current medium-term plan 1/ as proposed for revision, 2/ and (b) section 2B, Disarmament affairs activities, of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, 3/ subprogramme 3, Studies on disarmament, programme element 3.2, Studies and their follow-up, which covers the preparation for and execution of various studies requested by the General Assembly.

C. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

4. Should the Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would establish a group of qualified governmental experts. In order to achieve appropriate political and geographical balance, the Group would be comprised of up to 13 experts.

5. It is estimated that the Group would hold three sessions in 1989 and 1990 as follows:

- (a) A one-week session (March 1989) in New York;
- (b) A two-week session (October 1989) at Geneva;
- (c) A two-week session (March/April 1990) in New York.

6. With regard to the second session, it is noted that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 (sect. I, para. 7), no subsidiary organ of the Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the General Assembly. Consequently, the second session of the Group would have to be convened at Geneva.

7. It is assumed that the related conference services would be provided for the sessions on the following basis:

(a) The Group would hold two meetings a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon;

(b) Interpretation would be provided in the six official languages of the General Assembly;

(c) There would be a total of 220 pages (five documents) of documentation to be issued in the six official languages, it being understood that the actual usage would depend on the composition of the Group.

8. The Secretary-General would authorize payment of travel costs and subsistence allowance for the experts participating in the sessions.

9. To assist the Group in its work, it is estimated that three work-months of consultancy services would be required to provide information on present nuclear arsenals, technological developments since 1980 and nuclear testing. In addition, up to three consultants would be invited to attend short workshop meetings at the first and second sessions in order to present papers on specialized issues and respond to questions from the Group. The Secretary-General would authorize payment of fees, in addition to travel costs and subsistence allowance for their participation in the workshops in New York and Geneva.

10. It is envisaged that the necessary substantive support services to the Group would be provided by the staff of the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work

11. The activities of the proposal involving the permanent staff of the Department for Disarmament Affairs fall under programme element 3.2 of subprogramme 3 of section 2B of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. Accordingly, no modifications to that programme element are required.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

12. The requirements to undertake the activities contained in paragraphs 4 to 10 above are as follows:

(a) Conference servicing costs (see annex for breakdown) arising from the session of the Group of Qualified Governmental Experts

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
	\$	\$
(i) One-week session in New York in early 1989	51 200	-
(ii) Two-week session at Geneva in late 1989	160 500	-
(iii) Two-week session in New York in early 1990	<u>-</u>	<u>297 300</u>
Total (a)	211 700	297 300

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
	\$	\$
(b) <u>Substantive costs</u>		
(i) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 13 governmental experts for a one-week session in New York and a two-week session at Geneva in 1989, and a two-week session in New York in 1990	92 000	62 400
(ii) Three work-months of consultancy services to provide in-depth information on present nuclear arsenals, technological developments since 1980 and nuclear testing and to assist in the drafting of those chapters of the report (\$10,000 for 1989 and \$5,000 for 1990), and travel and daily subsistence allowance for attendance at the sessions of the Expert Group in New York and Geneva in 1989, and in New York in 1990 (\$5,600 for 1989 and \$2,600 for 1990)	15 600	7 600
(iii) The services of three consultants contracted to attend short workshop meetings at the first and second sessions in order to present brief papers on specialized issues and respond to questions from the Group (\$1,500); travel and daily subsistence allowance for one consultant to attend a one-day workshop at the first session, in New York (\$2,900) and up to two consultants to attend a one-day workshop at the second session, at Geneva in 1989 (\$3,200)	7 600	-
(iv) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for the Secretary of the Group and one secretary to service the two-week session at Geneva in 1989	<u>7 600</u>	<u>-</u>
Total (b)	122 800	70 000

F. Potential for absorption

13. No programme element under any subprogramme within section 2B, Disarmament affairs activities, of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 is proposed for curtailment, postponement or termination to offset the additional costs that would result from the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.46.

14. With regard to the estimates of conference-servicing costs indicated in paragraph 12 (a) above, these costs estimates are based on the theoretical

assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent capacity of the Department of Conference Services; and would require additional resources for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the permanent capacity of the Department needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can only be determined in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1989. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.6 of the programme budget, 4/ the 1988-1989 requirements under temporary assistance for meetings were estimated on the basis of a five-year average of appropriations and actual expenditure for the period 1982-1986 and included in the initial estimates of the Secretary-General. In other words, provision was made in the programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in this biennium is consistent with the pattern experienced over the past five years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 as a result of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.46.

G. Request for additional appropriation

15. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/43/L.46, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of \$122,800 would be required under section 2B of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. The 1990 requirements of \$70,000 would be dealt with within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, and thus would be reflected in the budget outline for that biennium.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1) and *ibid.*, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/39/6 and Corr.1).

2/ A/43/6 and Corr.1.

3/ A/42/6 (Sect. 2B).

4/ A/42/6 (Sect. 29).

Annex

ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING OF THREE SESSIONS
 OF THE GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS

	<u>First session</u> (New York, one week) <u>1989</u> \$	<u>Second session</u> (Geneva, two weeks) <u>1989</u> \$	<u>Third session</u> (New York, two weeks) <u>1990</u> \$
<u>Pre-session documentation</u>			
(40 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	41 800	-
(100 pages of 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	-	105 600
<u>Meeting servicing</u>			
Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S	45 400	107 100	94 900
<u>Post-session documentation</u>			
(80 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	-	84 600
<u>Requirements of the Office of General Services</u>	<u>5 800</u>	<u>11 600</u>	<u>12 200</u>
Total	<u>51 200</u>	<u>160 500</u>	<u>297 300</u>
