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Agenda item 63

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to support the conclusion of a chemical weapons convention

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/43/L.52

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 6 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/43/L.52, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/37 C of 30 November 1987, with the assistance of the Group of Qualified Experts provided by interested Member States, to continue his efforts to develop further technical guidelines and procedures available to him for the timely and efficient investigation of such reports of the possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons, and to submit a report to Member States as soon as possible.

B. Relationship of proposed request to approved programme of work

2. 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 1, Deliberation and negotiation, 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 1, Deliberation and negotiation, programme element 1.6, Follow-up and implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and other legislative bodies.

C. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

3. Should the Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General, in order to implement operative paragraph 6, would reconvene the group of six qualified experts who were appointed by him in 1988 in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 42/37 C.
4. The Group would be expected to prepare papers which would cover the scientific, technical and legal issues related to the development of the guidelines and procedures referred to in operative paragraph 6.
5. Upon completion of that work, the Group of Qualified Experts would be expected to attend two two-week meetings at Geneva to exchange views and to draft a consolidated report for the Secretary-General. It should be noted that the proposal to hold the meetings at Geneva would constitute an exception to General Assembly resolution 40/243, paragraph 4, in which it is stated that United Nations bodies shall plan to meet at their respective established headquarters.
6. It is estimated that the Group would hold two sessions at Geneva in 1989, as follows:
 - (a) A two-week session (February 1989);
 - (b) A two-week session (June 1989).
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 four official languages of the General Assembly (Arabic, English, French and Russian), since the composition of the Group has already been established;
 - (c) There would be a total of 250 pages (27 documents) of documentation: 200 pages (26 documents) would be issued in Arabic, English, French and Russian and 50 pages (1 document) in the six official languages.
8. The Secretary-General would authorize payment of travel costs and daily subsistence allowance for the experts participating in the sessions.
9. It is envisaged that the necessary substantive support services to the Group would be provided by the staff of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, New York.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work

10. The activities of the proposal involving the permanent staff of the Department for Disarmament Affairs fall under programme element 1.6 of subprogramme 1 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

11. The requirements to undertake the activities contained in paragraphs 3 to 9 above are as follows:

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

	<u>1989</u>
	\$
(i) Two-week session in Geneva in February 1989	163 900
(ii) Two-week session in Geneva in June 1989	<u>148 200</u>
Total (a)	312 100
(b) <u>Substantive costs</u>	
(i) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 6 experts for two two-week sessions in Geneva in 1989	36 900
(ii) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 3 staff members from the Department for Disarmament Affairs (2 Professional and 1 General Service) to service the two two-week sessions in Geneva in 1989	<u>23 600</u>
Total (b)	<u>60 500</u>

F. Potential for absorption

12. No programme element under any subprogramme within section 2B, for 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 the draft resolution.

13. 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 Secretary-General's initial estimates. 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.52.

G. Request for additional appropriation

14. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/43/L.52, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of \$60,500 would be required under section 2B of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

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/42/5 (sect. 2B).

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

Annex

ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE SERVICING OF TWO SESSIONS
 OF THE GROUP OF QUALIFIED EXPERTS

	<u>First session</u> (Geneva, two weeks) <u>1989</u>	<u>Second session</u> (Geneva, two weeks) <u>1989</u>
	\$	\$
<u>Pre-session of documentation</u>		
(50 pages, 6 documents: A,E,F,R)	28 100	-
<u>In-session documentation</u>		
(50 pages, 10 documents: A,E,F,R)	28 600	-
(50 pages, 6 documents: A,E,F,R)	-	27 200
<u>Post-session documentation</u>		
(50 pages, 4 documents: A,E,F,R)	27 200	-
(50 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	40 900
<u>Meeting servicing</u>		
(Interpretation: A,E,F,R)	68 500	68 500
<u>Requirements of the Office of General Services</u>	<u>11 600</u>	<u>11 600</u>
Total	<u>164 000</u>	<u>148 200</u>
