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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

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 draft resolution
A/C.1/43/L.52/Rev.1

Addendum

Observations submitted by the Committee on Conferences pursuant
to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A of
3 November 1980

1. In accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A of 3 November 1980, by which the Assembly decided that all proposals relating to the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the Assembly should be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications were being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure, the Committee on Conferences met on 16 November 1988 to discuss certain aspects of the proposed programme of work in respect of measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to support the conclusion of a chemical weapons convention.

2. Under the terms of paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.52/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, pursuant to Assembly resolution 42/37 C, 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. The Committee on Conferences considered the matter in the light of the related statement of programme budget implications before the First Committee (A/C.1/43/L.79 and Corr.1).

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 6 thereof, would reconvene the group of six qualified experts appointed by him in 1988 in pursuance of Assembly resolution 42/37 C. The Group would be expected to hold two two-week meetings at Geneva to exchange views and to draft a consolidated report for the Secretary-General.

4. The matter was brought to the attention of the Committee on Conferences because the proposal to hold the meetings at Geneva would constitute an exception to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, section I, which states that United Nations bodies shall plan to meet at their respective established headquarters. The established headquarters of the substantive secretariat of the Group, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, is New York.

5. In response to questions posed by delegations, the Secretariat stated that it was necessary for the Group to meet at Geneva to maintain close and extensive contact with members of the Conference on Disarmament, where intensive negotiations were taking place towards the achievement of a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons, so that the Group could draw on the experience and expertise of those members. Close contact with other international organizations based in Geneva would also be of great value. It was also explained that communications technology, such as facsimile transmission and the like, was designed primarily for conference-servicing purposes, and could not substitute for the kind of close substantive contact required in this case.

6. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly approve a departure from paragraph 4 of section I of its resolution 40/243 to enable the Group to meet at Geneva.
