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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

Organization and methods for official travel

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly, in decision 42/453 of 21 December 1987 took note of the follow-up report of the Joint Inspection Unit ^{1/} and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-third session on developments of the organization and methods for official travel. The Secretary-General wishes to bring to the attention of the Assembly that information on this subject has already been provided in his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document A/43/556, which was submitted under agenda item 118, entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (see part III, paras. 19-27).
2. The only significant development on organizations and methods for official travel which has taken place since the issuance of the above-mentioned report relates to the travel agency arrangements in the United Nations Office at Geneva (see A/43/556, para. 26). In this respect it should be noted that the lowest bidder for the travel agency contract to be awarded by the United Nations Office at Geneva declined to pursue contract negotiations with the United Nations. At the same time, information was received that Midland Bank PLC, the parent company of Thomas Cook S.A., had disposed of its interests in South Africa and had submitted documentation to that effect to the competent United Nations authorities. As a result, the Midland Bank PLC will be removed from the list of transnational corporations with interests in South Africa. Since Thomas Cook S.A. was the second lowest bidder for the travel agency contract, a contract is expected to be awarded to Thomas Cook S.A. for a period of three years.

Notes

^{1/} See A/41/121.
