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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of  
draft resolution A/34/L.6

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ali Ben-Said KHAMIS (Algeria)

1. At its 39th meeting, on 7 November 1979, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/25) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/34/L.6.

2. Under the terms of that draft resolution the General Assembly would:

(a) Approve the convening of the two parts of the ninth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in New York for the period from 27 February to 4 April, and at Geneva for the period from 28 July to 29 August 1980;

(b) Request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference, to prepare a study on the training needs of developing countries in deep-sea mining and related activities for submission to the Conference as early as possible in 1980.

3. In his statement the Secretary-General estimated the financial implications of the draft resolution at \$4,064,500, comprising \$3,664,800 for direct conference servicing costs and \$399,700 for other costs. Regarding the former amount, it was indicated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's statement that inasmuch as the estimated requirements were provided on a full cost basis, no additional appropriations were requested at this time. The estimated amount of \$3,664,800 would, therefore, be considered in the context of a consolidated statement on conference servicing requirements to be submitted towards the end of the thirty-

fourth session, through which net additional resources in conference servicing requirements would be requested in the light of the 1980 calendar of conferences as finally approved by the General Assembly.

4. The Secretary-General, therefore, requested at this time an additional appropriation of \$399,700 to cover requirements for the secretariat of the Conference (\$348,100 under sect. 2 C) and for the Department of Public Information (\$51,600 under sect. 27). A further provision of \$18,500 would be required for additional staff assessment under section 31, offset by an increase of the same amount under income section 1.

5. With respect to the preparation of a study on the training needs of developing countries in deep-sea mining and related activities called for by the draft resolution for submission to the Conference as early as possible in 1980, the Secretary-General indicated, in paragraph 6 of his statement, his intention to prepare that study within existing resources.

6. In paragraph 9 of his statement, the Secretary-General referred to the existing arrangements for the President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea approved by the General Assembly through its decision 33/405 of 10 November 1978 and indicated that, should the Assembly wish to continue, for the year 1980, the arrangements which it approved for the year 1979 in respect of the position of the President, an additional appropriation of \$55,100 would be required.

7. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee made an oral statement, during which he indicated that the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of the Secretary-General's estimate. As regards the status of the President, he stated that, should the General Assembly decide to continue, for the year 1980, the present arrangements in respect of the position of the President, an additional appropriation of \$55,100 would be required.

8. Comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion in the Fifth Committee are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/34/SR.39).

#### DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

9. The Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to inform the General Assembly that if draft resolution A/34/L.6 was adopted, it would be necessary to provide an additional appropriation of \$399,700, comprising \$348,100 under section 2 C and \$51,600 under section 27 of the programme budget for 1980-81. A further provision of \$18,500 would be required for staff assessment under section 31, which would be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1.

10. Conference servicing expenditures would require supplementary allocations to a maximum of \$3,664,800 under sections 28 and 29. These expenses would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement on conference servicing requirements to be submitted towards the end of the present session.

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11. Moreover, if the General Assembly wished to continue during 1980 the arrangements regarding the status of the President which it approved by its decision 33/405 of 10 November 1978, an additional appropriation of \$55,100 would be required under section 2 C of the programme budget for 1980-81.

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