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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA

Revised estimates arising from implementation of Security Council
resolution 621 (1988) relating to the question of Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General

Introduction

1. In his statement to the Security Council on 20 September 1988, the Secretary-General informed the members of the Council that Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el Hamra y Río de Oro (POLISARIO), the parties to the conflict in Western Sahara, while making comments and observations, had agreed at Geneva on 30 August 1988 to the proposals for a peaceful settlement which had been put forward by the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Secretary-General as part of their mission of good offices. Having heard the Secretary-General's report, the Council adopted resolution 621 (1988) whereby it decided to authorize the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative for Western Sahara; and requested the Secretary-General to transmit to it a report on the holding of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and on ways and means to ensure the organization and supervision of such a referendum by the United Nations in co-operation with OAU.

2. The Secretary-General's proposals are aimed at promoting a just and definitive solution to the question of Western Sahara, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). They were drawn up following protracted discussions which the Secretary-General and successive Chairmen of OAU had held with the parties to the conflict pursuant to the mandate entrusted to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/50.

3. The proposals are designed to restore peace to the region and to offer a framework for bringing about a cease-fire and for creating the necessary conditions for the holding of a credible referendum which will enable the people of Western Sahara to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination without military or administrative constraints. The referendum will be organized and supervised by the United Nations, in co-operation with OAU.

4. The peace proposals will be implemented under the guidance of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. He will be assisted by a support group consisting of civilian and military components large enough to enable him to perform his organizational and supervisory functions. At a later stage, the Secretary-General will decide on the composition of the support group, in consultation with the parties to the conflict and in the light of the tasks to be undertaken in connection with the organization and supervision of the referendum. During the transitional period, which will begin when the cease-fire takes effect and will last until the results of the referendum are published, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General will be the sole and exclusive authority with regard to all matters relating to the referendum. In this capacity, he will have the power to take whatever action he deems necessary to guarantee the impartiality of the referendum and the freedom of movement and safety of the population.

5. The peace proposals call on the parties to observe a cease-fire from a date and time to be set by the Secretary-General and agreed upon by the parties. The cease-fire is designed to ensure that the referendum process will be free of any interference or intimidation from the parties, both before and during the referendum. The proposals provide that Morocco will make appropriate, substantial and gradual reductions in the number of its troops in Western Sahara. The remaining Moroccan troops will be confined to locations designated by the Special Representative and will be placed under the supervision of United Nations military personnel.

6. The troops of POLISARIO will likewise be confined to locations designated by the Special Representative and will be placed under the supervision of United Nations military personnel.

7. The peace proposals also provide for the deployment of United Nations military personnel who will (a) verify, confirm and supervise the cease-fire; (b) monitor the reduction of Moroccan forces to the agreed strength and the confinement of the remaining Moroccan forces within Western Sahara and troops of POLISARIO to areas and locations to be designated by the Special Representative. United Nations military personnel will be constituted and function in accordance with the general principles applicable to United Nations peace-keeping operations.

I. PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 621 (1988)

8. It is envisaged that the peace proposals will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will be devoted primarily to discussions between the Special Representative and the parties in order to reach an agreement on outstanding issues. These discussions will deal with substantive issues which will include the level of Moroccan troop reductions; the locations to which the Moroccan troops remaining in Western Sahara are to be confined; practical arrangements regarding the referendum; and the status of the existing Moroccan administration. The successful resolution of these issues will mark the beginning of phase II of the implementation process. At that juncture, the Secretary-General intends to submit a report to the Security Council and to seek from its members further authority for the implementation of phase II. The related budgetary estimates will also be submitted for approval.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I

9. The Secretary-General has decided to constitute a four-member team to assist the Special Representative as required to work on all aspects related to the organization and supervision of the referendum. The team will be composed of staff members at the Director and Professional levels who have been concerned with the subject-matter. The team members will be drawn from resources existing within the United Nations and their services will be made available as and when required. Support services will also be provided to the Special Representative at those times when he is required to be at Headquarters or at Geneva to hold discussions with representatives of Morocco and POLISARIO. To the extent possible, these services will be provided from within existing resources. General temporary assistance funds are requested to provide replacements for existing staff members when necessary.

10. It is anticipated that during the coming months the team will undertake some six visits to the area (Western Sahara and Morocco), each for a duration of approximately 10 working days, for consultations and negotiations. An amount equal to the cost of transportation, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for members of the team and for a support staff of two interpreters (English/French and English/Spanish), two verbatim reporters (English/French and English/Spanish) and two secretaries (English/French and English/Spanish) will be required, as will temporary assistance funds for the replacement of the interpreters and verbatim reporters.

11. The Special Representative and senior staff members of the Secretariat will also be required to travel during this phase for consultations with the representatives of Morocco and POLISARIO at Geneva and to Mali for consultations with the current Chairman of OAU.

12. In addition, the census of Western Sahara organized in 1974 will be updated during phase I in preparation for the referendum. Two consultants with expertise in demography and a familiarity with the area will be engaged for a period of three

work-months each for this purpose. It is anticipated that for the first month the experts will be based in New York and, with the assistance of existing staff members, will review the 1974 census as a base for the forthcoming census. The experts would then travel to the region for approximately two months for on-site review and study. During this period, three trips to New York are anticipated for the purpose of consultations.

III. ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS FOR PHASE I

13. The total cost of the initial requirements for phase I of the implementation of Security Council resolution 621 (1988) during the biennium 1988-1989 is thus estimated at \$687,900 as follows:

	\$	\$
Salary and allowances of the Special Representative		105 400
Temporary assistance:		
Conference-servicing staff	46 200	
Other staff	<u>40 000</u>	86 200
Consultants' fees and travel		78 500
Travel on official business		377 800
Miscellaneous services		<u>40 000</u>
Total		<u>687 900</u>

14. An additional non-recurrent appropriation of \$687,900 is, therefore, requested under section 2A of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.
