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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 77

## PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI  
PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION  
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIESProgramme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.26Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with  
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General AssemblyA. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 19 of draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.26, the Special Committee would be requested, pending early termination of Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to ensure the safeguarding of the welfare and human rights of the population of the occupied territories and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter.
2. By operative paragraph 20 the Special Committee would be requested to submit regular and periodic reports to the Secretary-General on the present situation in the occupied Palestinian territory.
3. By operative paragraph 21 of the draft resolution, the Special Committee would also be requested to continue to investigate the treatment of civilians in detention in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.
4. Under the terms of operative paragraph 23, the Secretary-General would be requested:

(a) To provide all necessary facilities to the Special Committee, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(b) To continue to make available additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(c) To circulate the regular and periodic reports mentioned in operative paragraph 20 to the States Members of the United Nations;

(d) To ensure the widest circulation of reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution.

B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the approved programme of work

5. The activities referred to above would fall under chapter 6, programme: Centre for Human Rights, subprogramme 1, Implementation of international standards, instruments and procedures, the objective and strategy of which are described in paragraphs 6.20 to 6.23 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, as extended through 1991.

6. The following programme element of section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 would be directly affected by the activities referred to in the draft resolution:

Subprogramme 1. Implementation of international standards, instruments and procedures

Programme element:

1.3 Servicing special procedures including assistance to ad hoc investigatory or fact-finding bodies

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, including organization of three series of meetings per year, hearings, field visits, consultations, maintenance of records and drafting of reports to the responsible organ (1988 and 1989).

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

7. In order to respond to the requests contained in the draft resolution, the activities of the Centre for Human Rights under subprogramme 1, programme element 1.3, output (i), in accordance with the pattern of work undertaken by the Special Committee annually since 1970, would include the following:

(a) The Special Committee would meet at Geneva in January/February 1989 for a period of approximately five working days, to continue its study and analysis of the evidence and of documentary and other material that it has received. At that meeting, the Special Committee would review developments in the occupied territories, receive further allegations and evidence of violations of human rights, if any, and initiate studies of relevant new developments which may have taken place;

(b) In May/June 1989, the Special Committee would meet at Geneva for a period of approximately 10 working days to continue its study and analysis of further evidence, receive additional allegations and evidence of violations of human rights, if any, and begin the preparation of its draft report;

(c) In September 1989, the Special Committee would meet at Geneva for a period of approximately 10 working days to continue its study and analysis of further evidence and to adopt its report.

8. Interpretation services would be required from and into English and French for the meetings held at Geneva; documents prepared for the Special Committee's use would be drafted in English and translated into French. Should Arabic-speaking witnesses be heard, interpretation from Arabic would also be required.

9. The Special Committee would require up-to-date information on current developments in the Middle East region and, for this purpose, newspapers issued in the region would have to be reviewed on a day-to-day basis for information relevant to the work of the Special Committee. Translation from Arabic and Hebrew into English and French of pertinent articles appearing in Arabic and Hebrew publications would be required and, in addition, the Special Committee would hear testimony of witnesses.

10. The Special Committee would undertake a field mission to Europe and the Middle East. Prior to proceeding on the mission it is anticipated that the Special Committee would review developments in the occupied territories and decide whether it considers such a mission necessary. Should the Special Committee so decide, the mission would probably take place during the late spring or early summer of 1989, for a period of not more than 21 days. Alternatively, the Special Committee might invite witnesses to travel to Geneva to provide the Committee with information relevant to its mandate.

11. During the field mission, the Special Committee would hear testimony and receive written statements from witnesses. It would be necessary for the Committee to insert paid notices in newspapers for the purpose of informing potential witnesses of its hearings and some witnesses might require financial assistance to make the journey to the place of meeting of the Committee in order to testify.

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12. During the field mission, interpretation from and into English, French, Arabic and Hebrew would be required. No summary record would be prepared but the oral testimony of witnesses would be recorded on tape and transcribed at Geneva. Written testimony would be translated into English and French from Arabic or Hebrew. The records of oral and written testimony of witnesses are expected to amount to approximately 1,000 pages in English and would be translated into French.

13. Operative subparagraph 23 (b) of the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to continue to make available additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks. For this purpose, the Secretary-General proposes to provide one P-2 and two General Service staff members to assist the Special Committee in indexing and preparing monthly summaries of transcripts of evidence which it would receive continuously, among other duties. Furthermore, in order to keep the Special Committee furnished with up-to-date information on current developments in the Middle East region, newspapers issued in the region would be reviewed daily for information relating to its work, and translation from Arabic and Hebrew into English and French of the appropriate articles appearing in Arabic and Hebrew publications would be required. In addition, one staff member at the P-3 level would be provided to translate newspaper articles, reports, written testimony and transcripts, military orders and proclamations from Arabic and Hebrew into English and/or French. He or she would also prepare documentation for the meetings of the Special Committee.

14. The request to the Secretary-General, in operative subparagraph 23 (c) and (d) of the draft resolution, to ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee by all means available through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat would continue to be complied with.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work for 1988-1989

15. No modifications are required in the approved programme of work for 1988-1989 since the activity already appears under programme element 1.3.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

16. The estimated cost of the above programme of work is itemized as follows:

	\$	\$
I. <u>Meeting at Geneva, January/February 1989</u> <u>(5 working days)</u>		
Travel and subsistence of three members		
Travel	4 300	
Subsistence	<u>2 900</u>	7 200

\$                    \$

II. <u>Meeting at Geneva, May/June 1989</u>		
<u>(10 working days)</u>		
Travel and subsistence of three members		
Travel	4 300	
Subsistence	<u>5 900</u>	10 200
III. <u>Field mission to Europe and the Middle</u>		
<u>East in late spring or early summer 1989</u>		
<u>(21 days)</u>		
(a) Travel and subsistence of three members		
Travel	6 100	
Subsistence	<u>9 500</u>	15 600
(b) Travel and subsistence of six		
substantive and administrative		
staff (Secretary of the Committee,		
one assistant secretary, one adminis-		
trative and finance officer,		
one information officer,		
two secretaries)		
Travel	4 900	
Subsistence	<u>11 300</u>	16 200
(c) General operating expenses		
(i) Rental of conference room		
and office space		
(ii) Local transportation		
(iii) Communications		
Administative and press cables,		
telephones, etc.		
(iv) Air freight (sound equipment,		
tapes, etc.)		
(v) Miscellaneous and unforeseen		
expenses (travel and subsistence		
of witnesses, costs for notices		
in newspapers, etc.)		
	<u>13 400</u>	13 400

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	\$	\$
IV. <u>Meeting at Geneva, September 1989</u> (10 working days)		
Travel and subsistence of three members		
Travel	4 300	
Subsistence	<u>5 900</u>	10 200
V. <u>Supplementary staff and other expenditure</u>		
(i) Temporary assistance for indexing and summarizing of transcripts of evidence (P-2, salary and common staff costs, 12 work-months)	61 000	
(ii) Secretarial assistance to service Special Committee (2 General Service, salaries and common staff costs, 12 work-months each)	102 000	
(iii) Overtime for secretarial staff	2 000	
(iv) Temporary assistance for translation of newspaper articles, reports, written testimony and transcripts from Arabic and Hebrew into English and/or French, and for translation of military orders and proclamations from Arabic and Hebrew into English and/or French, and preparation of documentation for Special Committee meetings (one P-3, salary and common staff costs, 12 work-months)	75 000	
(v) General operating expenses (subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals, purchase of publications, special cartographic services, maintenance of word-processing equipment, etc.)	<u>20 000</u>	<u>260 000</u>
Total		<u>332 800</u>

17. The conference-servicing costs which are likely to arise from the three meetings and one field mission of the Special Committee in 1989 are estimated at \$519,000 as detailed in the annex to this document.

#### F. Potential for absorption

18. The mandate of the Special Committee has been renewed annually for a period of more than five years and, therefore, it is one of the perennial activities for which the Secretary-General made provision in his programme budget proposals for the biennium 1988-1989. Consequently, should the General Assembly decide to adopt draft resolution A/SPC/43/L.26, no additional appropriation or programmatic changes would be required under section 23 (Human rights).

19. The conference-servicing costs mentioned in paragraph 17 above have been calculated on a full-cost basis which assumes that no part of the requirements could be met from within the permanent capacity of the Department of Conference Services. The extent to which the permanent capacity of the Department needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences to be approved by the General Assembly. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.6 of the current programme budget, the 1988-1989 requirements under temporary assistance for meetings have been 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 has been made in the proposed programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of the budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the next biennium is consistent with the pattern experience over the past five years. On that basis it is estimated that no additional cost would be incurred under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/43/L.26.

Annex

BREAKDOWN OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING COSTS

	\$	\$
<b>A. <u>Meeting at Geneva, January/February 1989</u></b>		
(i) Pre-session documentation (65 pages, 5 documents, languages: E,F)	13 400	
(ii) Meeting-servicing (10 meetings): Interpretation	19 100	
(iii) In-session documentation (15 pages, 2 documents, languages: E,F)	2 500	
(iv) Post-session documentation (50 pages, 4 documents, languages: E,F)	8 900	
(v) Transcript of testimony	10 300	
(vi) Office of General Services requirements	<u>1 900</u>	56 100
<b>B. <u>Meeting at Geneva, May/June 1989</u></b>		
(i) Pre-session documentation (65 pages, 5 documents, languages: E,F)	13 400	
(ii) Meeting-servicing (20 meetings): Interpretation	43 300	
(iii) In-session documentation (15 pages, 2 documents, languages: E,F)	2 600	
(iv) Post-session documentation (50 pages, 4 documents, languages: E,F)	8 900	
(v) Transcript of testimony	33 900	
(vi) Office of General Services requirements	<u>3 600</u>	105 700



C. Field mission, spring/summer 1989

(i) Meeting-servicing on mission:

Interpretation/verbatim reporter,  
 including travel and per diem 118 100

In-session documentation 68 400

Office of General Services requirements 7 200

(ii) Transcript of testimony 31 400 225 100

D. Meeting at Geneva, end August 1989

	\$	\$
(i) Pre-session documentation (65 pages, 5 documents, languages: E,F)	13 400	
(ii) Meeting-servicing (20 meetings): Interpretation	43 300	
(iii) In-session documentation (20 pages, 2 documents, languages: E,F)	3 900	
(iv) Post-session documentation (200 pages, 4 documents, languages: E,F)	34 000	
(v) Transcript of testimony	33 900	
(vi) Office of General Services requirements	<u>3 600</u>	<u>132 100</u>
Grand total		<u><u>519 000</u></u>

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