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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Revised estimates under section 28J. 3, Staff training activities  
(regional commissions)

Programme for training English and French translators at  
the Economic Commission for Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, at its thirty-second session, approved a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/35) which provided for the establishment of a training programme for English and French translator/préçis-writers at the regional Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in order to overcome growing difficulties experienced by the Secretariat in finding qualified English and French translator/préçis-writers to fill vacancies at ECA in particular, but also at Headquarters and other overseas offices.
2. The Secretary-General, in his proposal, stated that the programme would be reviewed at the end of each year and that, in the light of experience, proposals for its continuation or possible extension to other regional commissions would be submitted to the General Assembly (A/C.5/32/35, para. 4).
3. The first course opened in September 1978 and was completed in May 1979. Eight trainees selected on the basis of a competitive entrance examination received intensive instruction in the techniques of translation and préçis-writing for a period of nine months. They subsequently sat for the standard official United Nations recruitment examination for translators, and two of them qualified for recruitment: one as an English translator, and the other as a French translator. The second course, for which resources were provided by the General Assembly's decision, began in October 1979 and is scheduled for completion in June 1980.
4. The recruitment of the two successful African trainees will help to alleviate the shortage of English and French translators in 1979 at ECA, where they will serve initially. However, the growing difficulties encountered in recruiting

qualified English and French translators, as noted in paragraph 26 of the report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat (A/34/408), confirms the need to continue and secure the additional source of recruitment provided by the translator training programme.

5. In view of this recognized need, the Secretary-General recommends that the training programme of English and French translators at ECA be continued during the 1980-1981 biennium.

6. The nature and purpose of the translator training programme makes it necessary that the staff members charged with the responsibility of organizing and conducting the programme have, in addition to other qualifications, the requisite experience with the Organization in this field. In consequence, it is intended that the staffing requirements of the programme should normally be met by effecting assignments to the duty station by qualified personnel from Headquarters or Geneva, in line with the normal procedure for assigning language staff to the regional economic commissions.

7. The estimated resources required under section 28J for the execution of the training programme are estimated at \$362,300 for the biennium 1980-1981 as follows:

	\$	\$
<u>Students</u>		
Interviews: Travel and two days' <u>per diem</u> for 15 students each year	23,300	
Training: Travel for 10 students each year	16,000	
Stipends for 10 students for nine months each year at the rate of \$US 750 per month	<u>135,000</u>	174,300
<u>Chief, training programme/Instructor</u>		
Salaries and common staff costs for one P-4 temporary post (Chief, training programme)	89,400	
Salaries and common staff costs for one P-3 temporary post (Instructor)	<u>74,600</u>	164,000
<u>Secretarial services</u>		
Nine General Service work-months each year		9,500
<u>Advertising and promotion</u>		5,000
<u>Supplies and materials</u>		6,500
<u>Furniture and equipment</u>		<u>3,000</u>
Total		<u><u>362,300</u></u>

8. In addition, a provision of \$35,300 would be required under section 31 for staff assessment, offset by increased estimates of income in a similar sum under income section 1.

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