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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIIUM 1978-1979

Administrative and financial implications of draft  
resolution VII recommended by the Third Committee  
(A/32/458, para. 52)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter G. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet  
Socialist Republic)

1. At its 65th meeting, on 15 December 1977, the Fifth Committee, in compliance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/99) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution VII, recommended by the Third Committee (A/32/458, para. 52).
2. In operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to initiate appropriate activities at the United Nations level such as those indicated in the annex to the draft resolution to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. In operative paragraph 6, the General Assembly would decide to hold a special commemorative meeting to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which falls on 10 December 1978, and would request the Secretary-General to make the necessary preparations for the programme of that meeting.
4. Annexes A and B of the draft resolution contain suggestions for possible action at the national level (annex A) and at the United Nations level (annex B).
5. In paragraph 1 of annex B, the General Assembly would recommend that commemorative events should be organized at United Nations Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Geneva on or around 10 December 1978.

6. The events planned for Headquarters would include concerts and other activities related to the promotion of human rights which have customarily taken place at Headquarters over the years. The Secretary-General indicated that the costs of those activities would be absorbed within existing resources.

7. The events planned for the United Nations Office at Geneva would include a special gala performance at the Palais des Nations by two national musical groups whose talents would be made available without cost, but whose travel and subsistence costs would be charged to the United Nations. It is estimated that the groups in question might be made up of perhaps 10 to 20 artists each.

8. In paragraph 2 of annex B to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would recommend that a special seminar within the programme of advisory services should be organized in 1978 at Geneva at the world-wide level on the subject of national and local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

9. The Secretary-General indicated that he assumed that the reference to the programme of advisory services meant that the resources for the seminar should be provided within the appropriations voted under section 15 of the regular programme budget, that is, from the regular programme of technical assistance. He would propose to provide these advisory services without diminution of the current (1977) level of advisory services for human rights provided under section 15 pursuant to resolution 926 (X) of the General Assembly. Accordingly, he would redeploy the necessary funds from the total resources available within section 15.

10. On the basis of past experience, he estimated that the seminar would be attended by 32 participants, from various parts of the world, selected by the Division of Human Rights on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. Conference-servicing staff and facilities would be provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva.

11. Under the terms of paragraph 3 of annex B, the General Assembly would request that arrangements be made for the award of human rights prizes as envisaged in recommendation C of the annex to resolution 2217 (XXI). The Secretary-General stated that, on the basis of the criteria established therein and in the light of past practice, the following elements would be taken into account:

(a) Travel and subsistence of the selection committee of the winners of the human rights prizes. The committee would be composed of the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. They would travel to New York for a five-day meeting to select the prize winners;

(b) Interpretation would be provided in English, French and Spanish;

(c) A number of prizes would be designed and manufactured;

(d) The selection committee would be assisted by one substantive officer of the Division of Human Rights.

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12. Under the terms of paragraphs 4 and 5 of annex B, the General Assembly would request that appropriate public information, broadcasting and audio-visual material should be issued by the Office of Public Information designed to draw attention to and emphasize the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the role played and work done by the United Nations to ensure effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It would also request that updated versions in all official languages of the United Nations should be issued of the publications Human Rights; A Compilation of International Instruments of the United Nations and United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights and assistance should be given to institutions which intend to publish them in other languages.

13. The Secretary-General indicated that in carrying out this mandate, the Office of Public Information would propose to implement a programme which would involve one exhibit, a number of publications and photographic displays described as follows:

(a) The exhibit would be made up of a panel (10 ft. wide x 6 to 8 ft. high) displaying graphically the various international instruments relating to human rights and the Member States of the United Nations and a console incorporating push-button switches which would show which countries have ratified a given instrument;

(b) Two pamphlets would be published: one, entitled "The United Nations and Human Rights", would be a 100-page booklet (6" x 9") bringing up to date and presenting in one publication all available information on action taken by the United Nations in the field of human rights; the other, entitled "International Bill of Human Rights", would be a 6" x 9" pamphlet of some 20 to 30 pages containing an introduction, the Universal Declaration, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Protocol;

(c) The photographic displays would include 60 sets of 10 mounted photographs (16" x 20") with mounted copy of the Declaration, produced for shipment to and display at 60 information centres throughout the world and for rotating display for specified periods of time in selected cities in each country served by a United Nations information centre. Captions in English, French and Spanish would be prepared at Headquarters and translated into local languages by information centre staff at no additional cost.

14. The Secretary-General indicated that should the General Assembly approve the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/32/L.45, an appropriation of \$124,000 would be required under section 18, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979. He stated further that an additional expenditure of \$76,352 would also arise under section 15, Regular programme of technical assistance, but would not necessitate any additional appropriation, as explained in paragraph 9 above.

15. He also stated that the conference-servicing requirements, estimated at \$175,060, would be the object of a separate request of appropriation under section 23 after determining to what extent the costs involved might be absorbed under existing resources.

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16. In an oral statement, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions indicated that the Advisory Committee concurred with the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/99) to the effect that the financial implications arising under section 15 would be absorbed within the existing appropriation for that section and would give rise to no additional appropriation. He stated further that some reduction was possible in the travel costs of the participants in the award of human rights prizes and through a scaling down of some of the display panels proposed for public information purposes. As a result, an additional appropriation of only \$100,000 would be required under section 18. He stated further that the conference-servicing costs, which were estimated at \$175,000, could be absorbed within existing resources.

17. Comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion of this item are reflected in the summary record of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.65).

#### DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

18. The Fifth Committee decided without a vote to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution VII recommended by the Third Committee (A/32/458, para. 52), an additional appropriation of \$100,000 would be required under section 18 and that conference-servicing costs amounting to \$175,000 would be absorbed within existing resources.

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