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Thirty-second session  
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RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
SUCCESSION OF STATES IN RESPECT OF TREATIES

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution  
recommended by the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/32/L.4)

Sixteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and  
Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its thirty-second  
session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/40/Rev.1 and Corr.1) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.6/32/L.4) adopted by the Sixth Committee at its forty-third meeting on 11 November 1977.
2. Pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would approve the convening of a resumed session of the United Nations Conference on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties at Vienna for a period of three weeks, from 31 July to 18 August 1978, with a possible extension of up to one further week should this prove necessary in the view of the Conference.
3. The Secretary-General estimates that, if the Conference were held at Geneva, it would cost \$659,500 for a three-week session or \$834,600 for a four-week session; the corresponding estimates if the Conference were held at New York would be \$814,300 and \$984,600, respectively. The breakdown given by the Secretary-General in paragraph 5 of his report may be summarized as follows:

	<u>Geneva</u>		<u>New York</u>	
	<u>Three weeks</u>	<u>One additional week</u>	<u>Three weeks</u>	<u>One additional week</u>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Conference servicing costs (sect. 23) . . .	624.3	166.5	795.1	167.9
Other requirements (sect. 20) . . . . .	35.2	8.6	19.2	2.4
	659.5	175.1	814.3	170.3
	834.6		984.6	

4. In paragraph 7 of his statement (A/C.5/32/40/Rev.1 and Corr.1) the Secretary-General indicates that, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 31/140, the Government of Austria will defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved. The Secretary-General does not express an opinion on whether the costs at New York or at Geneva should be used as the base for calculating the additional costs to be defrayed. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee recalls that, pursuant to paragraph 5 of section I of General Assembly resolution 31/140, the "actual additional costs" are those additional to holding a session at the established headquarters of the body in question. For bodies serviced by the Office of Legal Affairs, the established headquarters is United Nations Headquarters, New York. In the specific case of the Conference on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties, however, the General Assembly, at its thirty-first session, agreed that Geneva should be used as the base for calculating the additional costs related to the 1977 session of the Conference. <sup>1/</sup> Inasmuch as the proposed 1978 session will be a resumed session and not a separate conference, the Advisory Committee has concluded that the arrangements approved for 1977, namely, that Geneva be used as the basis for calculating the costs, should apply also to the resumed session in 1978. Accordingly, the Committee's recommendations in the present report relate to the Secretary-General's assumptions as to the costs of holding the session at Geneva.

5. At this stage, the Secretary-General is not seeking any additional appropriations under section 23 for the conference servicing requirements. The estimate of \$624,300 for a three-week session, or of \$834,600 for a four-week session, is based on the assumption that none of the requirements can be met from

<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/31/8 and Add.1-26), document A/31/8/Add.8, para. 4 (a) and foot-note 2.

within the resources already included under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for 1978-1979. The extent to which it will be possible to absorb requirements will be indicated in the consolidated statement of conference servicing costs to be submitted towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly.

6. The Advisory Committee has reviewed the conference servicing requirements from the point of view of the number of staff it is proposed to assign to the Conference, in respect of which it sought additional information from the Secretary-General. The Committee has no objection to the assumptions with respect to the number of interpreters required to service the Conference and the volume of in-session documentation. By contrast, the proposed ratio of revisers to translators (3:4) is, in the Committee's opinion, excessive; while the Advisory Committee does not question that the subject-matter of the Conference calls for special care in the translation of the texts, it believes that the amount of revision can be reduced if some of the original work is done by experienced senior translators. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the total number of translators and revisers be reduced from 36 to 31. It should also be possible to reduce the number of typists by two. Furthermore, the Committee is of the view that, given the proposed pattern of meetings (A/C.5/32/40/Rev.1 and Corr.1, para. 4) it should be possible to reduce the number of meetings service, supervisory and clerical staff; in particular, the Committee recommends that the number of meeting-room attendants be reduced from 6 to 2, the number of sound engineers from 4 to 3, of reference clerks from 2 to 1, of assemblers from 9 to 4 and of distribution clerks from 4 to 2; the Committee is also not convinced of the need for a bilingual clerk. On the above basis, "full-cost" requirements for a three-week session can be reduced by \$25,400. The Committee also believes that the cost of post-session documentation can be reduced by \$47,900. The "full-cost" conference servicing requirements for a three-week session thus become \$551,000. The Advisory Committee recommends that the latter figure be used as the starting point for purposes of the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements. The Committee believes that requirements for one additional week, which are of a contingent nature, should not be included in the consolidated statement.

7. As regards "other requirements" in the amount of \$35,200 for a three-week session, the Advisory Committee has been informed that the estimate of \$19,600 for travel and subsistence of substantive staff has been calculated on the basis that 10 staff will travel to Geneva (the Under-Secretary-General, one D-2, one D-1, five Professional and two General Service staff). Having regard to the proposed pattern of meetings (A/C.5/32/40/Rev.1 and Corr.1), para. 4), the Advisory Committee recommends that the number of Professional staff be reduced by one, with a consequential saving of \$1,800. The Advisory Committee recommends further that no provision need be made in respect of "other requirements" for one additional week in view of their contingent nature; the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that, if such requirements - which the Secretary-General estimates at \$8,550 - do arise, they can be met from within the over-all resources in section 20.

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8. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/32/L.4), an additional amount of \$33,400 would be required under section 20 of the programme budget for 1978-1979, and that conference servicing requirements, in an amount which should not exceed \$551,000, would arise under section 23, it being understood that the latter requirements would be included in a consolidated statement to be prepared towards the close of the current session of the General Assembly.

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