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INCENDIARY AND OTHER SPECIFIC CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY
BE THE SUBJECT OF PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS OF USE FOR
HUMANITARIAN REASONS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions
A/C.1/32/L.29/Rev.1, A/C.1/32/L.25, A/C.1/32/L.16, A/C.1/32/L.11
and A/C.1/32/L.13 recommended by the First Committee

Twenty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statements submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/58, A/C.5/32/68-70), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on administrative and financial implications of five draft resolutions recommended by the First Committee under agenda items 38, 51, 52 and 53.

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.29/Rev.1

2. In his statement (A/C.5/32/58), the Secretary-General indicates that the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.29/Rev.1, adopted by the First Committee at its 44th meeting, on 25 November 1977, under agenda item 38 (see A/32/369, para. 8), amount to \$686,700. They consist of the full costs of servicing a United Nations Preparatory Conference to be held from 24 July to 11 August 1978 in preparation for a United Nations Conference to be convened in 1979, with a view to reaching agreements on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of specific conventional weapons. The full costs in question would arise

if no conference servicing could be provided from within existing resources. In paragraph 5 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that he will report later in the current session of the General Assembly how much of the costs of servicing the Preparatory Conference can be absorbed and whether additional appropriations will be required.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.29/Rev.1 are not confined to the costs of the Preparatory Conference. In paragraph 3 (f) of his statement (A/C.5/32/58), the Secretary-General indicates that the estimated costs of the 1979 Conference itself will be reported to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, after the meeting of the Preparatory Conference.

4. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee (A/32/369, para. 8), there would be need to provide in 1978 conference servicing to the United Nations Preparatory Conference at an estimated cost of \$686,700, including the cost of services to be furnished from already approved resources; and that the requirements in 1979 relating to the United Nations Conference itself would be the subject of a separate submission by the Secretary-General at the thirty-third session.

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.25

5. In his statement (A/C.5/32/68), the Secretary-General estimates at \$439,300 the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.25, adopted by the First Committee at its 38th meeting, on 18 November 1977, under agenda item 53 (see A/32/382, para.8). The estimate covers the conference-servicing costs of two sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference to be held in New York in 1978; on the assumption that no servicing can be provided from within approved resources, such costs are estimated at \$439,300.

6. In paragraph 5 of his statement (A/C.5/32/68), the Secretary-General indicates that he will report later in the current session of the General Assembly how much of the aforesaid costs can be absorbed and whether servicing the two sessions in question will require additional appropriations.

7. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee (A/32/382, para. 8) there would be need to provide conference servicing to the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference at an estimated cost of \$439,300, including the cost of services to be provided from already approved resources.

C. Draft resolutions A/C.1/32/L.16 and A/C.1/32/L.11

8. In his statement (A/C.5/32/69), the Secretary-General submits the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/C.1/32/L.16 and A/C.1/32/L.11 which the First Committee adopted at its 32nd meeting on 5 November 1977 (see A/32/381, para. 12, draft resolution A), and at its 38th meeting, on 18 November 1977 (ibid., draft resolution B), respectively, under agenda item 52. As indicated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 1 of his statement, the resolutions relate to the meetings of:

- (a) An Ad Hoc group of governmental experts;
- (b) The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament;
- (c) The special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

9. The Secretary-General estimates the cost of the Ad Hoc group of governmental experts, called for in draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.16, to total \$140,600. In paragraph 3 of his statement, the Secretary-General proposes that the Ad Hoc group envisaged in the above-mentioned draft resolution should consist of 15 experts who would meet in New York in 1978 for one week. In paragraph 5 of his statement the Secretary-General estimates the cost of conference services for the group at \$117,500 and the cost of travel and subsistence of the experts at \$23,100.

10. Under the terms of draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.11, the General Assembly would, inter alia:

- (a) Request the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session Devoted to Disarmament to continue its work in order to prepare a draft final document or documents for consideration and adoption by the special session, and to submit to it its final report;
- (b) Request the Secretary-General to render the Preparatory Committee all necessary assistance as might be required for the completion of its work.

11. In paragraph 10 of his statement, the Secretary-General estimates the conference-servicing costs of two sessions of the Preparatory Committee in 1978 at \$891,400 on the assumption that none of the servicing can be provided from within already approved resources.

12. In paragraph 7, the Secretary-General indicates that in order to assist the Preparatory Committee in the preparation of a draft final document or documents it will be necessary to extend up to 30 June 1978 the contracts of three consultants currently employed and, in addition, to engage for the same period two research assistants at the G-5 level. In paragraph 8, the Secretary-General estimates the costs of the three consultants and two research assistants (at G-5) for six months at \$90,000.

13. The Advisory Committee has no objections to continued provision of the three consultants currently employed. However, in view of the resources already available to the Centre for Disarmament, particularly its Information and Research Section, the Committee recommends that research assistance to the consultants continue to be furnished from within the existing establishment. The Committee's recommendation would entail a reduction of \$21,000 in the estimate, i.e. from \$90,000 to \$69,000.

14. In paragraph 15 of his statement, the Secretary-General presents revised cost estimates of \$2,839,200 for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.11). The special session would be held in New York between 23 May and 28 June 1978.

15. On the basis of the information provided in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/32/69), the total estimate of \$2,839,200 may be broken down as follows:

Section 1	\$	\$
(i) Travel expenses of representatives	263,000	
(ii) Offices of the Secretary-General	34,400	
(iii) Office of Public Information	84,800	
		382,200
Section 22		
Office of General Services		79,500
Section 23		
Department of Conference Services	2,377,500	
		2,839,200

16. The Secretary-General confines his request for additional resources at this stage to \$382,200 under section 1. In paragraph 16, the Secretary-General indicates that he will report later in the current session of the General Assembly to what extent the conference-servicing costs dealt with in his statement can be absorbed within existing resources.

17. As regards the estimate under section 1, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that most of the requirements of the Office of Public Information for press and publications, radio and visual services and external relations can be met from within the resources already approved for the Office. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimates for the Office of Public Information be reduced by \$30,000, that is, from \$84,800 (see A/C.5/32/69, para. 15 (e)) to \$54,800.

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18. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A recommended by the First Committee (A/32/381, para. 12), additional requirements of \$23,100 for travel and subsistence of experts would arise under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for 1978-1979. The Fifth Committee may also wish to inform the General Assembly that adoption of draft resolution A would give rise to conference-servicing costs not exceeding \$117,500, including the cost of services to be provided from within already approved resources.

19. With regard to draft resolution B recommended by the First Committee (A/32/381, para. 12), the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution B, there would be need for an additional appropriation of \$69,000 under section 2 and \$352,200 under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for 1978-1979. The Fifth Committee may also wish to inform the General Assembly that there would be need to provide conference servicing to the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session Devoted to Disarmament at an estimated cost of \$891,400 and to the special session itself at an estimated cost of \$2,457,000, including the cost of services to be provided from already approved resources.

D. Draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.13

20. In his statement (A/C.5/32/70), the Secretary-General submits the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.13 which the First Committee adopted at its 37th meeting, on 18 November 1977 (see A/32/380, para. 19, draft resolution E), under agenda item 51. The total cost of the programme of work envisaged in this draft resolution is estimated by the Secretary-General at \$714,100, including an estimated \$566,500 for the publication in 1978-1979 of a United Nations disarmament periodical (five issues, six languages) and \$147,600 in respect of staff and common services costs related to the publication of the periodical.

21. In paragraph 6 of his statement the Secretary-General indicates that he will report later in the current session of the General Assembly on the extent to which the publishing costs (see A/C.5/32/70, para. 4) can be absorbed within existing resources. The Advisory Committee trusts that most, if not all, of these costs will be so absorbed. In addition, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General explore the sales potential of the proposed periodical with a view to offsetting the costs of its publication.

22. The estimate of \$147,600 for established posts and common services costs relates to the request for three additional posts (P-4, P-2, G-4/3). The Advisory Committee was informed that the P-4 post is intended for an officer who would perform editorial and co-ordinating functions, and that the incumbent of the P-2 post would provide bibliographical and other general background research material. Given the present resources of the Centre for Disarmament, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that the P-2 post will be needed. The consequential reduction would amount to \$47,000 consisting of \$39,500 in staff costs and \$7,500 in related common services costs.

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23. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution E recommended by the First Committee (A/32/380, para. 19) additional requirements of \$85,400 for established posts and \$15,200 for common services costs would arise under sections 2 and 22, respectively, of the proposed programme budget for 1978-1979. An additional amount of \$23,700 1/ would also be required under section 25 to cover the related staff assessment, to be offset by an increase in the same amount in the estimates of income from staff assessment under income section 1.

24. The Fifth Committee may also wish to inform the General Assembly that adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to publishing costs not exceeding \$566,500, including the cost of services to be provided from within already approved resources.

^{1/} The figure of \$2,800 for staff assessment given in paragraph 6 of A/C.5/32/70 is incorrect. The Advisory Committee has been informed that the correct staff assessment total for the proposed P-4, P-2 and G-4/3 is \$28,800 (of which \$5,100 relates to the P-2 post, which the Advisory Committee does not recommend).