



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/31/284
1 November 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-first session
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES
IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 3336 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirtieth session a report on the adverse economic effects on the Arab States and peoples resulting from repeated Israeli aggression and continued occupation of their territories. At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly, having considered the interim report of the Secretary-General (A/10290 and Add.2), adopted resolution 3516 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 in which it noted that the report had not been prepared in accordance with the request contained in paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 3336 (XXIX); requested the heads of the relevant specialized agencies and United Nations organs to co-operate actively and adequately with the Secretary-General in the preparation of a final report; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-first session a final comprehensive report.
2. At the time when the General Assembly was considering the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1490, which was later adopted as resolution 3516 (XXX), a statement on administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/1759) was submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. That statement contained the following:

"Considering the scope and nature of the report to be prepared and the limited time in which to do it, it is proposed that the work be undertaken by two senior officers to be recruited on a short-term basis of seven months, assisted by a secretary. As envisaged, the officers would work under the auspices of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the task would involve, in addition to enquiries, visits to the countries concerned and further consultations with the relevant specialized agencies and United Nations organs, in particular, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic Commission for Western Asia."

3. In a related decision the General Assembly appropriated an additional amount of \$83,200 as recommended by the Fifth Committee in its report on its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1976/1977 and medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979. 1/

4. Accordingly, and as suggested in the statement on administrative and financial implications, a number of experts were approached for recruitment but none of them could take on the assignment. Indeed, in view of the qualifications required, the range of such experts is relatively limited and consequently many of them had commitments far in advance. This also made it difficult to find two experts who could be available at the same time and operate as a team. Very recently, two experts have indicated that they would be prepared to undertake the assignment early in 1977.

5. Under the circumstances, it is regretted that the submission of the report requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 3516 (XXX) has to be postponed until the thirty-second session of the General Assembly.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Annexes, agenda item 96, document A/10500, para. 216, sect. A, III, (gg).