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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1976-1977

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/31/L.31

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. E. Brian NASON (Ireland)

1. At its 53rd meeting, on 16 December 1976, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered a statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/96) concerning the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/31/L.31 regarding the convening in 1977 of an International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia. Under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would welcome the preparedness of the Government of Mozambique to hold the Conference at Maputo.
2. In his statement (A/C.5/31/96), the Secretary-General estimated that the cost of convening such a conference at Headquarters would amount to \$115,500; however, conference and other servicing requirements entailing expenditures estimated at \$33,900 could be absorbed within existing resources and thereby reduce the requested appropriation to \$81,600.
3. The statement also pointed out that, as no agreement had been received from the Government of Mozambique to defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved, the conditions set out in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 did not obtain. On the other hand, it was clear from that resolution that the financial liability of the Organization should, in every case, be limited to the cost of holding the meeting at "the established headquarters" of a body. If the Organization had wished to depart from this principle, a specific provision to that effect would have had to be contained

in the related resolution. In the absence of that provision, it should be assumed that the costs chargeable to the Organization would be limited to those that would be incurred if the Conference were to be held at Headquarters.

4. The Secretary-General's statement indicated, for information purposes, that the cost of the Conference, were it to be held in Maputo, would amount to \$328,100.

5. In an oral statement, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted the assumptions made by the Secretary-General in his statement and indicated that the Fifth Committee might wish to advise the General Assembly accordingly.

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to inform the General Assembly that, should it approve the draft resolution contained in document A/31/L.31, an additional appropriation of \$82,000 would be required under section 3 of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977. An additional amount of \$8,000 would be required under section 25, offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1.
