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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SEVENTH
SPECIAL SESSION

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1976-1977

Administrative and financial implications of draft decisions I and III
recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/335/Add.1, para. 27)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. E. Brian NASON (Ireland)

1. At its 53rd and 55th meetings, on 16 and 17 December 1976, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statements by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/91 and A/C.5/31/92) concerning the administrative and financial implications of draft decisions I and III recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/335/Add.1, para. 27).

A. DRAFT DECISION I

2. Under the terms of draft decision I, the General Assembly would decide to take note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System ^{1/} and to extend the mandate of the Committee with a view to enabling it to submit final recommendations, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), to the Assembly at its thirty-second session through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/31/34); ibid., Supplement No. 34 A (A/31/34/Add.1); and ibid., Supplement No. 34 B (A/31/34/Add.2).

3. The Secretary-General estimated (A/C.5/31/91, para. 7), that, should the General Assembly adopt draft decision I, an appropriation of \$8,500 would be required in the programme budget for 1976-1977 under section 1. The Secretary-General further indicated that conference servicing costs of the Ad Hoc Committee would be \$147,900 or \$182,600, depending upon whether the sixth session of the Committee will require servicing for one or two weeks. The extent to which these costs would be absorbed from within resources already allocated to the Department of Conference Services would be shown in the consolidated statement of conference costs, and any appropriation required for the Ad Hoc Committee would be included in that paper.

4. The Secretary-General also stated (A/C.5/31/91, para. 9), that, should further developments arising from the work of the Ad Hoc Committee impose additional financial requirements in 1977 under the regular budget, the Secretary-General would seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to enter into the necessary commitments under the provisions from General Assembly resolution 3540 (XXX) on unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures for the biennium 1976-1977.

5. In his oral statement, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions indicated that the Advisory Committee recommended that the \$8,500 be absorbed within the resources already approved for section 1. He further stated that conference servicing requirements would be analysed in the context of the consolidated statement of conference servicing costs.

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft decision I recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/335/Add.1, para. 27), no additional appropriations would be required under section 1 of the programme budget for 1976-1977.

B. DRAFT DECISION III

7. Under the terms of draft decision III, the General Assembly would decide to take note, inter alia, of the preliminary study by the Secretary-General on the possibility of establishing an international energy institute within the framework of the United Nations system (A/31/262).

8. In his statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft decision (A/C.5/31/92), the Secretary-General indicated that, under paragraphs 6 and 7 of the study, he would propose to establish an ad hoc working group which would prepare, with the support of the Secretariat, a report regarding the desirability of establishing an international energy institute within the United Nations system, for presentation to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session.

The ad hoc working group would be composed of up to nine specialists nominated by Governments on a wide geographical basis, who would serve in their individual capacities. The group would convene in early 1977 in New York and it is envisaged that the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs would serve as its secretariat. The Secretary-General stated that the total financial requirements of draft decision III would amount to \$56,000. Of that amount, \$26,000 would be for conference servicing costs. The extent of these costs which might be absorbed from within resources already allocated to the Department of Conference Services would be shown in the consolidated statement of conference costs and any appropriation required for this purpose would be included in that paper. Accordingly, the Secretary-General indicated that an appropriation was requested at this time to cover only the balance of the requirements amounting to \$30,000 under section 5A of the programme budget for 1976-1977.

9. In his oral statement, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions indicated that the Advisory Committee had been informed by the Secretary-General that the amount for which an additional appropriation was required could be reduced by \$20,000 to \$10,000. He further indicated that the Advisory Committee recommended that the \$10,000 be absorbed within the resources already approved for Section 5A.

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

10. The Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft decision III recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/335/Add.1, para. 27), no additional appropriations would be required under section 5A of the programme budget for 1976-1977.
