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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION: UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC
INFORMATION POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/SPC/33/L.23/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 48th meeting on 8 December 1978, the Special Political Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/33/L.23/Rev.1 on the subject of Questions relating to Information, United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities. The Secretary of the Committee read a statement on the administrative and financial implications arising in connexion with operative paragraphs 4, 6 and 7 of the revised draft resolution amounting to \$186,200.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 4, 6 and 7 of the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/33/L.23/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to establish a "Committee to review United Nations public information policies and programmes" consisting of 41 Member States;

(b) Request the Committee to submit a report to the General Assembly at the thirty-fourth session on the policies and activities of the public information services of the United Nations system, giving particular attention to activities in the economic and social sphere;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to enable the Office of Public Information to maintain an adequate balance in the use of the official languages of the United Nations with, inter alia, an increase in the number of publications in the languages which such balance would require.

3. The exact terms of reference of the Committee, the frequency and duration of its meetings and its programme of work have not yet been determined. However, on the assumption that the Committee would hold approximately 40 meetings in 1979 at Headquarters, requiring simultaneous interpretation and documentation in five languages (Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) except for post-session documentation which would be in six languages, the following resources would be required:

	<u>No. of staff</u>	<u>No. of days</u>	<u>Daily rate</u>	<u>Expressed in 1978 US dollars</u>
<u>A. Department of Conference Services</u>				
Interpretation (five languages) <u>b/</u>	16	20	183	58,600
Pre-session documentation (60 pages)				
Translation <u>b/</u>	6	8	140	3,400
Revision <u>b/</u>	2	8	149	1,200
Typing (i) <u>b/</u>	6	8	47	1,100
(ii) <u>a/</u>	1	6	30	100
In-session documentation (30 pages)				
Translation <u>b/</u>	6	4	140	6,700
Revision <u>b/</u>	2	4	149	2,400
Typing (i) <u>b/</u>	6	4	47	2,300
(ii) <u>a/</u>	1	3	30	200
Post-session documentation (60 pages)				
Translation <u>b/</u>	6	10	140	8,400
Revision <u>b/</u>	2	10	149	3,000
Typing (i) <u>b/</u>	6	10	47	2,800
(ii) <u>a/</u>	1	6	30	200
Reproduction and distribution				7,000
Other conference staff <u>a/</u>	2	20	30	<u>1,000</u>
Total				<u>98,400</u>
 <u>B. Office of General Services</u>				
Sound technicians				5,600
Security service				9,600
General operating expenses				<u>4,000</u>
Total				<u>19,200</u>
Total A and B				<u>117,600</u>

a/ Assuming that staff is recruited locally.

b/ Assuming that staff is not recruited locally.

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4. In order to assist the Committee in its work the OPI would provide a secretariat to service the meetings of the Committee, to assist with research and collection of data on the information policies and activities of the public information services of the United Nations system and for other supporting services. The utilization of the present staff in the Office of Public Information, involving the redeployment of staff to meet demands in other areas such as supporting the information services at Vienna and Geneva would not permit the further redeployment of staff to provide assistance to the Committee. As a result it is estimated that 24 work-months of general temporary assistance (12 work-months at the P-4 level and 12 work-months at the General Service level) would be required to augment the current establishment of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information. The estimated cost of these resources is \$58,200.

5. As regards the request to take necessary measures to maintain a balance in the use of the official languages of the United Nations in the handling and dissemination of information, the Secretary-General would seek the guidance of the Committee as to the particular activities or output which should be produced in additional languages. The financial implications of such proposals would be submitted to the General Assembly in the context of the programme budget for the 1980-1981 biennium.

6. In the meanwhile, to give immediate effect to the intent of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General will undertake to increase radio output in the Spanish and Arabic languages to the extent possible within existing resources. In the area of publications, however, an amount of \$10,000 would be required for increasing the publication of selected pamphlets and leaflets in the Arabic and Spanish languages.

7. Based on the above, additional resources amounting to \$185,800 would be required for the 1978-1979 biennium. Included in this amount is \$117,600 on a full cost basis, for conference servicing requirements; however, the actual resources needed for this purpose will be indicated in the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted at a later time towards the close of the present session of the General Assembly. Accordingly, should the draft resolution be adopted, additional appropriations in the amount of \$68,200 would be required for general temporary assistance (\$58,200) and external printing (\$10,000) under Section 21A of the programme budget for 1978-1979. An amount of \$14,700 would also be required for staff assessment offset by an equal amount under income from staff assessment, Income Section 1.
