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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Administrative and financial implications of the decision  
taken by the First Committee at its 58th meeting held on  
30 November 1978 in connexion with the Report of the  
Secretary-General contained in document A/33/389

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

1. At the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51 (General and complete disarmament), the First Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Publication of a disarmament periodical" (A/C.1/32/L.13). 1/ The delegation of Saudi Arabia submitted amendments (A/C.1/32/L.15) 2/ to the draft resolution whereby the Assembly would recommend:

"that consideration be given to the making of a United Nations film candidly portraying the vast devastation wrought by the last World War and subsequent wars, and also highlighting the human tragedies and untold miseries brought about as a consequence of these wars, so that such a United Nations film could be shown in schools and universities and on television all over the world with the hope of creating a genuine aversion to all wars in the future".

As recorded in the report of the First Committee, the amendments were not put to the vote "on the understanding that the Office of Public Information would undertake preparatory research work on the project and the Secretary-General would

1/ Adopted as General Assembly resolution 32/87 E.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Annexes, agenda items 33, 34, 38 to 49 and 51 to 53, document A/32/380, para. 8.

report at the next regular session of the General Assembly on the feasibility of making such a film". 3/

2. In pursuance of that understanding the Secretary-General instructed the Office of Public Information to survey the possibilities of producing a United Nations film as proposed in the Saudi Arabian amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.13. The results of the survey and the requested report of the Secretary-General to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly are contained in document A/33/389, paragraphs 3 and 4 of which read as follows:

"3. The Office of Public Information conducted a survey of the field of anti-war films from the beginning of cinematography to the present day. It concluded that this topic, namely the horrors engendered by armed conflict, was one which from the earliest days had caught the attention of film makers. With the spread of television following the Second World War, the new medium became a principal vehicle for the dissemination of such anti-war films. This vast accumulation of cinematographic footage depicting the misery and destruction caused by conflicts of the twentieth century is stored in national and private archives around the world.

4. The Office of Public Information could produce a film on the horrors of war, as suggested in the Saudi Arabian amendments. This would be a major undertaking aimed at a world-wide audience, with emphasis on youth. The film would be done in co-operation with an external film-producer of established reputation."

3. At the 53rd meeting of the First Committee held on 28 November 1978, the Under-Secretary-General, Office of Public Information, made a statement wherein he indicated that while precise estimates of the cost of producing the film were not immediately available, the Office of Public Information considered that the amount involved would be of the magnitude of approximately \$200,000 and that if the First Committee should decide to recommend to the General Assembly that the film be produced, the Secretary-General would seek the additional appropriations required during the current session of the General Assembly.

4. The First Committee at its 58th meeting held on 30 November 1978, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it proceed with the production of a United Nations film on wars and their consequences.

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3/ Ibid., para. 16.

5. The financial implications of producing such a film are estimated as follows:

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(a)	Flat comprehensive fee payable for production of a sixty-minute documentary film on the horrors of war to be produced by an external film producer. The work involved includes the compilation of approximately 2/3 of the required material from existing sources at private and national archives, and entails both travel and payment of royalties; approximately 1/3 of the material is to be newly filmed . . . . .	150,000
(b)	In addition to the original version in English, it is planned to adapt the film into five languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish). The cost for each version which includes translation/adaptation, voicing, rewinding, final sound mixing, optical titling, inter-negative and answer-print, is estimated at \$5,000 each . . . . .	25,000
(c)	Distribution costs are based on estimated requirements of 200 release prints, each costing \$140 . . . . .	<u>28,000</u>
		<u>203,000</u>

6. Accordingly, should the draft decision of the First Committee be adopted by the General Assembly, additional appropriations in the amount of \$203,000 would be required under Section 21 A of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979.

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