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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/32/L.64, and of the related decision of the Trade and Development Board at its seventeenth session (A/32/15, annex I "other decisions", section (g))

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

1. The Second Committee, at its 55th meeting, on 7 December 1977, adopted draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.64 on the subject of economic co-operation among developing countries. In paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries" (A/32/312), and in paragraph 5 the General Assembly would, inter alia, take note of the Trade and Development Board's endorsement of the work programme of UNCTAD's Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries.
2. In an addendum to the Secretary-General's report on economic co-operation among developing countries referred to above (A/32/312/Add.1), financial implications of the related decisions of the Trade and Development Board at its seventeenth session were presented to the General Assembly, and thus were considered by the Second Committee in the course of its deliberations on the draft resolution.
3. The addendum contains a complete revision of UNCTAD's work programme prepared by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in accordance with resolution 1 (1) of UNCTAD's Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries which is annexed to the addendum. The revised work programme calls for an increase of 48 Professional work-months per annum, from 195 to 243, which would imply an addition of four Professional posts. In paragraph 12 of the addendum, however, the Secretary-General indicates his intention to request only three additional posts at this time, all at the P-4 level, preferring to have recourse to consultants for certain specified aspects of the work programme. He goes on to state his intention to redeploy consultants' funds from other programmes within UNCTAD in order to meet

these needs, but states, on the other hand, that two General Service posts would be required to provide research and secretarial assistance to the expanded work programme.

4. Paragraph 13 of document A/32/312/Add.1 states that the preparation of the studies and activities mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 6 of the Committee's resolution will involve frequent travel for the collection of data not available at Geneva and also for consultations with Governments, secretariats of regional and subregional groupings and institutions, as well as with regional commissions. Furthermore, as indicated in paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the studies should be carried out in consultation and, where appropriate, co-ordination with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and international organizations of the developing countries in order to ensure harmonious implementation of the work programme on economic co-operation among developing countries. Travel in connexion with the various studies and activities will, as far as possible, be grouped together in order to reduce its cost. Taking into account that this is an area of work to which high and increasing priority is being given, that it involves co-operation and co-ordination with other organizations and that there are four regional commissions apart from the one located at Geneva, 15 secretariats of regional and subregional groupings, five clearing and payments arrangements, 10 regional and subregional banks and about the same number of producer associations, it is estimated that the additional travel funds required for these purposes would amount to \$20,000 in the biennium 1978-1979.

5. The Second Committee was accordingly informed that the financial implications of the draft resolution in document A/C.2/32/L.64 and the related decision of the Trade and Development Board would amount to \$188,000 annually (at 1977 rates) and \$221,000 for the biennium 1978-1979, after deduction of the appropriate turnover factor. The amount of \$221,000 which the Secretary-General requests in the form of a revised appropriation under section 11 of the proposed programme budget for 1978-1979 may be summarized as follows:

	\$
Established posts (3 P-4, 2 other level General Service)	160,000
Common staff costs	41,000
Travel	20,000
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	221,000
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6. In addition, an appropriation of \$52,000 is requested for staff assessment under section 25, offset by an equivalent amount under Income section 1.
