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DRAFT INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Statement of financial implications of the amendments submitted
by Italy (A/C.3/L.1358) to the Draft International Covenants on
Human Rights

1. The amendment provides for the establishment of an ad hoc Committee of Experts, to consist of eighteen experts, known for their high moral standing and impartiality, who shall be elected by the Economic and Social Council from a list of candidates submitted by the States Parties to the Covenant, the first election of the Committee to take place six months after the date of entry into force of the Covenant and further elections to take place every four years. The expenses of the Committee are to be borne by the States Parties to the Covenant.
2. Article 26 of the draft Covenant provides that it would come into force as soon as twenty States have deposited instruments of ratification or accession with the Secretary-General. For the purposes of assessing the financial implications of the proposal, it is assumed that the Convention would come into force during the latter half of 1967, and that the ad hoc Committee would meet to establish its work programme during the first half of 1968.
3. The Secretary-General considers that a small unit consisting of two professional and two general service staff would need to be established in the Division of Human Rights at the time the Convention enters into force, in order to deal with preparatory work for the first meeting of the Committee. The eventual size of the secretariat of the Committee would depend upon the programme of work adopted by the Committee, the number and complexity of matters referred to it by the Economic and Social Council, and the extent to which the Committee will require substantive and technical secretariat assistance.

4. The amendment specifies that the expenses of the ad hoc Committee of Experts would be borne by the States Parties to the Covenant. It is assumed that the full costs of meetings of the Committee including any additional conference servicing required (which cannot be estimated in advance due to the ad hoc nature of the Committee) would be included among those expenses. Consequently, the Secretary-General understands that no costs whatsoever would be borne by the United Nations regular budget in respect of meetings of the Committee.

Summary

5. On the basis of the aforementioned assumptions, the only financial implications of this amendment as far as the regular budget is concerned are initially limited to the costs of a small secretariat unit in the Division of Human Rights. This would comprise two professional (P-5 and P-3) posts and two general service posts at a cost of \$32,000 in 1967 (six months) and \$55,000 in 1968. The Third Committee will appreciate that the General Assembly must be advised of the effect of this proposal on the 1967 budget estimates by the Fifth Committee under rule 154 of the rules of procedure.