

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE
AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS**

**SECOND TO TWENTY-FOURTH REPORTS
ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET
FOR
THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACCIS	Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems
ASHI	After-Service Health Insurance
ATC	Air Traffic Conference
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
CSDHA	Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
CTC	United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations
DIESA	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
DND	Division of Narcotic Drugs
DPI	Department of Public Information
DTCD	Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
EDP	Electronic Data Processing
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Habitat	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
ICC	International Computing Centre
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ISU	Information Systems Unit
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
SIDFAS	Senior Industrial Development Field Advisers
UNCS	United Nations Common Services Unit
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEF	United Nations Environment Fund
UNETPSA	United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNJSPF	United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund
UNOG	United Nations Office at Geneva

Second report

Revised estimates under section 25 (International Court of Justice), section 31 (Staff assessment) and income section 1 (Income from staff assessment)

[Original: English]

[27 September 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates for the International Court of Justice for the biennium 1984-1985 (A/C.5/38/3). As indicated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report, the initial estimates were provisional since, at the time they were prepared, consultations had not been concluded between the Court and the Secretary-General on the level of the Court's proposals for the biennium 1984-1985.
2. The estimate now submitted for section 25 (International Court of Justice) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 amounts to \$9,580,400, an increase of \$623,700 over the 1982-1983 appropriation of \$8,956,700. As shown in table 1 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/3), the estimate contains resource growth of \$533,900 (at revised 1983 rates) and reflects a rate of real growth of 6.3 per cent.
3. The estimate of \$4,259,400 for members of the Court covers salaries and allowances for judges, their pensions, travel and common staff costs. The estimate includes resource growth of \$18,100 (at revised 1983 rates) for pensions. The Advisory Committee was informed that the increase was due to changes in the numbers of retired judges and of widows of judges rather than to any change in the pension scheme itself, which, together with salaries, is normally reviewed every five years in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/204 of 22 December 1976. The last such review took place in 1980 and resulted in Assembly resolution 35/220 of 17 December 1980 (A/C.5/38/3, paras. 9 and 10).
4. The Registry accounts for an estimate of \$4,003,700 for 1984-1985. Resource growth of \$352,800 (at revised 1983 rates) is attributable to requests for three additional posts (1 D-1, 2 G-4), as well as proposed increases for temporary assistance for meetings and hospitality.
5. As stated in paragraph 14 (a) of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/3), the establishment of a D-1 level post in New York is proposed in order to provide liaison at Headquarters with members or officials of other organs of the Organization and specialized agencies. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26.19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 that the responsibilities of the Office of the Legal Counsel include "liaison with the International Court of Justice and discharging the legal responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Statute of the Court". 1/ Under the circumstances, the Committee is not convinced that, at this point, a separate liaison function in New York needs to be created for the Registry of the Court. Instead, the Committee believes that the Secretary-General should examine

the liaison requirements of the Court with a view to ensuring that the services provided by the United Nations, including the Office of the Legal Counsel, are fully responsive to the needs of the Court. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the establishment of the D-1 post should not be approved, with a consequential reduction in the estimate for section 25 of \$80,400.

6. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the establishment of two additional General Service posts to provide security in the new wing of the Peace Palace.

7. As shown in table 8 of the Secretary-General's report (*ibid.*), common services for the Court account for an estimate of \$1,317,300. Resource growth of \$163,000 (at revised 1983 rates) is attributable to additional requirements for external printing, communications and furniture and equipment.

Recapitulation

8. As the result of the Advisory Committee's recommendation (see para. 5 above), the Secretary-General's revised estimate for section 25 would be reduced by \$80,400 to \$9.5 million. In view of the fact that the Advisory Committee has already recommended an amount of \$8,911,700 under section 25 in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, 2/ the additional amount now recommended by the Committee is \$588,300. Moreover, an additional amount of \$11,800 will be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. III.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1), para. 25.1.

Third report

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - Preparatory work for bringing the Common Fund into operation: revised estimates under section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), section 31 (Staff assessment) and income section 1 (Income from staff assessment)

[Original: English]

[7 October 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the biennium 1984-1985 (A/C.5/38/4) and a note by the Secretary-General on preparatory work for bringing the Common Fund into operation (A/C.5/38/12).

A. Report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/4)

2. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/4), the initial proposals amounting to \$54,505,500 for section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 were confined to the revaluation of the 1982-1983 resource base, with the addition of the effect on this base of further inflation in 1984-1985, since at the time the budget proposals were being prepared, the sixth session of UNCTAD had not yet taken place. The estimate now submitted for section 15 amounts to \$55,194,600, an increase of \$2,782,900 over the 1982-1983 appropriation of \$52,411,700. As shown in table 1 of the Secretary-General's report, the estimate contains resource growth of \$644,600, at revised 1983 rates, and reflects a rate of real growth of 0.7 per cent.

3. The Advisory Committee notes the statement, in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/4), that "these revised estimates had to be based on a very preliminary assessment of the sixth session of the Conference since they had to be completed two weeks after the conclusion of the Conference. A more thorough evaluation of the results of the Conference and a more detailed analysis of its implications for UNCTAD work programmes would require more time. This will be undertaken in the forthcoming months". The Committee was informed that it was not the Secretary-General's intention to come back with further revised estimates on completion of this analysis.

4. A total of four new posts are requested for 1984-1985; these requests are described in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Secretary-General's report (*ibid.*). As indicated, three of the posts (1 P-5, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service) are requested for a special economic unit, in implementation of Conference resolution 146 (VI) 1/ on assistance to the Palestinian people. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the establishment of these posts; however, it trusts that their addition will obviate the need for consultants in this area.

5. The fourth new post is requested to provide a French language press officer to be located in the Information Unit; the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this post.
6. In paragraph 38 of the report (A/C.5/38/4), the Secretary-General proposes to reclassify the post of Chief of the Protectionism and Structural Adjustment Branch, Manufactures Division, from the P-5 to the D-1 level. The Committee notes that the branch chief is responsible for one of the major priority areas of UNCTAD and that the Chief supervises 12 Professional staff, including 3 section chiefs at the P-5 level. The Committee therefore recommends that the reclassification from P-5 to D-1 be approved.
7. As shown in table 34 of the Secretary-General's report, an amount of \$609,600 is requested for 1984-1985 under administration and common services for furniture and equipment, an increase of \$504,800 over 1982-1983. It is explained in paragraph 115 of the Secretary-General's report that the increase, which is on a non-recurrent basis, relates to the purchase and installation of word-processing equipment and electronic data-processing (EDP) equipment, partially offset by a saving in typewriter replacement costs. It is also stated that, with an extension in the use of word-processing equipment, it is anticipated that savings in staff resources equal to 36 work-months at the General Service level would be realized under general temporary assistance and overtime.
8. The Advisory Committee was informed that, at present, UNCTAD has 24 word-processing work stations and 6 printers. The proposed purchase would bring the totals to 64 work stations and 14 printers. The provision for EDP equipment relates to the purchase of a further 20 IBM screens, which would bring the total to 60 screens.
9. The Advisory Committee considers that the proposal to purchase additional word-processing equipment is consistent with the statement in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 that "the introduction of word processing should, in general, be pursued whenever it has been ascertained that advantages could be gained, for example, by improving productivity in those departments responsible for a great deal of documentation". 2/ The Committee notes that the decision to purchase rather than rent word-processing and EDP equipment was made after a study of the comparative advantages of each option.
10. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's revised estimate of \$55,194,600 for section 15. In view of the fact that the Advisory Committee has already recommended an amount of \$54,505,500 under section 15 in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, 3/ the additional amount now recommended by the Committee is \$689,100. In addition, an amount of \$99,800 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

B. Note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/12)

11. The Secretary-General's note (A/C.5/38/12) deals with the advance required for the preparatory work for bringing the Common Fund into operation. The General Assembly, in its resolution 35/226 A of 17 December 1980, originally appropriated

an advance in the amount of \$1,750,500 in the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. Background on the use of the advance and actions taken with respect to the 1980-1981 and 1982-1983 programme budgets is provided in paragraphs 2 to 4 of the note. The Secretary-General is requesting an amount of \$942,000 under section 15 of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. This represents the unspent balance of the advance and would, together with the expenditures in 1980-1981 and 1982-1983, be fully offset by an amount of \$1,750,500 under income section 2 (General income), representing the reimbursement due to the United Nations from the Common Fund once the Fund is declared operational (ibid., para. 8).

12. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's request, which will also involve an additional provision of \$49,700 for staff assessment under section 31 (Staff assessment), offset by a corresponding amount in income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

Notes

1/ See TD/325 and Corr.1. To be issued in Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Sixth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.II.D.6), part one, sect. A.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1), chap. I, para. 38.

3/ Ibid., chap. II, para. 15.3.

Fourth report

Revised programme budget proposals under section 7 (Department
of Technical Co-operation for Development)

[Original: English]

[25 October 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1), in which he submits revised estimates in the amount of \$17,507,200 under section 7 (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development). The estimate is \$89,300 less than the provisional amount of \$17,596,500 which was included in the proposed programme budget for the 1984-1985 biennium. 1/ During its review the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.
2. As explained by the Secretary-General in his proposed programme budget, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) experienced serious shortfalls in project delivery during the 1982-1983 biennium as compared with the amount of \$300,954,400 estimated in the programme budget for that biennium. "This resulted in reduced programme support resources to finance the technical and administrative staff involved with technical co-operation programmes." 2/ Therefore, pending the development of more accurate estimates of the extrabudgetary funds expected to be available in 1984-1985, and agreement on redeployments and other changes required in DTCD to alleviate the impact of the shortfall in extrabudgetary resources, the Secretary-General's initial estimate of \$17,596,500 for section 7 reflected only the revaluation of the 1982-1983 resource base and anticipated inflation for 1984-1985. In addition, no estimate of extrabudgetary resources or posts was included.
3. The analysis of the anticipated extrabudgetary resources for 1984-1985, the bulk of which is provided by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities has been completed. As noted in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1), "whereas in previous years, the availability of extrabudgetary funds for technical co-operation activities conducted by DTCD and other United Nations agencies (and the corresponding level of reimbursement of support costs to them on account of these activities) had been generally on the rise, since 1981 the trend has been the other way. At the same time, the costs of DTCD have been rising". Information regarding programme delivery and programme support reimbursements is shown in the table below.

DTCD programme delivery and programme support reimbursements

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	<u>Millions of United States dollars</u>				
Total project budgets for the years indicated	128.2	142.1	154.8	138.9	142.7 <u>a/</u>
Actual programme delivery	89.7	119.9	126.5	115.2	125.0 <u>b/</u>
Ratio of delivery to project budgets	70%	84%	82%	83%	88% <u>b/</u>
Programme support reimbursements	12.1	16.4	16.7	15.9	16.3 <u>b/</u>

a/ As at 31 August 1983.

b/ Estimated.

4. Because of the shortfall in extrabudgetary resources, substantial extrabudgetary staff reductions have had to be effected during the 1982-1983 biennium. This in turn has necessitated the organizational modifications (introduced in July 1983) described in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1). The revised estimate for section 7, prepared following this reorganization and analysis of extrabudgetary resources, amounts to \$17,507,200 or \$1,859,900 (11.8 per cent) over the revised 1982-1983 appropriation. As can be seen from table 1 of A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1, resource growth is estimated at minus \$83,000 (at revised 1983 rates); the rate of real growth is calculated at minus 0.5 per cent. According to the Secretary-General, the "negative growth of \$83,000 ... is the result of reduced requirements for external printing and reduced estimated costs associated with those posts which are being transferred from Geneva to New York" (A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1, para. 8).

5. As can be seen from table 1 of A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1, extrabudgetary resources available to DCTD during 1984-1985 are estimated at \$277,740,300, comprising \$24,060,000 for services in support of extrabudgetary programmes, \$1,420,300 for substantive activities, and \$252,260,000 for operational projects. The total of \$252,260,000 under (c) of table 1, operational projects, which is identical with the 1982-1983 total, represents the expected delivery of projects executed by DTCD in 1984-1985. As explained in footnote a/ to table 1, an estimated \$46,690,000 of this amount represents the delivery of projects backstopped by other units in the United Nations (most notably the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA)), but executed by DTCD as the Executing Agency.

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that "overhead" income will be earned on approximately \$242.6 million of the \$252,260,000 total expected delivery. The balance, i.e. \$9.6 million, represents projects on which programme support has been waived, such as the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and certain activities of the United Nations Fund for Namibia. The overhead income earned from the actual delivery of projects (normally calculated at the rate of 13 per cent of project delivery), is placed in a central fund for programme

support of technical co-operation activities. Other offices contributing to this fund include the United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations (CTC) and the Division of Narcotic Drugs (DND). Provided that the estimated programme delivery shown in table 1 of A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1 is achieved, an amount of \$24,060,000, which represents the bulk of the total overhead earnings, is expected to be allocated to DTCD in 1984-1985 to meet the extrabudgetary costs incurred by DTCD in executing technical co-operation projects (see A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1, table 1, sect. (2), item (a)): The balance will be apportioned among other offices including CTC, DND, DIESA, the Office of Financial Services, the Office of Personnel Services and the Office of General Services.

7. As can be seen from table 5 of A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1, the Secretary-General proposes no change in the 1982-1983 established regular budget staffing total of 199 (83 Professionals and above and 116 General Service).

8. As shown in the same table, the number of extrabudgetary posts for DTCD in 1984-1985 is at present estimated at 218 (102 Professional and above and 116 General Service), as compared with the total of 372 originally budgeted for 1982-1983. In response to inquiries, the Advisory Committee was informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that 364 of those posts were authorized as at 1 January 1982; by 31 December 1982, that number had been decreased to 339 because of the reduced availability of extrabudgetary funds and the increased costs of DTCD. As explained in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1), further reductions in overhead posts have been made during 1983. The number of extrabudgetary posts to be made available in 1984-1985 will also depend on the support cost income received during the biennium.

9. In response to inquiries, the Advisory Committee was informed that, by 31 July 1983, DTCD had delivered \$75 million in technical co-operation in 1983. However, according to representatives of the Secretary-General, the present level of approved project budgets (\$142.7 million as at 31 August 1983) justifies the assumption that DTCD can achieve a delivery of \$125 million by the end of 1983 (see table in para. 3 above), despite the disruption brought about by the streamlining of the organizational structure of DTCD. The Department also expects to maintain that level of delivery in 1984 and 1985 (see table 1 of A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1), which would generate an estimated \$16.3 million in overhead earnings in each year of the biennium.

10. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the above expectations may be somewhat optimistic when viewed in the context of a number of factors, including the budget/delivery ratio experienced in recent years (see table in para. 3 above). For example, programme delivery in 1980 from project budgets totalling \$142.1 million was \$119.9 million. In 1981, DTCD achieved programme delivery of \$126.5 million; however, the corresponding total of the project budgets was \$154.8 million. The Committee therefore cautions that DTCD may not be able to achieve a delivery of \$125 million in 1983 and thereby earn the corresponding overhead income of \$16.3 million. The expectation that this level of delivery can also be achieved in 1984 and 1985 should also be viewed with caution, given the difficult financial situation of the major funding agencies.

11. Because the recent trend in programme support reimbursements (overhead earnings) should also be seen in relation to the corresponding expenditures incurred in a given year, the Advisory Committee sought information on the overall income and expenditure for the United Nations Technical Co-operation Programme Support Account for the period 1980-1982 and the projections for 1983-1985. This information is outlined below:

Technical Co-operation Programme Support Account a/

Income and expenditure for the years 1980-1982
and estimates for 1983-1985

	1980	1981	1982	1983 <u>b/</u>	1984 <u>b/</u>	1985 <u>b/</u>
	<u>Millions of United States dollars</u>					
<u>Income</u>						
(a) From DTCD projects	16.4	16.7	15.9	16.3	16.3	16.3
(b) Other income <u>c/</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.4</u>	<u>1.6</u>	<u>1.1</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>0.6</u>
Total	17.4	18.1	17.5	17.4	16.9	16.9
<u>Expenditure d/</u>	15.5	18.6	20.7	18.6	16.5 <u>e/</u>	16.5 <u>e/</u>
Current surplus/(deficit)	1.9	(0.5)	(3.2)	(1.2)	0.4	0.4

a/ United Nations, excluding UNCTAD, UNIDO and the regional commissions.

b/ Estimated.

c/ Including programme support income earned on technical co-operation delivered by CTC and DND as well as miscellaneous income and interest.

d/ Expenditures incurred primarily in DTCD but also in CTC, DND and other departments providing direct services to projects, including the Department of Administration and Management.

e/ Including approximately \$12 million in respect of DTCD. See A/C.5/38/2 and Corr.1, table 1, item 2(a).

12. As can be seen, programme support income reached a peak in 1981 and has since been declining, while expenditures continued to rise in 1981 and 1982 resulting in deficits of \$0.5 and \$3.2 million respectively for those years. The Advisory Committee was informed that the deficits were financed by available surplus and transfers from the reserve fund. The Committee was further informed that the reserve fund would be almost depleted by the end of 1983. In order to balance the accounts, the Secretary-General informed the Committee that maximum restraint would be exercised in authorizing allotments and staffing tables in 1984-1985 with a view to containing the expenditures charged to the Programme Support Account. In the circumstances the Advisory Committee considers it essential that the Secretary-General keep the delivery situation of DTCD under constant scrutiny, with a view to anticipating any additional remedial measures which may be required, both in DTCD and in other units of the Secretariat should DTCD fail to achieve the projected level of support cost income.

13. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's estimate of \$17,507,200 for section 7, which reflects a decrease of \$89,300 from the amount previously requested. If approved, decreases of \$17,800 would also be reflected under section 31 (Staff assessment) and income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) because of the reduced staff assessment in respect of certain posts to be transferred from Geneva to New York.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1).

2/ Ibid., para. 7.4.

Fifth report

Revised estimates under section 28L.1, (International Civil Service Commission) section 31 (Staff assessment), income section 1, (Income from staff assessment) and income section 2 (General income)

[Original: English]

[2 November 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/28), in which he submits revised estimates under section 28L.1 (International Civil Service Commission) and income section 2 (General income) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. The Advisory Committee met with the representatives of the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) during its consideration of this question.
2. In paragraph 2 of his report, the Secretary-General explains the reasons for submitting revised estimates. In this connection the Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph 28.165 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 it expressed the view that "late submissions and the corresponding use of provisional estimates impede the normal consideration of programme budget proposals submitted to the General Assembly. The Committee therefore trusts that ICSC will take appropriate steps in future to ensure that the Commissions's proposals can be taken into account by the Secretary-General when he prepares his initial programme budget proposal." 1/
3. The revised estimates now submitted by the Secretary-General amount to \$7,107,100 and are \$366,200 higher than the provisional estimate of \$6,740,900 (reflecting maintenance of the level of resources approved for 1982-1983) already included under section 28L.1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 2/ and recommended for approval by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985. 3/
4. The increase of \$366,200 over the initial estimate includes resource growth amounting to \$108,300 arising from increased requirements under several objects of expenditure, including established posts and common staff costs, offset by reductions under other objects of expenditure (see A/C.5/38/28, table 28L.2). The proposed increase under established posts and common staff costs relates to the requests for establishing one new General Service post for a registry clerk and reclassifying to the principal level an existing General Service post for a statistical clerk in the Cost-of-Living Division (ibid., paras. 13 to 15). The proposed new post would increase the Commission's secretariat establishment for 1984-1985 to 52 posts - 23 at the Professional and higher levels. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of these staffing proposals.
5. As stated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 4 of his report (A/C.5/38/28) and elaborated on in paragraphs 10 to 12, the balance of the proposed increase is attributable to adjustments to the revalued 1982-1983 resource base (\$229,500 net),

primarily in respect of office accommodation, and further provision for inflation during the biennium 1984-1985 (\$28,400). The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed increase.

6. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's revised estimate of \$7,107,100 for section 28L.1. In view of the fact that the Advisory Committee has already recommended an amount of \$6,740,900 under section 28L.1 in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, 3/ the additional amount now recommended by the Committee is \$366,200. There will also be need to reduce by \$15,900 requirements under section 31 (Staff assessment) with a corresponding reduction in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). This reduction is due to reduced staff costs resulting from the relocation back to New York of staff of the Cost-of-Living Division now outposted to Geneva.

7. Furthermore, the estimates of income under income section 2 (General income) would need to be increased by \$218,900 to reflect the reimbursement of the shares of the other organizations participating in ICSC (approximately 59.8 per cent) of the additional requirements of the Commission for the biennium 1984-1985.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. III.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1), paras. 28.164 and 28.192.

Sixth report

Expansion of the conference facilities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok

[Original: English]

[15 November 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the expansion of the conference facilities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at Bangkok (A/C.5/38/34).

2. The report of the Secretary-General covers:

(a) The proposed construction of expanded conference facilities at ESCAP, for which he seeks an initial appropriation of \$400,000 (paras. 1 to 33);

(b) Requests for additional appropriations amounting to \$374,200 for major maintenance and alterations and improvements to the existing ESCAP building complex (paras. 34 to 36).

Proposed construction of expanded conference facilities at ESCAP

3. In paragraphs 1 to 3 of his report (A/C.5/38/34), the Secretary-General indicates that the construction proposals have been the subject of prior discussions with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. This is in accordance with the procedures outlined in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee 1/ on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on building construction procedures of United Nations organizations, 2/ in which, inter alia, the Committee recommended that it "be informed immediately after the Secretary-General has determined that there is a need for new construction or for major alteration of existing premises. The identification of this need would have to be justified to the Committee which would provide guidance as necessary in the formulation of options". The recommendations of the Committee arising from those discussions are contained in a letter from its Chairman to the Secretary-General dated 4 October 1983, which is reproduced as an annex to the present report.

4. In his report (A/C.5/38/34) the Secretary-General recalls the history of United Nations accommodation at Bangkok, the current situation and recent developments, including the offer of the Government of Thailand to make the land now occupied by Sala Santitham and other buildings adjacent to the existing complex available to ESCAP for construction by the United Nations of an appropriate new conference complex (ibid., paras. 4 to 21). In paragraphs 22 to 33, on the basis of assumptions stated, the Secretary-General describes his assessment of the possible scope of the proposed expanded conference facilities at ESCAP (including the number and seating capacity of conference rooms), related conference support facilities as well as possible future office accommodation requirements. Paragraphs 29 and 30 draw attention to the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on those proposals (see the annex to the present report). The

Secretary-General estimates that an appropriation of \$400,000 is required for an independent architectural and engineering study for the new construction as well as the retention of an independent quantity surveyor and energy consultant.

5. During the Advisory Committee's hearing on the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/34), the representatives of the Secretary-General confirmed his agreement with the observations and recommendations of the Committee concerning the preliminary architectural and engineering study as contained in the Chairman's letter of 4 October 1983. In this connection, the representatives of the Secretary-General also confirmed that the co-operation with the Government of Thailand envisaged in paragraph 28 would involve the provision of advice by the Government in the design stage of the project. This advice, which would be very helpful to the United Nations, would concentrate on ensuring that the project was in compliance with local building laws, fire and safety codes and land use regulations.

6. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly accept with appreciation the offer of the Government of Thailand of additional land for the proposed construction of expanded conference facilities at ESCAP. The Committee also recommends approval of the Secretary-General's request for \$400,000 under section 32 (Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 in connection with the cost of conducting an independent preliminary architectural and engineering study for the new construction required and retention of an independent quantity surveyor and energy consultant. The results of the study would be ready for review by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session. The Committee also concurs with the Secretary-General's proposal in paragraph 31 of his report (A/C.5/38/34) that "the study should include estimates and assessments of additional conference-servicing, support and maintenance staff and operational expenses necessitated by the expansion of conference facilities, together with any other suggestions which might be made during the course of the General Assembly's consideration of this item. These estimates and assessments would be developed jointly by Headquarters and ESCAP officials".

Major maintenance and alterations and improvements

7. The Advisory Committee had recommended in paragraphs 32.21 and 32.25 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, 3/ the provisional deletion from section 32 of an amount of \$374,200 in respect of alteration and improvement projects (\$172,900) and major maintenance projects (\$201,300). The Committee felt that it would be more appropriate to consider these proposals in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on proposed construction at ESCAP. In paragraphs 34 to 36 of his report (A/C.5/38/34), the Secretary-General resubmits his request for \$374,200 under section 32 for ESCAP. In this connection, he concludes that construction of new conference facilities at ESCAP would have no impact on those proposed alterations and improvements and major maintenance projects, all of which relate to the existing ESCAP building complex. In view of the Secretary-General's statement, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of his request for \$374,200 under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 for the purposes indicated.

Recapitulation

8. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 6 and 7 above there will be need to appropriate a total amount of \$774,200 under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

Notes

1/ A/36/643.

2/ See A/36/297.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1).

Letter dated 4 October 1983 from the Chairman of the
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions to the Secretary-General

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered your note on expansion of conference facilities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok (A/CN.1/R.1006) which has been submitted in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Committee's report (A/36/643) which dealt with the Joint Inspection Unit report on building construction procedures of the United Nations organizations (see A/36/297). In considering this question, the Advisory Committee met with the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and his colleagues as well as the representatives of the Office of General Services and the Budget Division. During the hearing, your representatives informed the Committee that paragraph 30 had been included in the note in error.

In the light of the information contained in your note and additional clarification provided by your representatives, the Advisory Committee accepts that there is a need to expand the conference facilities of ESCAP at Bangkok and agrees that a preliminary architectural and engineering study should be undertaken to ascertain the extent and cost of new construction required. In this connection the Advisory Committee has considered your proposal in paragraph 29 "to accept the offer of the Royal Thai Government to co-operate with ESCAP in conducting a preliminary architectural and engineering study for the necessary construction". The assumptions and understandings of the Secretariat regarding the co-operation being offered by the Royal Thai Government are reflected in paragraphs 21 and 22 of your note. However, the Advisory Committee considers that, while co-operation of the Thai authorities is important in ensuring the success of the project, the architectural and engineering study should be independently carried out in accordance with established United Nations procedures as has been the case in all other recent major construction projects.

The Advisory Committee does not object to the conduct of the preliminary architectural and engineering study on the basis of the number and size (i.e., seating capacity) of conference rooms and additional conference support facilities indicated by you in paragraphs 23 to 25 and 27 of your note. This should not, however, be construed as approval of those assumptions. The Committee suggests that one of the design options that should be examined in the study is the possibility of constructing a large conference room which could be divided into two medium-sized conference rooms by means of movable partitions. Similarly, the design possibilities of dividing a medium-sized conference room into two small conference rooms should also be explored. Furthermore, the study should clearly indicate the need for and extent of new ancillary construction (such as is mentioned in paragraph 27 of your note) and proposed utilization of freed existing space within an integrated complex of new and existing buildings.

In paragraph 32 you state, in connection with the proposed study, that you would "request the architects to bear in mind that additional office accommodation

and other facilities may possibly be required in the future and would request them to examine the possible locations of such expansion". The Advisory Committee concurs in this approach; at the same time the Committee stresses that it does not believe that inclusion of additional office accommodation in the forthcoming studies is warranted at this time unless it relates directly to the expansion of conference facilities.

In summary, the Advisory Committee, while not having taken a position on the number of conference rooms required, or their size, recognizes that there is a need for additional conference facilities at Bangkok and authorizes you to submit to the General Assembly a proposal for an architectural and engineering study.

(Signed) C. S. M. MSELLE
Chairman of
the Advisory Committee
on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions

Seventh report

Organization and methods for official travel and
first-class travel

[Original: English]

[16 November 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on organization and methods for official travel (A/C.5/38/22) and first-class travel (A/C.5/38/14). During its review, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided it with additional information.

A. Organization and methods for official travel

2. The report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/22), issued pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/241 of 21 December 1982 and the request of the Advisory Committee in its sixteenth report on the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983, 1/ provides information on the implementation of certain Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations on travel procedures. 2/

1. Travel agency services

3. As stated in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/22), the General Assembly concurred with the JIU recommendation that "the United Nations should select a commercial travel agency under an in-plant or other arrangement through widespread international competitive bidding at appropriate intervals". The Advisory Committee notes that, in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report, it is stated that "an in-plant is a wholly-owned branch office of a travel agency that is recognized by the Air Traffic Conference (ATC). It is located on the premises of a client and provides full travel agency services to that client. The in-plant agent is paid commissions by the airlines, hotels and other suppliers and out of these commissions it is permitted to reimburse the client for certain costs the latter has incurred in making travel arrangements in collaboration with the agent".

4. Representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that a full service travel agency, which may or may not be located on the client's premises, provides a range of travel services at no cost to the traveller (or originating organization). A full service agency furnishes at its own cost all staff to provide these services and obtains income in respect thereof from commissions, hotels, etc. The agency also pays all expenses for communications, office expenses, rent, etc. However, under a full service agreement, unlike an in-plant arrangement, the agent does not reimburse the client for any expenses it may incur in assisting the agent in making travel arrangements.

5. For the reason given in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/22), it was decided to enter initially into a contract with a travel agency for full service, and, following the process of selection described in

paragraphs 4 to 9, a three-year contract was awarded to Don Travel Services, Incorporated, effective 1 November 1983. As stated in paragraph 9, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have decided to join in the same contract. The Advisory Committee also notes in paragraph 9 of the report that "the contract provides an option for conversion to an in-plant if this should be deemed desirable by the United Nations".

6. In response to inquiries, the Advisory Committee was informed that the contract provides for full travel services to be provided to the United Nations. In order to discharge these services, the agent will provide all necessary personnel and equipment, including linkage to three computer reservation systems. Furthermore, the agent guarantees that it will obtain the lowest fare consistent with the United Nations travel authorization; if it fails to do so, the agent will refund to the United Nations the difference between the price paid and the least costly fare.

7. The agent will have offices in the Secretariat, UNDC I and Alcoa buildings. The United Nations will provide the agent with a total of 3,500 square feet of office space, furniture and fixtures, and other services including cleaning and security. In return for these facilities and services, Don Travel Services, Inc. will reimburse the United Nations \$350,000 annually or \$700,000 per biennium, which amount will be shared with UNDP and UNICEF as stated in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report.

8. The Advisory Committee notes that Don Travel Services, Inc. will reimburse the United Nations \$350,000 as against an amount of approximately \$50,000 per annum paid by the former travel agent (Thomas Cook). However, as indicated in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Secretary-General's report and as emphasized by representatives of the Secretary-General, the question of financial benefits to the United Nations was but one of various criteria which were applied during consideration of the bids received. Indeed, as pointed out in paragraph 8 of the report, paramount importance was given, not to the financial aspect, but rather to the ability of an agent to meet the service needs of the Organization.

2. Negotiations for discounted fares

9. Paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/22) states that the Secretary-General has sought the advice and assistance of all Member and non-Member States with regard to the question of undertaking negotiations for discounted fares with air carriers or interested Governments sponsoring air carriers. Although the response to this inquiry has been limited, the Secretary-General intends "to pursue the positive replies which have been received".

3. Possibility of establishing a United Nations travel agency

10. In paragraph 11 of his comments 3/ on the report of JIU, 2/ the Secretary-General addressed the JIU recommendation concerning the establishment of a United Nations travel agency by noting that "apart from the question as to whether it would be compatible with United Nations objectives for the Organization to enter into such a commercial enterprise - an enterprise that by definition must do 80 per cent of its business with members of the general public and give them free access to United Nations premises - information has been received to the effect that the regulations of ATC and IATA [International Air Transport Association] that to date have prevented such an arrangement are still in effect".

In paragraph 11 of his report (A/C.5/38/22), the Secretary-General concludes that these obstacles are still applicable. However, the situation will be kept under review and any developments will be reported.

4. Review of travel arrangements at offices overseas

11. For the reason stated in paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/22), no review on the possibility of in-plant travel arrangements at duty stations other than New York is envisioned at this time. The Advisory Committee notes that the "Secretary-General is, however, initiating action to review existing contractual travel arrangements at overseas offices and seek competitive offers to take advantage of the experience gained at Headquarters".

5. Standard of accommodation for travel

12. As noted by the Secretary-General in paragraph 13 of his report (A/C.5/38/22), the General Assembly, in resolution 37/241, reaffirmed Assembly resolution 32/198 of 21 December 1977, which provided that travel expenses should be limited to the least costly airfare structure. However, the Assembly added that the nature of the mission and the conditions of travel should be taken into account. Accordingly, as stated in paragraph 14 of the report, "under the revised arrangements, the use of business class has been introduced in respect of travel on official business depending on the duration of particular flights". In response to inquiries, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that staff members below the level of Assistant Secretary-General would henceforth be entitled to accommodation by the class immediately below first class (i.e., business class) for travel on official business when the duration of a particular flight exceeded nine hours. For flights under nine hours duration these staff members would be provided with transportation according to the least costly airfare structure. Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General would continue to be provided with first-class accommodation for travel on official business when the duration of a particular flight exceeded nine hours; however, for flights under nine hours, these staff members would henceforth be provided with accommodation by the class immediately below first class. At the same time, the Committee notes in paragraph 14 of the report that "the entitlement to first-class accommodation in respect of home-leave travel for Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General has been lowered".

6. Travel procedures

13. In paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 37/241, the Secretary-General was called upon "to examine further for possible implementation the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on travel procedures". In this connection the Secretary-General reiterates that a mechanism for monitoring the travel plans of staff by heads of departments does exist; furthermore representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that it was being reinforced. With regard to the implementation of other JIU recommendations on travel procedures, the Committee notes the Secretary-General's intention to undertake a detailed study during 1984-1985 with the collaboration of the new travel agent. Such a study will, inter alia, deal with the use of computers to facilitate the search for the lowest applicable fares. As mentioned in paragraph 5 above, the contract with Don Travel Services, Inc. guarantees that the lowest fares will be provided; moreover the agent will provide the United Nations with five computer terminals to enable the United Nations to check the fares quoted by the agent.

B. First-class travel

14. In the report of the Secretary-General on first-class travel (A/C.5/38/14), submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/198, as amended by Assembly resolution 35/217, section X, of 17 December 1980 and Assembly resolution 37/237, section III, of 21 December 1982 information is provided on all exceptions made to allow first-class travel for the period 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1983, as well as the savings achieved by utilizing economy and other airfares. Details of these exceptions were provided to the Advisory Committee.

15. The Advisory Committee notes that 81 exceptions were authorized for the period under review, for the reasons enumerated in paragraph 3 of the report. During the previous reporting period, there was a total of 57 exceptions.

16. As stated in paragraph 5 of the report (A/C.5/38/14), the Secretary-General estimates that the savings resulting from the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/198 are estimated at \$372,623 for the period under review.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/37/7 and Add.1-24), document A/37/7/Add.15.

2/ See A/37/357 and Corr.1.

3/ A/37/357/Add.1.

Eighth report

Administrative and financial implications of the recommendations
and decisions contained in the report of the International Civil
Service Commission

(Agenda item 117)*

[Original: English]

[17 November 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/37) on the administrative and financial implications of the recommendations and decisions contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). 1/ During its review of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General and additional information was provided to the Committee.

2. In paragraph 1 of his report, the Secretary-General cites six areas in which ICSC has made recommendations and decisions which entail financial implications, as follows:

- (a) Special index for pensioners;
- (b) Extension of rental subsidy scheme;
- (c) Non-residents' allowance;
- (d) Education grant;
- (e) Health insurance;
- (f) Conditions of service in the field.

3. In paragraph 2 of his report (A/C.5/38/37), the Secretary-General notes that items (a) and (c) are not anticipated to require additional expenditures and that item (e) forms the subject of a separate report (A/C.5/38/16); thus, the remainder of the report is devoted to items (b), (d) and (f). The Advisory Committee understands the Secretary-General's statement on items (a) and (c) to mean that, while there may be changes in entitlements in some cases, the net financial effect for the Organization will be minimal.

4. The Secretary-General estimates the cost of implementing the decision of ICSC on extending the rental subsidy scheme at \$540,000 in 1983 and \$1,100,000 in the biennium 1984-1985. The Advisory Committee sought additional information on these estimates in the light of the statement in paragraph 45 of ICSC report 1/ that "the scheme would not result in additional financial implications for the common system in view of its impact upon the post adjustment system and could actually result in savings".

* United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission.

5. The Advisory Committee was informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that actual rental costs paid by the staff were surveyed annually and that the resulting information was used as one of the determining factors in establishing the post adjustment index. As explained in paragraph 44 of the ICSC report 1/, the rental subsidy, the extension of which was implemented on 1 April 1983, is applied to newly arrived staff members and in cases of force majeure. As more staff members become eligible for subsidy under the scheme, the result will be that lower rental costs (i.e., net costs after the application of the subsidy to those who are entitled to it) will be reported in the annual surveys, with a consequential dampening effect on the post adjustment index. In this connection, the Committee was informed that the cost estimate related to this decision of ICSC was \$520,000 for 1983 and \$1 million for the biennium 1984-1985. However, the estimate for 1985 (\$400,000) was lower than that for 1984 (\$600,000) because it was anticipated that the application of a further class of post adjustment in 1985 would be delayed by approximately one month.

6. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, with effect from 1 September 1983, ICSC had agreed to grant a rental subsidy on a trial basis to internationally recruited General Service staff, subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 61 of its report. 1/ The Committee was informed that the cost related to that decision was \$20,000 for 1983 and \$100,000 for the biennium 1984-1985.

7. The recommendations of ICSC with regard to the education grant are outlined in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/37) and the additional expenditures for the regular budget are shown in paragraph 4 of the report. In this connection, the Advisory Committee was informed that the amount of \$480,000 shown in paragraph 4 represents the annual cost to the regular budget in the biennium 1984-1985; thus the biennial cost, should the General Assembly approve the recommendation of ICSC, would be \$960,000.

8. In paragraph 5 of his report (ibid.), the Secretary-General estimates at \$50,000 for the biennium the costs related to two decisions of ICSC in respect of conditions of service in the field, namely, basic medical examinations for family members accompanying staff to countries where the majority of duty stations are classified as having adverse health conditions, and pre-departure expenses of staff leaving non-headquarters duty stations.

9. The Advisory Committee notes that no appropriations are being requested at this time in respect of the financial implications of the recommendations and decisions of ICSC. Since the entire costs, estimated at \$540,000 for 1983 and \$2,110,000 for 1984-1985, fall under the category of common staff costs, any additional amounts required will be dealt with in the context of the performance reports for the 1982-1983 (see A/C.5/38/49 and Add.1-33) and 1984-1985 bienniums. The Committee concurs with this approach.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/38/30).

Ninth report

Yearbook of the United Nations: revised estimates
under section 27 (Public information)

[Original: English]

[18 November 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/38) in which he submits revised estimates in the amount of \$150,400 under section 27 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. During its review, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.
2. As noted by the Secretary-General in paragraph 1 of his report, a request for temporary assistance (24 work-months at the P-3 level and 24 work-months at the General Service level) was made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 1/ in order to eliminate the backlog in respect of the Yearbook of the United Nations. However, for the reasons indicated in paragraph 27.15 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, 2/ the Advisory Committee recommended that the request should not be approved, pending the submission of a comprehensive report covering the points raised by the Committee.
3. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/38) briefly describe the Yearbook and its usefulness which, according to the Secretary-General, would increase if it were available on a more timely basis. In paragraph 4, the Secretary-General states that the provision of temporary assistance in 1977 and 1978 (43 work-months at the Professional level and 34 work-months at the General Service level) did result in a reduction of the backlog from 15 to 11 months. However, the backlog again began to increase with the discontinuance of temporary assistance funds at the end of 1978, until it reached 16 months in 1982. As stated in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, the situation was somewhat alleviated by redeploying in mid-1981 one P-2 post and by providing one General Service post charged against temporary assistance. Moreover, as explained in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Secretary-General's report, the introduction of word-processing equipment in 1981 and an internal typesetting device in 1982 also had an effect on reducing the backlog to its current level of 14 months.
4. According to the Secretary-General, "it is now considered feasible to produce the Yearbook at 12-month intervals and 18 months after the period covered, with no increase in the existing regular staff of the Yearbook Section (five Professional, four General Service per year)" (A/C.5/38/38, para. 8). However, prior to achieving this objective, the existing backlog would have to be eliminated. In this connection, the Advisory Committee was informed that the General Service post charged against the Department of Public Information's temporary assistance funds, referred to above, would no longer be available from 1984 onward because of the need for temporary assistance in other units of the Department. Hence the level of staff resources available to the Yearbook Section as at 1 January 1984 would total six Professional posts, including the redeployed P-2 post, and four General Service posts. In paragraph 9 of his report, the Secretary-General estimates that with this number of staff, and "despite successful efforts to improve efficiency through

the introduction of new technology, it would take another 13 years to achieve the goal of issuing the Yearbook 18 months after the period covered".

5. However, the Secretary-General states that if the requested temporary assistance is provided, not only for 1984-1985, but also for 1986-1987, the 18-month objective may be met in June 1988, with the publication of the 1986 edition as outlined in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report. As can be seen, once the backlog has been eliminated, the redeployed Professional post will be surrendered and in 1988 the level of staff will revert to the established level of five Professional and four General Service posts.

6. In considering the Secretary-General's request, the Advisory Committee recalled its earlier 1976 report 3/ on the subject, in particular its observation that "it would appear that the root of the problem lies in the low priority assigned by departments and offices to the preparation of their submissions for the Yearbook. The result is the receipt by the Yearbook Unit of contributions which are often late and below standard. Merely to add staff, as is proposed by the Secretary-General, while helping the Yearbook Unit to deal with its massive task of rewriting badly prepared submissions is, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, to attempt to cope with the results of the problem without getting at its cause. Effective means must be devised of ensuring that submissions from departments and offices are timely and well prepared".

7. As stated in paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/38), liaison officers have been designated, in all major departments which contribute to the Yearbook, in order to improve the timeliness of submissions. Furthermore, "to reduce the editorial work required prior to publication, more detailed outlines and guidelines for use by author departments have been prepared in the recent past". Representatives of the Secretary-General confirmed that both the timeliness and the quality of the submissions by many departments have indeed improved as a result of these measures and that higher priority has been assigned by departments to the provision of information requested for publishing the Yearbook. The problem confronting the Yearbook Section at present is therefore not so much one of rewriting badly prepared submissions but rather one of coping with the increased volume of work due to the improved response of departments.

8. As stated in paragraph 15 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/38), he believes that the preferred solution to this problem, at this stage, is the provision of the temporary assistance mentioned above. The alternative courses of action which are briefly outlined in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report, would, as indicated in paragraph 12, entail changing either the nature of the publication or the responsibility for its preparation. The Advisory Committee notes, however, that once the backlog is eliminated, "the possibility of transferring to the Yearbook Section the responsibility for drafting the texts of the Yearbook will be given further consideration" (ibid., para. 15).

9. In the circumstances, and on the basis of the information it has received, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General's request for temporary assistance for 1984-1985 at a cost of \$150,400 under section 27 be approved. At the same time, however, the Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to submit, at its spring 1985 session, a progress report indicating, inter alia, whether it has been possible to adhere to the production schedule outlined in paragraph 10 of his current report. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee will review the Secretary-General's request for temporary assistance for the 1986-1987 biennium on the basis of supporting evidence that progress in eliminating the backlog has been achieved in the manner indicated in document A/C.5/38/38.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. III, para. 27.24.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/31/8 and Add.1-26), document A/31/8/Add.1, para. 8).

Tenth report

Health insurance contributions by the Organization

[Original: English]

[21 November 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/16) on health insurance contributions by the Organization. During its consideration of the note, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General and was provided with additional oral and written information.

Description of the health insurance plans

2. In paragraphs 3 and 4 of his note (A/C.5/38/16), the Secretary-General describes the basic plans providing health insurance coverage for United Nations staff around the world, and in paragraphs 5 to 11 discusses, inter alia, their costs and the manner in which these are shared between organizations and staff. Paragraph 12 describes the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) scheme, which is available to eligible retirees and/or their eligible family members.

3. On the basis of information in document A/C.5/38/16, supplemented by additional information provided by representatives of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee understands that four insurance plans (two for Headquarters staff, one for international - and some local - field staff, and one for staff in Vienna) are placed with insurance companies. A fifth plan is a self-insurance scheme in Geneva, while a sixth plan is a non-contributory arrangement whereby the United Nations reimburses certain medical costs, incurred by locally recruited staff in field offices, under the provisions of appendix E to the Staff Rules. All but the last of these plans are contributory, although the means by which the staff members contribute vary from one plan to another.

4. The Advisory Committee was informed that for the plans administered at Headquarters, including the world-wide plan, premiums are set by agreement with the insurance companies concerned, and are deducted from staff members' salaries on a monthly basis. Subsidies are offset against premiums on a sliding scale ranging from 10 per cent for the highest paid staff to 90 per cent for the lowest paid, while the overall amount of subsidy for the staff as a whole corresponds to approximately one half of the total premium. However, this scale is not finely tuned, with the result that General Service staff pay a higher percentage of salary than Professionals for comparable health insurance. The Committee was further informed that the insurance premiums (and associated subsidies) are adjusted approximately once a year, based on the total amounts that the insurance company had paid out in respect of the medical expenses of United Nations staff in the previous period, plus amounts for administrative costs and anticipated future inflation. The Advisory Committee's observations on these arrangements are to be found in paragraph 18 below.

5. In Geneva, each participating staff member pays a fixed percentage of salary (currently approximately 3 per cent) into a self-insurance fund which is

administered by the Staff Mutual Insurance Society against Sickness and Accident and used to reimburse medical costs incurred by the staff. The contributions paid by the staff are matched on an equal basis by the Organization. The percentage paid is monitored carefully and is raised or lowered from time to time, depending on claims experience. Self-insurance is not considered a viable option in New York, however, owing to the substantial discounts on hospital costs available through the insurer for the United Nations. In Vienna, contributions are made by the staff as a percentage of salary at a rate designed to yield approximately one half of the amount required by the insurance company. The Organization pays the remaining half. In all three locations, New York, Geneva and Vienna, the Advisory Committee was informed that both staff and administration representatives participate in policy decisions related to the management of the insurance schemes.

6. In paragraphs 6 to 10 of his note (A/C.5/38/16), the Secretary-General discusses the cost increases that have affected these insurance plans in the past few years as medical costs have increased at a faster rate than the cost of living. This is illustrated in the table in paragraph 9 of the note, where it is shown that the costs of family coverage in New York have increased by 115.8 per cent in the five years from May 1978 to April 1983, resulting in an increase in the proportion of net remuneration required for insurance contributions from 5.2 per cent to 6.4 per cent. As noted in paragraph 10 of the note, increases in medical insurance costs have outstripped the cost-of-living indices in Geneva and Vienna also, but to a lesser extent than in New York.

7. In respect of the escalating medical costs, the Advisory Committee notes the Secretary-General's statement that "reviews of health insurance costs and benefits made by ICSC [the International Civil Service Commission] on the occasion of local salary surveys at headquarters duty stations and of the total compensation studies between the United Nations and the comparator national civil service for the Professional and higher categories have shown that benefits under United Nations plans are generally in line with those offered by the comparable employers for all categories of staff, while those employers often bear a much higher proportion of the costs" (A/C.5/38/16, para. 5). In response to inquiries, the Advisory Committee was informed that an adjustment of 1.4 per cent was made to General Service salaries on the occasion of the last local salary survey to compensate for the lesser amount paid by the administration in respect of health insurance contributions, as compared with outside employers. According to representatives of the Secretary-General, this factor would be subject to adjustment in future salary reviews by ICSC, if the Secretary-General's proposals are accepted by the General Assembly.

8. With regard to the ASHI scheme, the Secretary-General notes that it is made available, inter alia, to staff members who had participated in a contributory health insurance scheme of the United Nations for a minimum of 10 years at the time of retirement, or three years at the time of separation through disability. In paragraph 12 of his note, the Secretary-General notes that these eligibility periods are longer than those required by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for eligibility for pension benefits and concludes that the long time-periods required for ASHI benefits deprives an increasing number of former staff members and/or their eligible survivors of an important element in the social security package offered by the United Nations. The Secretary-General adds that "this has become an acute problem for those affected owing to the very high cost of health care they must bear in its entirety".

Action by the International Civil Service Commission

9. In section III, paragraph 8, of its resolution 37/126 of 17 December 1982, the General Assembly requested ICSC "to examine the need for raising the ratio of contributions by organizations of the United Nations common system for health insurance of staff members and the question of applying appropriate retroactivity". The consideration of the health insurance question by ICSC is described in paragraphs 99 to 107 of the ICSC's report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session. 1/ ICSC noted that staff contributions to health insurance expressed as a proportion of net salary for staff with dependants amounted to approximately 3 per cent in Geneva and in Vienna and was higher than 6 per cent in New York. 2/

10. ICSC, having agreed that health insurance was a common system issue, decided that:

"an average of staff contributions to health insurance expressed as a proportion of net remuneration and weighted by the number of staff members at seven headquarters locations should be calculated ... At duty stations where the ratio of staff contributions to net remuneration was higher than the average ratio for the seven headquarters duty stations, the executive heads might wish to propose to their legislative bodies appropriate cost-sharing formulae that would bring down the ratio of staff contributions to net remuneration at those duty stations to a level in line with the average applicable at the seven headquarters locations." 3/

ICSC further proposed that the above alternative cost-sharing formula should be implemented with effect from 1 January 1984. 4/

11. The calculations requested by ICSC, as reflected in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's note (A/C.5/38/16), indicated that the average of staff contributions at the seven headquarters locations represented 1.9 per cent of net remuneration in respect of insurance coverage for staff members only and 3.8 per cent in respect of coverage for staff members with eligible family members. The comparable figures for staff in New York, in April 1983, were 2.9 per cent for staff members only and 6.4 per cent for staff with eligible family members (ibid., para. 9).

Recommendations of the Secretary-General and observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee

12. In paragraph 13 of his note (A/C.5/38/16), the Secretary-General stated that, while he would have preferred a straight world-wide formula "under which the Organization would contribute two thirds of the cost of health insurance", he was prepared to accept the Commission's approach. Accordingly, he recommended to the General Assembly that it should approve the arrangements proposed by ICSC in paragraph 106 of its report. 1/ Representatives of the Secretary-General confirmed that financial implications of the ICSC decision arose in respect of New York only, since the two Headquarters insurance schemes were the only ones to which the decision of ICSC would be applied at the current stage. For the reasons given in paragraph 14 of his note, the Secretary-General proposed that the new arrangement be made effective as from 1 January 1983. As stated in paragraph 15 of the

Secretary-General's note, the additional costs, for the regular budget and extrabudgetary funds, would be as follows, for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985:

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
	<u>Millions of United States dollars</u>		
Regular budget	1.2	2.6	3.3
Extrabudgetary funds	<u>0.6</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>1.6</u>
Total	<u>1.8</u>	<u>3.8</u>	<u>4.9</u>

The Advisory Committee was also informed that in each year, 69 per cent of the Organization's total share would be paid by the regular budget and the remaining 31 per cent by extrabudgetary funds, including the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund. This breakdown was prepared on the basis of a profile of the Headquarters plan in 1983.

13. In response to its request for additional information concerning the financial implications of the proposal, the Committee was provided with table 1, reproduced below, which shows the total insurance premiums estimated for 1983, 1984 and 1985, including the inflation assumptions in the two latter years, as well as the percentage of the estimated premium that would be payable by the Organization.

Table 1. Total insurance premiums estimated for 1983, 1984 and 1985; United Nations Headquarters schemes - as proposed by the Secretary-General

	Estimated premium	Organization's share <u>a/</u>			Staff share	Percentage of premium paid by Organization
		Present method	Additional	Total		
<u>Millions of United States dollars</u>						
1983 - before adjustment	12.50	6.25	-	6.25	6.25	50.0
Adjustment to limit staff share in accordance with ICSC formula		-	1.80	1.80	(1.80)	
1983 - adjusted	12.50	6.25	1.80 <u>b/</u>	8.05	4.45	64.4
1984 anticipated premium increase - 16 per cent	2.00	-	2.00	2.00	-	
1984 - adjusted	14.50	6.25	3.80 <u>c/</u>	10.05	4.45	69.3
1985 anticipated premium increase - 7 per cent	1.00	-	1.00	1.00	-	
1985 - adjusted	15.50	6.25	4.80 <u>d/</u> , <u>e/</u>	11.05	4.45	71.3

a/ Approximately 69 per cent regular budget and 31 per cent extrabudgetary funds including UNDP and UNICEF.

b/ Total financial implications for 1983 (regular budget \$1.2 million, extrabudgetary funds \$0.6 million).

c/ Total financial implications for 1984 (regular budget \$2.6 million, extrabudgetary funds \$1.2 million).

d/ Total financial implications for 1985 (regular budget \$3.3 million, extrabudgetary funds \$1.6 million).

e/ Difference from figure in paragraph 15 of document A/C.5/38/16 due to rounding.

14. According to table 1, the initial adjustment to reduce the contribution of the staff in New York from its current levels to the average levels of the seven Headquarters duty stations would be \$1.8 million in 1983. The result of this adjustment would be that the subsidy paid by the Organization would rise from 50 per cent of total premium to 64.4 per cent.

15. Table 1 also indicates that insurance premiums are expected to increase by 16 per cent in 1984, based on experience to date in 1983 and on discussions already taking place with the insurance companies. According to the Secretary-General's calculation, the entire amount of this increase would be paid by the Organization, since the share applicable to the staff would have been frozen at the average levels indicated above. The resulting subsidy to be paid by the Organization would be 69.3 per cent.

16. With respect to 1985, the figures are more speculative, since premium levels in 1985 will depend on actual experience in 1984. The Secretary-General has estimated the further increase for 1985 at 7 per cent, which, for the same reasons as noted above, would also be paid in full by the Organization, thus raising its share of the premium to be paid to 71.3 per cent.

17. The Advisory Committee notes, however, that the Secretary-General's calculations, as shown in table 1, overlook a number of factors relating to the levels of salaries to be paid in 1984-1985, which would have a bearing on the amounts of medical insurance contributions to be paid by the staff. These include the application of within-grade salary increments and promotions, as well as the impact of inflation on post adjustments and General Service salaries. The Committee considers that, if salaries rise during the biennium, for inflationary or other reasons, the staff should still be required to contribute up to 3.8 per cent (1.9 per cent for single staff) for medical insurance. In this way, further increases in the rate of subsidy to be paid by the Organization would be necessary only to the extent that the rate of increase in medical premiums exceeds the increase in the cost-of-living. If this factor is taken into account, and bearing in mind that an element of inflation has already been reflected for salaries and common staff costs for the biennium 1984-1985, the Committee has calculated that the share of contributions to be paid by the Organization would be 68.1 per cent in 1984 and 68.9 per cent in 1985. Accordingly, the financial implications of the proposal (in addition to the amounts already provided in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985) would be:

	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
	Millions of United States dollars	
Regular budget	2.33	2.70
Extrabudgetary funds	<u>1.04</u>	<u>1.22</u>
Total	<u>3.37</u>	<u>3.92</u>

The Committee considers this to be a more accurate estimate of the financial implications of the ICSC recommendation than the Secretary-General's estimate summarized in paragraph 12 above.

18. In order to ensure that the ICSC formula is applied equitably to all staff, the Advisory Committee recommends that the method of charging insurance

contributions to the staff in the Headquarters plans be re-examined with a view to ensuring that the percentage of salary applicable to health insurance remains constant. This approach would be similar to that applied in Vienna, as described in paragraph 5 above, and avoids the range of rates now applied at Headquarters, as described in paragraph 4 above.

19. The Advisory Committee notes that, even when the costs are recalculated, as shown in paragraph 17 above, the formula devised by ICSC has led to a costing for New York which is higher than it would have been if the Secretary-General's approach noted in paragraph 13 of his note (A/C.5/38/16), i.e., for a two-thirds subsidy, applicable world wide were to be followed. However, no implications arise from the ICSC report at this time in respect of other duty stations of the United Nations, since staff contributions to health insurance are below the average for the seven Headquarters duty stations in all cases. Consequently, the ICSC approach is less costly for the Organization as a whole than that envisioned by the Secretary-General.

20. However, the Advisory Committee considers that the ICSC formula provides no limit as to the amount of the contribution the Organization may be called upon to make should health care costs continue to rise at a faster rate than the cost of living. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly should invite ICSC to review the application of the formula and report on any modifications required to the Assembly at its fortieth session.

21. In paragraph 16 of his note (A/C.5/38/16), the Secretary-General states that, should the General Assembly approve the recommendations, no additional appropriation will be requested in the programme budget at this time. Instead, the additional expenditures will be reported in the context of the final performance report for the biennium 1982-1983 and the first performance report for the biennium 1984-1985, to be submitted at the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions respectively. While the Advisory Committee concurs with the Secretary-General's approach for 1984-1985, it notes that the amount estimated for 1983 is based on the Secretary-General's recommendation that the proposed cost-sharing formula should be applied retroactively from 1 January 1983. However, ICSC recommended that the formula should be implemented with effect from January 1984. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that application of the formula should not be retroactive and that the 1983 amount should not be incurred.

22. In paragraph 17 of his note (*ibid.*), the Secretary-General proposes that (a) participation in ASHI should be available for staff members who have a minimum of five years' participation in a United Nations contributory scheme, with the stipulation that the ASHI subsidy would not be payable by the Organization until a total of 10 years of participation had been reached and (b) that ASHI should be available immediately to staff members separated for disability and to the eligible survivors of staff members who die in service. According to the Secretary-General (*ibid.*, para. 18), the additional costs of these proposals are expected to be very low. The Advisory Committee has no objection to these proposals. However, it considers that the question of financing the scheme should be kept under review.

Summary of recommendations

23. The Advisory Committee recommends that application of the ICSC cost-sharing formula should not be retroactive (see para. 21 above). It further recommends that ICSC should be invited to review the application of the formula and report any

modifications required to the General Assembly at its fortieth session (see para. 20 above).

24. The Advisory Committee concurs with the Secretary-General's intention to report costs related to the ICSC recommendations in future performance reports (see para. 21 above). However, the Committee also recommends that the method of charging health insurance contributions to staff members in the Headquarters plans should be re-examined with a view to ensuring that the percentage of salary applicable to health insurance remains constant (see para. 18 above).

25. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposals concerning ASHI although it considers that the question of financing this scheme should be kept under review (see para. 22 above).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/38/30).

2/ Ibid., para. 105.

3/ Ibid., para. 106.

4/ Ibid., para. 107.

Eleventh report

Draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for
the biennium 1984-1985: administrative and financial implications
of draft resolution A submitted by the Committee on Conferences
in its report

(Agenda item 114)*

[Original: English]

[22 November 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/31), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A submitted by the Committee on Conferences in its report. 1/

2. Operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A submitted by the Committee on Conferences concerns the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1984-1985 which, inter alia, provides for convening the regular sessions of three regional commissions, during 1984, at venues away from their headquarters, as follows:

<u>Regional commission/ session/session dates</u>	<u>Commission headquarters</u>	<u>Proposed meeting venue</u>
(a) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), fortieth session, 17 to 27 April 1984	Bangkok, Thailand	Tokyo, Japan
(b) Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), twentieth session, 29 March to 6 April 1984	Santiago, Chile	Lima, Peru
(c) Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), nineteenth session, during April 1984	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Conakry, Guinea

In paragraph 2 of his statement (A/C.5/38/31), the Secretary-General notes that the Economic and Social Council has approved the proposed change of the venue of the regular sessions of the regional commissions, in accordance with paragraph 4 (1) of section I of General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976.

3. The Secretary-General estimates that an amount of \$637,400 would be required to meet the additional costs of holding the sessions of the three regional commissions away from their headquarters, comprising \$206,800 for ESCAP; \$143,300 for ECLA; and \$287,300 for ECA. A breakdown of the estimates by object of expenditure is provided in paragraph 4 of the statement. In this connection, the

* Pattern of conferences.

Advisory Committee recalls that, in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, the Secretary-General had submitted estimates for this purpose for ESCAP (\$206,800), ECLA (\$143,300) and ECA (\$150,700). 2/ For the reason stated in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, 3/ the Advisory Committee had recommended the provisional deletion of those estimates. In paragraph 5 of his statement, the Secretary-General states that the increase of \$136,600 in the estimate for ECA (from \$150,700 to \$287,300) reflects the higher cost of holding the Commission's session at Conakry, Guinea, instead of Maputo, Mozambique, as originally assumed.

4. At the request of the Advisory Committee, the representatives of the Secretary-General submitted additional detailed information which, *inter alia*, provided, with respect to each of the regional commissions concerned: (a) the tentative meeting agenda; (b) an indication of the numbers of substantive and conference-servicing staff involved, and the role of each in servicing the session; (c) the points of origin of all language staff, whether they are on established posts or free-lancers; and (d) calculations of related travel and subsistence costs. The table below indicates the number of personnel estimated by the Secretary-General as being required to service the sessions of each of the commissions at the respective venues proposed in the report of the Committee on Conferences.

	<u>ESCAP</u>	<u>ECLA</u>	<u>ECA</u>
Substantive staff	54	30	18
Conference-servicing staff	<u>29</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>42</u>
Subtotal	83	73	60
Language staff	<u>57</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>12</u>
Total	<u>140</u>	<u>95 a/</u>	<u>72</u>

a/ Not including 13 work-months of secretarial assistance and translators for pre-session requirements.

5. Taking into account the additional information provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's estimates of the additional resources required for ECLA (\$143,300) and ECA (\$287,300).

6. As regards the additional requirements indicated for ESCAP, however, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that economies are possible in the number of staff proposed to service the session in Tokyo. From its examination of the tentative agenda proposed for the session, the Committee concludes that a reduction in the number of substantive and conference-servicing staff to be sent is warranted. The Committee does not object to the proposed number of language staff, bearing in mind the meeting-servicing requirements of the Commission, involving the use of four working languages (Chinese, English, French, Russian).

7. In the light of its observations in paragraph 6 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the number of substantive and conference-servicing staff be reduced by 10 (that is, from 83 to 73). In consequence, the estimate of additional costs for ESCAP of \$206,800 should be reduced by \$25,500 to \$181,300.

Recapitulation

8. The appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 5 and 7 above amount to \$611,900. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A submitted by the Committee on Conferences in its report 1/, additional amounts would have to be appropriated under sections 11, 12 and 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>United States dollars</u>
11. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	181 300
12. Economic Commission for Latin America	143 300
13. Economic Commission for Africa	<u>287 300</u>
Total	<u>611 900</u>

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/38/32), para. 4.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. II, sects. 11, 12 and 13 respectively.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1), chap. I, para. 33.

Twelfth report

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

(Agenda item 62 (j))*

[Original: English]

[25 November 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered, in so far as they relate to financial and administrative matters, the implications of draft resolution (A/C.1/38/L.8/Rev.1) on the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (for the text, see the report of the First Committee on agenda item 62 (A/38/640, para. 10)). This draft resolution has been brought to the attention of the Fifth Committee by the Chairman of the First Committee in the communication reproduced in document A/C.5/38/45.
2. The draft resolution in document A/C.1/38/L.8/Rev.1 would, inter alia, have the General Assembly approve the draft statute of UNIDIR. The draft statute is contained in annex IV to the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/467).
3. In its consideration of this matter, the Advisory Committee therefore concentrated on the provisions of the UNIDIR draft statute which deal with administration and finance.
4. Paragraphs 10 to 18 of the report of the Director of UNIDIR (A/38/475, annex) provide background information on the Institute, which was established on 1 October 1980, initially within the administrative framework of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). In 1982, the General Assembly adopted resolution 37/99 K. In section IV of that resolution the Assembly decided, inter alia, that UNIDIR should "function as an autonomous institution working in close relationship with the Department for Disarmament Affairs", and that "activities of the Institute shall be funded by voluntary contributions from States and public and private organizations". The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General "to give administrative and other support" to UNIDIR, and requested the UNIDIR Board of Trustees "to draft the statute of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the basis of the present mandate of the Institute, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session".
5. The Advisory Committee was informed that, in response to resolution 37/99 K, UNIDIR was removed from the administrative framework of UNITAR as from 1 January 1983 and a special account (United Nations General Trust Fund) was established for UNIDIR. The Committee was provided with the following information on the status of the special account:

* General and complete disarmament: institutional arrangements relating to the process of disarmament.

Unencumbered balance as at 1 January 1982: \$42,528

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure and obligations</u>
	<u>United States dollars</u>	
1982	218 168	353 075
1983 (9 months ended 30 September)	<u>274 017</u>	<u>249 785</u>
	<u>492 185</u>	<u>602 860</u>

6. In accordance with normal practice, the special account is charged for financial, personnel, legal and miscellaneous administrative services provided by the United Nations. The Advisory Committee was provided with a statement of the administrative and other support provided by the United Nations to UNIDIR and the extent to which these are subject to reimbursement from the special account. The statement is included as annex I to the present report.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that, in general, the UNIDIR draft statute bears a close relationship to statutes and charters approved previously by the General Assembly for other institutions and organs, especially that of UNITAR. There are several important differences, however, in so far as administrative and financial matters are involved. These differences result from an attempt to make the statute cover both the financing of UNIDIR on a voluntary basis and the possibility of a decision by the Assembly to fund certain expenditures from the United Nations regular budget.

8. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, this has resulted in provisions in the UNIDIR draft statute which are vague as to the precise nature of the arrangements for providing financial and other support to the Institute. For example:

Article III provides that the Board shall consider and adopt the work programme and budget of the Institute. However, the Committee points out that if part of that budget is to be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations, then appropriate provision must be made for review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly.

Article IV could be interpreted either to allow the expenses of the Director and the staff to be met from the regular budget or to require that they be financed from voluntary funds.

Article VII implies the possibility of a contribution from the regular budget to the activities of the Institute. However, if that were to be the case, the precise nature and/or purpose of such a contribution (e.g., for special studies) should be defined.

Article VIII leaves unclear whether the normal requirements with respect to reimbursement of administrative and other support costs (see para. 5 above) are to be applied in the case of UNIDIR.

The Committee believes that the financial and administrative arrangements for the Institute should be clearly defined from the outset and that uncertainties, such as those pointed out above, could lead to later difficulties in applying the statute.

9. One way of resolving the problem would be to assure, on the basis of General Assembly resolution 37/99 K (the relevant portions of which are cited in para. 4 above), that it is the intention of the General Assembly that the Institute should be funded solely by voluntary contributions and not from the regular budget of the United Nations. In order to give proper effect to this assumption a number of provisions of the draft statute could be modified in the manner set forth in annex II below.

10. The modifications outlined in annex II would resolve the ambiguities of the draft statute in favour of purely voluntary funding. If the assumption upon which those modifications are based is not acceptable to the General Assembly, however, the Advisory Committee believes that approval of the draft statute should be deferred. Such further guidance as the Assembly may wish to give on the nature of the arrangements for providing financial and other support to the Institute could then be incorporated in a revised draft statute which could be presented to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

11. The Advisory Committee emphasizes that steps should be taken to clear up the ambiguities reflected in the present draft of the UNIDIR statute. However, if the General Assembly decides to adopt the present draft of the proposed statute, the Advisory Committee recommends that it should indicate what form, if any, assistance from the regular budget should take and should give specific guidance on the extent to which the financial and administrative arrangements described in annex I should continue to be applicable.

ANNEX I

Administrative and other support provided by the Secretary-General
to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Kind of support	Financial aspect of the support
I. Payment of travel and subsistence expenses of and provision of Conference Services to the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies which acts also as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR.	Not reimbursed by UNIDIR. The activities related to UNIDIR represent approximately one fourth of the work-load of the Board. On this assumption the estimated annual support would amount to \$100,000.
II. Financial, personnel and legal services provided by the Office of Financial Services, the Office of Personnel Services, the Office of Legal Affairs and the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)	Reimbursed by UNIDIR by means of programme support costs charged to the Institute at the standard rate applicable to United Nations trust funds. Estimated annual programme support cost reimbursement amounts to \$38,000.
III. Miscellaneous services provided by UNOG, such as rent of office facilities, utilities, office supplies and pouch service.	Reimbursed by UNIDIR at standard rates in the estimated amount of \$25,000 per annum.

Possible revisions to the UNIDIR draft statute
(see paragraph 9 of the present report)

Article IV, paragraph 4

Insert the following as the last sentence to this paragraph:

"The salary, allowances, and other expenses of the Director and the staff shall be borne by the Funds of the Institute."

Article V, paragraph 1

Replace the last sentence with:

"They shall not be considered as members of the staff of the Institute but may receive honoraria and be paid travel expenses."

Article VII, paragraph 1

The paragraph should be replaced with the following:

"1. The expenses of the Institute shall be met from voluntary contributions from States and public and private organizations."

Article VII, paragraph 3

The paragraph should read:

"3. The funds of the Institute shall be kept in a special account to be established by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations."

Article VIII

The article should be replaced by the following text:

"Article VIII

"Administrative and other support

"The general administrative, personnel, financial and legal services of the United Nations may be utilized by the Institute on conditions determined in consultation between the Secretary-General and the Director, it being understood that no extra cost to the regular budget of the United Nations is incurred."

Thirteenth report

Depository functions of the Secretary-General and registration and publication of treaties: revised estimates under section 26 (Legal activities), section 29A (Department of Conference Services, Headquarters), section 28D (Office of General Services, Headquarters), section 31 (Staff assessment) and income section (income from staff assessment)

[Original: English]

[30 November 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on depository functions of the Secretary-General and registration and publication of treaties (A/C.5/38/46), which contains revised estimates totalling \$994,000 under sections 26B (Office of Legal Affairs) (\$826,400), 29A (Department of Conference Services, Headquarters) (\$112,000) and 28D (Office of General Services, Headquarters) (\$55,600) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.
2. The report has been submitted pursuant to section I of General Assembly resolution 35/217 of 17 December 1980, in which the Assembly endorsed the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 11 and 12 of its report on the depository functions of the Secretary-General and registration and publication of treaties. 1/
3. In paragraphs 6 and 7 of his report (A/C.5/38/46), the Secretary-General indicates that by 31 December 1983 he expects the backlog in respect of the registration of treaties and the monthly Statement of Treaties and International Agreements registered or filed and recorded with the Secretariat to be reduced to 3 months and 17 months, respectively. As regards the registration of treaties, however, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that, on the basis of the latest information available as at 31 October 1983, the backlog would be reduced to two months, instead of three months as reported.
4. The implementation of the revised 10-year plan (1980-1989) for the elimination of the backlog in the production and publication of the United Nations Treaty Series is discussed in paragraphs 8 to 10, 14 and 15 of the Secretary-General's report. The Committee notes from paragraph 17 of the report that progress in 1982-1983 has been better than in 1980-1981. However, as pointed out by the Secretary-General, there has been some slippage, attributable primarily to delays in filling the temporary posts approved for the elimination of the backlog. In consequence, the Secretary-General states, in paragraphs 9, 10, 14 and 15 of his report, his intention to surrender, in the context of the final performance report for the biennium 1982-1983, unutilized appropriations amounting to \$186,800 (see A/C.5/38/49/Add.26).
5. In annex II to his report (A/C.5/38/46) in footnote b/ to that annex, the Secretary-General estimates total requirements to implement the portion for the

1984-1985 biennium of the revised 10-year plan at \$2,313,700 (\$2,242,100 at revised 1983 rates). Of this estimate, \$1,375,300 (\$694,100 under section 26 and \$681,200 under section 29A) is already included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

6. The additional request for \$994,000, summarized in paragraph 28 of the Secretary-General's report, comprises the difference of \$938,400 (\$2,313,700 less \$1,375,300) plus an estimate of \$55,600 under section 28D for common service costs.

7. Of the total request for \$994,000, \$260,400 (\$148,400 under section 26B and \$112,000 under section 29A) relates to the proposal to establish four additional temporary posts to implement the 1984-1985 portion of the revised plan, as follows:

Section 26B (Office of Legal Affairs, Treaty Section)

(a) One G-4/1 secretary post for compilation of Treaty Series manuscripts - 24 months (A/C.5/38/46, para. 22);

(b) One P-3 post for an indexer for preparation of the Treaty Series Cumulative Index - 24 months (ibid., para. 23);

Section 29A (Department of Conference Services, Headquarters, Publishing Division)

(c) One P-3 post for a copy preparer - 18 months from July 1984 (ibid., para. 24);

(d) One P-2 post for a proof-reader - 12 months from January 1985 (ibid., para. 24).

8. The request for an indexer at the P-3 level (see para. 7 (b) above) replaces the additional proof-reader (P-2) indicated in paragraph 22 of document A/C.5/36/25. The request for one temporary G-4/1 secretary post is new. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 11 to 13 and 22 to 24 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/46) and in the light of additional information provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the four temporary posts.

9. The Secretary-General requests \$678,000 for external printing. At the request of the Advisory Committee, the representatives of the Secretary-General provided the information below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of backlog volumes a/</u>	<u>External printing resources (at revised 1983 rates) b/</u>	<u>External printing cost per volume (at revised 1983 rates)</u>
<u>United States dollars</u>			
1982	5	57 000	11 400
1983	15	171 000	11 400
1984	35	399 000	11 400
1985	40	456 000	11 400

a/ The number of backlog volumes indicated in this column is in addition to the normal programme of 40 volumes published each year.

b/ See A/C.5/38/46, annex II.

10. As shown in the table in paragraph 9 above, an amount of \$855,000 (at revised 1983 rates) would be required in 1984-1985 to publish 75 backlog volumes. However, an amount of \$228,000 (at revised 1983 rates) had already been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, 2/ for publishing 20 backlog volumes. Consequently, the Secretary-General requests an additional net amount of \$678,000 at 1984-1985 rates (\$627,000 at revised 1983 rates) for publishing the remaining 55 backlog volumes. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that, on the basis of an average press run of some 2,050 copies per volume (bilingual edition in English and French), the external printing cost was approximately \$5.60 per copy. The sale price of the publication was, however, \$22.50 per copy. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's request of \$678,000 for external printing.

11. The estimate of \$55,600 under section 28D for common service costs relates to the request for four additional temporary posts (see para. 7 above). At the Advisory Committee's request, the representatives of the Secretary-General provided a breakdown of the estimate, as follows:

<u>Object of expenditure</u>	<u>Non-recurrent costs</u>	<u>Recurrent costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>United States dollars</u>		
Communications	600	4 200	4 800
Rental of premises	5 400	30 000	35 400
Rental of office equipment	1 400	700	2 100
Supplies and materials	-	1 700	1 700
Furniture and fixtures	<u>11 600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11 600</u>
Total	19 000	36 600	55 600

12. The Advisory Committee notes that resources amounting to \$25,585,200 are already included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 under section 28D for rental of premises. ^{3/} Furthermore, it should be possible to provide office space for the temporary posts from available space in the Secretariat Building consequent upon the transfer of other units to the UNDC II building. The Committee is also of the opinion that the requests under the other objects of expenditure can be met from within existing resources. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate of \$55,600 under section 28D be absorbed.

13. In paragraph 12 above, the Advisory Committee has recommended a reduction to the Secretary-General's estimates by an amount of \$55,600, i.e., from \$994,000 to \$938,400. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appropriate the following additional amounts in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985:

<u>Section</u>	<u>United States dollars</u>
26B	826 400
29A	<u>112 000</u>
Total	<u>938 400</u>

The consequential requirements under section 31 (Staff assessment) are \$49,100, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/35/7 and Add.1-32), document A/35/7/Add.1.

2/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. III, para. 26.34, programme element 2.3. Of the total amount of \$1,140,000 (at revised 1983 rates) shown for external printing for the United Nations Treaty Series, \$912,000 relates to 80 volumes to be printed under the normal programme and \$228,000 is for 20 volumes under the programme to eliminate the backlog.

3/ Ibid., vol. III, table 28D.18.

Fourteenth report

Staff training activities (Headquarters, Geneva and the regional commissions): contractual status of language teachers

[Original: English]

[2 December 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the contractual status of language teachers (A/C.5/38/41). The report covers:

- (a) Superannuation benefits for language teachers;
- (b) Considerations for the granting of the status of staff members to the full-time language teachers;
- (c) Assignments of the full-time teachers;
- (d) Proposed contractual status.

In addition, background information is given in paragraphs 1 to 8 of the Secretary-General's report. The financial implications of the various proposals of the Secretary-General are provided in paragraphs 24 to 27 of the report.

2. The observations of the Advisory Committee on items (a) to (d) above are contained in the paragraphs below. In paragraphs 12 to 17 below the Advisory Committee submits its conclusions and recommendations on the question of the contractual status of language teachers.

3. Superannuation benefits for language teachers are discussed in paragraphs 9 to 11 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/41). In its report of 1982 on the contractual status of language teachers, 1/ the Advisory Committee agreed that the most effective solution would consist in direct participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) if it were determined that the teachers could participate. If it were determined that the teachers could not participate, the Committee recommended that an alternative scheme be formulated.

4. The question of whether full-time language teachers would, as non-staff members, be eligible for participation in UNJSPF rests on whether they meet the requirements of supplementary article B of the Regulations of UNJSPF. It is stated in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/41) that, "while full-time teachers meet the functional conditions set out in supplementary article B, they are not, at present, covered by the Conventions on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and of the Specialized Agencies as also required by that article. Consequently, they could not participate in the Pension Fund".

5. It is pointed out in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report (*ibid.*) that "the designation of language teachers as 'officials' for the purpose of the

United Nations Convention on Privileges and Immunities would enable the teachers to participate in UNJSPF and permit the immediate implementation of the new contract proposed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions". However, according to the Secretary-General, such a course of action would give rise to a number of difficulties. While the Advisory Committee believes that these difficulties are not insurmountable, it sees no reason why participation in UNJSPF should be considered as the only solution to the question of superannuation benefits for language teachers.

6. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes the statement that the Secretary-General "has also considered the establishment of a United Nations provident fund" (*ibid.*, para. 11). The conclusion, however, that a provident fund would "provide only limited benefits, and its establishment would not constitute a lasting solution" (*ibid.*) is neither explained nor justified in the report. The Committee believes that the possibility of establishing an alternative scheme to provide adequate superannuation benefits to teachers has not been sufficiently explored.

7. Considerations for the granting of the status of staff members to full-time language teachers and assignments of the full-time teachers are discussed in paragraphs 12 to 19 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/41). In paragraph 16 it is stated that "the increased contribution of a core of well-motivated full-time teachers is necessary to provide a full solution to the shortcomings of the language training programme". In paragraph 17 it is stated that:

"At Headquarters, full-time teachers would teach an average of 15 hours per week. On average, an equivalent number of hours would be spent in the preparation of classes and the marking of homework. Outside the class teaching hours, they would be assigned, under the supervision of the language co-ordinator, six hours a week of pedagogical work".

8. The Advisory Committee does not believe that the mere according of the status of staff members in and of itself makes a difference in the quality of the contribution of a language teacher. Moreover, the Committee is not convinced that a full 15 hours either needs to be or actually would be spent each week in the preparation of classes and the marking of homework. Similarly, the Committee questions whether six hours in every week for each full-time teacher would be necessary for the pedagogical work referred to in paragraph 17 of the Secretary-General's report. In this regard, the Committee was informed that there are at present seven full-time language co-ordinators who are staff members in the Professional category; it could be assumed that these co-ordinators would continue to play a major role in course design, the development of course material and examinations.

9. The proposed contractual status of the language teachers is discussed in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/41). In paragraph 20 it is stated that "the Secretary-General believes that it is necessary to establish a separate group of locally recruited staff to be remunerated in accordance with the best prevailing local conditions at each duty station". It is proposed to set provisional salary scales for language teachers from 1 January 1984 until the International Civil Service Commission has determined the appropriate

salary scales. In paragraph 23, the Secretary-General recommends that the General Assembly should approve the granting of the status of staff members to 48 full-time teachers - 20 in New York, 15 at Geneva, 6 at Vienna, 3 at Nairobi, 2 at Bangkok and 2 at Addis Ababa. The Advisory Committee was informed that the language teachers who would be affected are in favour of such a course of action.

10. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General has not come forward with any new or additional information which would lead it to modify its previous statement that it "has considerable difficulty with the proposal of the Secretary-General to change the status of full-time teachers to that of staff members", 2/ As indicated in paragraph 8 above, the Committee remains unconvinced that the teaching schedule can be effectively adapted to the normal work schedule of United Nations staff. Moreover, there are numerous other "special circumstances" which might apply to the teachers such as the possible desirability of outside activities and/or employment which would enable the teachers to keep up to date with recent developments and techniques, and a teaching calendar which would require leave in excess of the entitlement under the Staff Rules. These "special circumstances" might have to be accommodated by interpretations of the Staff Regulations and Rules which could give rise to a variety of complications, given the principle of equal treatment of staff.

11. Finally, notwithstanding assurances by representatives of the Secretary-General that the teachers are in favour of belonging to a separate group of locally recruited staff, the Advisory Committee is not entirely satisfied that the uneasiness of at least some of the teachers at not being identified as Professionals will be entirely dispelled. In this connection, no indication has been given as to what the career development structure of the new group of staff might be.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Advisory Committee continues to believe that the requirements of the Organization as well as the concerns of the teachers can best be met by appropriate contractual arrangements which would not require a change in their status.

13. The Advisory Committee therefore reiterates its recommendation, made in its report of 1982, 1/ that the Secretary-General should devise a new contract for full-time teachers which would, inter alia, include the following features:

A term of one to three years;

Remuneration to be calculated on an annual basis and to be equivalent to what the teachers are now receiving;

Requirement of a minimum of 15 hours teaching time per week for at least 10 months per year;

Provision for sick and maternity leave within the contractual period;

Provision for post-employment benefits.

14. The Advisory Committee points out that the requirement of a minimum of 15 hours teaching time per week could be amplified, if necessary, by an express provision requiring a commensurate amount of time for preparation and grading of

examination papers. With regard to availability for participation in pedagogical activities, the Committee has stated its belief, in paragraph 8 above, that this should not involve all 48 teachers and that the main responsibility should be with the language co-ordinators, who are already Professional staff members. For those teachers who it is felt should participate in these activities, appropriate contractual provision could be made, together with provision for such additional remuneration as may be required.

15. As for provision for post-employment benefits, it would appear that the teachers could only become participants in UNJSPF if they were designated as "officials" of the United Nations within the meaning of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities. Under the circumstances, the Committee believes that the simplest and most direct way of providing post-employment benefits would be through the formulation of an alternative scheme, the costs of which to the United Nations should not exceed the equivalent of the contribution the United Nations would have made had the teachers joined UNJSPF. Should future changes in the regulations of the Pension Fund permit the participation of the full-time teachers, the Committee is confident that appropriate transitional arrangements could be worked out.

16. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that the Secretary-General should be requested to explore ways and means of instituting an alternative post-employment benefit scheme for full-time teachers and to report thereon to the Committee at its spring session in 1984. Account could be taken of the arrangements provided for members of the Joint Inspection Unit prior to their participation in UNJSPF as well as of the scheme now in place for teachers at the United Nations International School. If a scheme is proposed by the Secretary-General and approved by the Advisory Committee, steps could be taken to establish it and to incorporate appropriate reference to it in contracts to be entered into with the teachers.

17. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee in the paragraphs above would not require any additional appropriation. In this connection, the Committee notes from paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/41) that an amount of \$225,900 has been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 to allow for post-employment benefits for the full-time language teachers.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/37/7 and Add.1-24), document A/37/7/Add.24.

2/ Ibid., para. 3.

Fifteenth report

Population activities in the regional commissions

[Original: English]

[5 December 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on population activities in the regional commissions (A/C.5/38/43), which was submitted in compliance with the request of the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985. 1/ During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. As noted by the Secretary-General in paragraph 1 of his report (A/C.5/38/43), the new posts for the population programmes in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) were included in the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985 2/ pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/136 of 17 December 1982. However, the Advisory Committee recommended that the posts should not be approved pending the submission and consideration of a special report on the subject, which would set forth and analyse a variety of means by which the requirements of resolution 37/136 could be met. 3/ The corresponding provisional reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee totalled \$711,400, as follows:

<u>Section</u>		<u>United States dollars</u>
11. ESCAP	(1 D-1, 1 P-4, 1 local level)	148 700
12. ECLA	(1 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 local level)	142 000
13. ECA	(1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 4 local level)	311 700
14. ECWA	(1 P-4, 1 local level)	<u>109 000</u>
	Total	711 400

3. In response to the Advisory Committee's request, section II of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/43, paras. 5-13) provides background information on developments concerning infrastructure support provided by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), which culminated in decision 82/20 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Section III (ibid., paras. 14-36) describes the tasks carried out by staff in posts financed by UNFPA, while section IV (ibid., paras. 37-44) outlines four options by which the requirements of General Assembly resolution 37/136 might be met, namely:

- (a) Absorption by the population programme without effect on other programmes;

(b) Redeployment of resources by termination of lowest priority activities in other programmes;

(c) Funding from other sources;

(d) Use of temporary posts.

4. In the opinion of the Secretary-General, however, none of these options, for the various reasons provided in paragraphs 38 to 44 of his report (A/C.5/38/43), is a viable alternative.

5. In paragraph 46 of his report (*ibid.*), the Secretary-General concludes that, in the circumstances, he "has no choice but to reiterate his request for the establishment of the new posts that are needed to take the place of those that are being phased out by UNFPA or discontinued because of the decrease in UNFPA financing of projects that are based in the headquarters of the regional commissions". Accordingly, the Secretary-General requests the reinstatement of the total amount of \$711,400 recommended for deletion by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985 (see para. 2 above). An additional amount of \$146,500 is also requested under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

6. The Advisory Committee has examined each of the 15 posts (8 Professional and 7 local level) in the context of the functional requirements of the substantive population programmes of the respective Commissions as mandated and reflected in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. ^{4/} In this connection, the Committee notes that paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/43) describes infrastructure posts as those which provide service of an administrative and/or financial nature, and those which involve co-ordinating substantive activities at the headquarters, regional and, in some cases, country level.

7. The Advisory Committee also sought additional information on the number and functions of existing regular budget posts for population activities in the regional commissions. The following table summarizes the present established regular budget posts for population activities, the new posts being requested and the UNFPA financed posts that are being abolished:

	A	B	C	D
	UNFPA infrastructure posts being discontinued as at 31 December 1983	New regular budget posts being requested in 1984-1985 budget	Existing regular budget posts for population activities	Total B and C (Proposed regular budget staffing for population activities)
ESCAP	2 (1 D-1, 1 P-4) a/	3 (1 D-1, 1 P-4, 1 LL [LL = local level])	10 (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 P-2/1, 5 LL)	13 (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 P-2/1, 6 LL)
ECWA	4 (1 P-4, 3 LL)	2 (1 P-4, 1 LL)	9 b/ (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 3 LL)	11 (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 4 LL)
ECLA	c/	3 (1 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 LL)	10 (1 D-1, 4 P-5, 5 LL)	13 (1 D-1, 4 P-5, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 6 LL)
ECA	3 (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4)	7 (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 4 LL)	3 (2 P-4, 1 P-3)	10 (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 3 P-4, 1 P-3, 4 LL)

a/ In addition, UNFPA will continue financing 4 posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3) until 31 December 1985.

b/ Actual staffing table for population activities totals 7 in 1982-1983 (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 LL). However, for the biennium the Secretary-General intends to redeploy 3 posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 LL to the population programme and 1 P-4 out of the population programme to the statistical programme. Therefore the staffing table for population activities in 1984-1985 will total 9, excluding new posts (see A/C.5/38/43, paras. 33 and 34).

c/ None. However, significant reductions took place in the UNFPA funding of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) in 1984, which adversely affected ECLA population activities. CELADE had 15 experts and 23 local level posts in 1983 (*ibid.*, para. 21).

8. As can be seen, if the requested posts are approved, the total regular budget staffing establishment for ESCAP, ECWA, ECLA and ECA would become 13, 11, 13 and 10 posts respectively. The Advisory Committee also notes that the number of UNFPA infrastructure posts for which financing is being discontinued totals 13, that is, 6 in ESCAP, 4 in ECWA and 3 in ECA. The Advisory Committee was informed that the financing of 9 of these posts (2 in ESCAP, 4 in ECWA and 3 in ECA) would cease as from 1 January 1984. UNFPA would continue financing the remaining 4 infrastructure posts (all in ESCAP) until 31 December 1985. Since there is no indication in the Secretary-General's report as to future action after the termination of those 4 posts, the Committee assumes that replacement posts will not be requested under the regular budget for 1986-1987.

9. Of the eight Professional posts being requested, it appears to the Advisory Committee that some entail administrative or co-ordinating responsibilities while others are more substantively oriented. For instance, the functions of the Division Chiefs (D-1) being requested for ESCAP and ECA are primarily managerial and administrative. The incumbents of the P-5 post being proposed for ECA, as well as the two P-4 posts requested for ESCAP and ECA (one post each) are all in charge of sections; their functions appear to be a mixture of co-ordination and substantive activities. However, the function of the P-4 demographer being requested for ECWA would seem to be more substantive in nature.

10. In the case of ECLA, the Advisory Committee notes that, while the incumbents of the requested P-2 and P-3 posts will undertake a variety of substantive activities, they will also, inter alia, undertake technical assistance missions to countries of the region and carry out teaching activities. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the latter functions are more of the nature of technical support, which are normally financed from programme support resources.

11. In examining the Secretary-General's request, the Advisory Committee has taken into account a number of factors. In the first instance, resolution 37/136 requested the Secretary-General to include in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 "proposals on modalities for the continuation of activities in the field of population at the regional level". Furthermore, the Committee notes that the number of posts being requested by the Secretary-General is not the same as that of posts whose financing by UNFPA is being discontinued. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee has considered the Secretary-General's request in the light of the observations set forth in paragraphs 49 to 54 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 5/ and, in particular, paragraph 53, which stated, inter alia, that "donors wishes or a decline in voluntary contributions do not in themselves constitute a valid justification for the transfer of posts to the regular budget. In such situations, each must be considered on its merits on the same basis as any other request for new posts".

12. Under the circumstances, and taking into consideration its observations in paragraphs 6 to 11 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the posts in ESCAP, ECA and ECWA be approved for financing from the regular budget. In the case of ECLA, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the P-3 post but considers that the P-2 and the local level post should not be approved.

13. With regard to the impact of the continuing decrease of extrabudgetary resources hitherto made available to finance certain activities, the Advisory Committee notes the Secretary-General's statement in the introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 that "a large part of the

growth proposed on solid programme grounds for 1984-1985 is offset by a decrease in extrabudgetary resources hitherto placed by the world community at the disposal of the Organization". 6/ The Advisory Committee cautions against assuming that a reduction in the financing of certain extrabudgetary activities should automatically be obviated by a corresponding increase in regular budget financing of such activities. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, unless the possibility of regular budget financing has been foreseen or is authorized by specific decisions of the General Assembly, the above assumption may not be acceptable to Member States as a whole.

14. In considering the Secretary-General's request, the Advisory Committee also recalled that the new posts were originally proposed in the initial estimates for the biennium 1984-1985 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/136, the potential or possible financial implications of which were not brought to the attention of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee trusts that, in any future decisions of this kind, appropriate statements of administrative and financial implications will be submitted to the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee.

Recapitulation

15. In paragraph 12 above, the Advisory Committee recommended the approval of 13 posts. If this recommendation is accepted by the General Assembly, additional appropriations would total \$624,700 as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>United States dollars</u>
11. ESCAP (1 D-1, 1 P-4, 1 local level)	148 700
12. ECLA (1 P-3)	55 300
13. ECA (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 4 local level)	311 700
14. ECWA (1 P-4, 1 local level)	<u>109 000</u>
Total	624 700

Additional requirements in the amount of \$129,600 would also arise under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an increase in the same amount in the estimate of income under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1), chap. I, para. 28.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. I.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1), chap. I, paras. 27 and 28.

4/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6), chap. 18.

5/ Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/10008 and Corr.2 and 3).

6/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. I, Introduction, para. 20.

Sixteenth report

Revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions, 1983

[Original: English]

[6 December 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/32) and the addendum to that report (A/C.5/38/32/Add.1) in which he submits revised estimates attributable to decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1983.

A. Document A/C.5/38/32

2. The additional resources requested by the Secretary-General for 1984-1985, other than for Conference servicing, amount to \$400,800 gross, or \$382,700 net of staff assessment. The related conference-servicing costs are estimated at \$2,121,100 (\$1,632,100 for 1984 and \$489,000 for 1985) on a full-cost basis. The conference-servicing requirements for 1984 will be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted towards the end of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly (see A/C.5/38/104).

3. As noted in paragraph 2 of his report (A/C.5/38/32), the Secretary-General entered into commitments in respect of resolutions and decisions requiring urgent action in 1983, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 36/241 of 18 December 1981, entitled "Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1982-1983". Accordingly, the Secretary-General will report on those commitments and seek additional appropriations, when necessary, in the context of his final performance report for the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1982-1983 (see A/C.5/38/49 and Add.1-33). In addition, as indicated in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report, any revised appropriations related to supplementary conference-servicing requirements for 1983 will be requested in the same manner.

4. In paragraph 3 of his report (A/C.5/38/32), the Secretary-General states that he has not sought additional resources for items involving estimated expenditures of \$10,000 or less, it being his intention to absorb these extra costs within the resources provided under the relevant sections of the programme budgets for 1982-1983 and 1984-1985. Estimated expenditures under this category total \$18,300 and are described in paragraphs 23.2, 23.4, 23.5, 23.29, 23.31, 23.33, 23.35 and 23.37 of annex I of the Secretary-General's report.

5. The following table provides a summary of the revised estimates being requested for 1984-1985 by section (excluding conference-servicing costs):

<u>Section</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>United States dollars</u>			
10. Economic Commission for Europe	17 600	-	17 600
20. International drug control	22 000	22 000	44 000
23. Human rights	289 700	26 100	315 800
27. Public information	5 300	-	5 300
Total	<u>334 600 a/</u>	<u>48 100</u>	<u>382 700 a/</u>

a/ Net of staff assessment.

Section 10. Economic Commission for Europe

6. The Secretary-General's request for \$17,600 under section 10 relates to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/7, described in paragraphs 10.1 and 10.2 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/32). The Advisory Committee concurs with this request.

Section 20. International drug control

7. The amount of \$44,000 being requested under section 20 for 1984-1985 is attributable to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/5 as outlined in paragraphs 20.1 and 20.2 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/32). The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the estimate.

Section 23. Human rights

8. Under section 23, the Secretary-General submits in his report (A/C.5/38/32) the financial implications of 6 resolutions and 13 decisions of the Economic and Social Council. For a number of these, no additional resources are requested since the estimated expenditures are \$10,000 or less (see para. 4 above); in other instances, only conference-servicing requirements are involved. The total additional non-conference-servicing resources being requested are estimated at \$315,800 and relate to five resolutions and decisions as follows:

Revised estimates under section 23

	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>United States dollars</u>		
Resolution 1983/41	11 000	11 000	22 000
Decision 1983/135	174 600	15 100	189 700
Decision 1983/140	10 000	-	10 000
Decision 1983/141	63 400	-	63 400
Decision 1983/149	<u>30 700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30 700</u>
Total	<u>289 700</u>	<u>26 100</u>	<u>315 800</u>

9. The financial implications of all but one of these resolutions and decisions were considered by the Advisory Committee at its spring session in 1983, at which time the Committee made a number of recommendations to the Secretary-General.

Resolution 1983/41. Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

10. The Secretary-General's request for \$22,000 for the biennium 1984-1985 under this heading is described in paragraphs 23.10 to 23.13 of his report (A/C.5/38/32). The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the request.

Decision 1983/135. Violations of human rights in southern Africa: report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts

11. Paragraph 23.14 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/32) summarizes the above decision, the financial implications of which are estimated at \$254,600 for the biennium 1984-1985 under section 23 and \$5,300 for 1984 under section 27 (see para. 15 below). However, in line with the Advisory Committee's recommendation at its spring session in 1983, the Secretary-General is requesting \$195,000 (\$189,700 under section 23 and \$5,300 under section 27); the balance of \$64,900 will be absorbed under section 23. The Advisory Committee concurs with this request.

Decision 1983/140. The new international economic order and the promotion of human rights

12. The financial implications of this decision, which is described in paragraph 23.20 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/32), total \$17,800. However, in compliance with the Advisory Committee's earlier recommendation that an amount not exceeding \$12,000 be proposed in respect of this decision, the Secretary-General indicates that he will absorb \$7,800. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's request for \$10,000.

Decision 1983/141. Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

13. As stated in paragraph 23.24 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/32), the financial implications arising from the implementation of this decision are estimated at \$63,400 in 1984 under section 23 and \$11,500 under section 28 for computer services. However, the Secretary-General will attempt to absorb the \$11,500 under section 28; therefore his request, with which the Advisory Committee concurs, totals \$63,400.

Decision 1983/149. Question of human rights in Chile

14. In paragraph 23.43 of his report (A/C.5/38/32), the Secretary-General estimates costs relating to this decision at \$31,100. However, because "it is expected that the cost of overtime and general operating expenses in the total amount of \$400 can be absorbed under section 23" (*ibid.*, para. 23.44), an appropriation totalling \$30,700 is requested. The Advisory Committee concurs with this request.

Section 27. Public information

Decision 1983/135. Violations of human rights in southern Africa: report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts

15. As stated in paragraph 11 above, financial implications totalling \$5,300 in 1984 under section 27 arise in respect of the above-mentioned decision. The Advisory Committee concurs with the Secretary-General's request for this amount under section 27.

Recapitulation

16. As discussed in paragraphs 6 to 15 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the following additional amounts attributable to resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1983 should be approved for 1984-1985:

<u>Section</u>	<u>United States dollars</u>
10	17 600
20	44 000
23	315 800
27	<u>5 300</u>
Total	<u>382 700</u>

Additional requirements totalling \$18,100 would also arise under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

B. Document A/C.5/38/32/Add.1

17. This addendum (A/C.5/38/32/Add.1) deals with the Secretary-General's request for \$796,900 under the regular budget for 1984-1985 in respect of conference-servicing requirements for the International Conference on Population to be held in August 1984 at Mexico City.

18. In paragraph 2 of his addendum (ibid.) the Secretary-General recalls that the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1982/42, recommended, inter alia, that the total amount of the resources to be provided by the United Nations regular budget for the Conference should not exceed \$800,000. However, no request for appropriations was made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 1/ since the exact level of requirements and the corresponding breakdown was not yet available.

19. The Secretary-General now indicates that "the resource requirements for the Conference are estimated at \$2,278,200, of which \$1,290,700 relates to conference-servicing requirements in respect of the four expert group meetings held in 1983 and the convening in 1984 of the Conference itself and of the one-day pre-conference consultations" (A/C.5/38/32/Add.1, para. 8).

20. In paragraphs 9 and 10 of his addendum, the Secretary-General states that the charges against the voluntary contributions for the Conference will be \$1,481,300; therefore, the additional requirements from the regular budget will be limited to the documentation requirements of the Conference, estimated on a full-cost basis at \$796,900. This request will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its thirty-eighth session in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements in 1984 (see A/C.5/38/104).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. I, p. 302, para. 4.39.

Seventeenth report

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I
submitted by the Second Committee in document A/38/705

(Agenda item 81 (a))*

[Original: English]

[7 December 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/57), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/705, para. 91).

2. Under the terms of paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General "to permit the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to respond to requests for emergency disaster assistance up to a total of \$600,000 in any one year, with a normal ceiling of \$50,000 per country in the case of any one disaster, within existing resources as far as possible".

3. In paragraph 2 of the statement that he submitted, the Secretary-General recalls that an amount of \$720,000 has already been requested for this purpose in the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985. 1/ He states that the implementation of the draft resolution might require additional resources up to an amount of \$480,000 under section 22 (Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. It is further stated that:

"Every effort would be made to meet these additional requirements from existing resources under section 22. However, should this not be possible, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to meet the additional requirements nevertheless and to report such over-expenditure in the context of the final report on programme budget performance for the biennium 1984-1985. Consequently, there would be no need to request an additional appropriation at this time."

4. In its previous report to the General Assembly on this subject (A/38/476), the Advisory Committee drew attention to the need for clarification as the result of: (a) General Assembly resolution 37/144 of 17 December 1982, paragraph 5 of which, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General "to raise the normal maximum [amount to be granted per disaster] of \$30,000 to \$50,000, the additional \$20,000 to come from

* Special economic and disaster relief assistance: Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator.

voluntary sources ..." and (b) the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1983/47 of 28 July 1983 that the Secretary-General be authorized to permit the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to give grants for emergency assistance from the regular budget, within existing resources, up to a total of \$600,000 in any one year.

5. The General Assembly now has before it a draft resolution which calls for additional resources to be made available "within existing resources as far as possible". In the light of this development, the Advisory Committee believes the time has come to set out procedures for dealing with decisions in Assembly resolutions that activities be carried out "within existing resources" or "within existing resources as far as possible".

6. As pointed out by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 11 (c) of its report (A/38/476), it would be highly unusual to interpret the phrase "within existing resources" to mean that the Secretary-General would have standing authority (i.e., without recourse to the Advisory Committee) to utilize savings anywhere in the budget to finance a particular activity. Such a course could lead to considerable uncertainty and confusion in the administration of budget appropriations. Therefore, unless the General Assembly were to specify otherwise, the Advisory Committee would interpret "within existing resources" to mean that the activities in question must be carried out within the resources already approved for the section(s) of the programme budget pertaining to them, it being understood that the normal operation of the Financial Regulations regarding transfer between sections with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee (as set forth in the biennial appropriations resolutions of the Assembly) would continue to apply. However, the Committee emphasizes that requests by the Secretary-General for such concurrence must be presented prior to his entering into the actual commitment in question.

7. The Advisory Committee would interpret the phrase "within existing resources as far as possible" to mean that, although the Assembly recognizes that what it is requesting or authorizing in a particular resolution may eventually involve the requirement for additional resources, it first wishes the Secretary-General to exercise his best efforts to utilize existing resources.

8. Since it is not the intention of the General Assembly, in such a resolution, to consider an additional appropriation at the session during which the resolution is considered, the practical effect of such a resolution, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, would be to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, beyond the amount already appropriated for the section(s) in question, in an amount to be determined.

9. In this connection, paragraph 5 (b) of General Assembly resolution 36/242 of 18 December 1981 on the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 1982-1983 states that the Secretary-General is authorized to advance from the Working Capital Fund:

"(b) Such sums as may be necessary to finance commitments which may be duly authorized under the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, in particular resolution 36/241 of 18 December 1981 relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses; the Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates for reimbursing the Working Capital Fund;".

Accordingly, such commitments as might be entered into by the Secretary-General would be financed initially under the resolution on the Working Capital Fund for the biennium in question.

10. The Advisory Committee points out that the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, adopted for each biennium by the General Assembly, requires, with certain exceptions, the concurrence of the Advisory Committee for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments.

11. The Advisory Committee recommends that the procedure for entering into the commitments referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 above should be established in a manner analogous to that already in place for commitments under the authority of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. This would require the Secretary-General, once he has determined that available resources will not be sufficient, to obtain the concurrence of the Advisory Committee prior to entering into such additional commitments as may be necessary (within the limits specified in the statement of financial implications) to carry out the General Assembly resolution in question.

12. In most circumstances, where the financial implication of an activity requested by the General Assembly is based on an estimate of resources required, the Advisory Committee would examine the request of the Secretary-General to:

- (a) confirm that all available existing resources have indeed been exhausted; and
- (b) consider to what extent further expenditure (within the limits specified in the statement of financial implications) is required. The Advisory Committee's responsibilities in (b) above would, of course, neither preclude it from nor require it to indicate its position on estimates provided by the Secretary-General when a statement of financial implications pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly is first presented in connection with a resolution containing the phrase "within existing resources as far as possible".

13. In the cases where the resolution specifies the actual amount or amounts involved, the role of the Advisory Committee would be limited to satisfying itself that all existing resources have been fully utilized prior to concurring with the entering into commitments for the remainder of the amount or amounts specified by the General Assembly. Procedures would be facilitated if these cases were limited to those instances where the Assembly is deciding to make a specific grant or subvention (as with the draft resolution, the implications of which are considered in the present report); therefore, efforts should be made to avoid quantifying, in the resolution itself, the specific costs (in terms of funds or posts) for an additional activity.

Conclusion and recommendation

14. Taking into account what it has stated in the paragraphs above, where the General Assembly has adopted a resolution calling for additional resources to be made available "within existing resources as far as possible", the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General should obtain its concurrence prior to entering into commitments beyond the amount already appropriated for the section(s) in question. Commitments thus entered into would be financed by an advance from the Working Capital Fund and would be reported in the performance report to be submitted to the Assembly at its next session.

15. With regard to General Assembly resolutions containing the phrase "within existing resources", the understanding and procedures outlined by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 6 above would apply, unless the Assembly were to indicate otherwise.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. III, para. 22.27.

Eighteenth report

Revised estimates under section 2A.C (Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea, section 31, (Staff assessment) and income section 1 (Income from staff assessment)

(Agenda item 31)*

[Original: English]

[12 December 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1). The Committee also had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (A/38/570 and Corr.1).

2. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the report (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1):

"The present document sets forth the revised estimates of resources required for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea, for the biennium 1984-1985 which have been formulated on the basis of Programme 1 of the major programme - Marine Affairs - and the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/570 and Corr.1). In certain cases, the details of the work programme cannot be foreseen with precision since they are subject to future decisions by the Preparatory Commission and the General Assembly. The estimates included herein may have to be reviewed in the light of the experience during the first year of the biennium."

3. An amount of \$5,427,300 was included initially in section 2A.C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 in respect of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea. 1/ As is shown in table 1 of the report (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1, p. 4), the revised estimate now being submitted amounts to a total of \$6,314,300 for 1984-1985; this amount includes resource growth estimated at \$216,100 (at revised 1983 rates). The rate of real growth is shown at 3.9 per cent. According to paragraph 6 of the report, the resource growth

"represents the net effect of proposals for the reclassification of two P-4 temporary posts to the P-5 and the P-3 level and for increased travel of staff and temporary assistance to service the sessions of the Preparatory Commission in Kingston; local transportation costs, freight charges and miscellaneous expenses to be incurred for the sessions of the Commission when held in Kingston; as well as an increase in other travel of staff, temporary

* Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea: report of the Secretary-General.

assistance and consultancy requirements. The increases resulting from this growth are partly offset by proposed reductions under external printing, contractual translations and data-processing services."

4. Table 5 of the report (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1, p. 8) indicates a total of 55 posts for the Office of the Special Representative, all of which are on the regular budget (30 established, 25 temporary); the number of posts approved for 1982-1983 was also 55, but all were temporary.

5. An amount of \$954,600 is estimated for executive direction and management for 1984-1985. Table 6 (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1, p. 9) shows a revalued 1982-1983 resource base amounting to \$1,170,800, which is explained in paragraph 9 of the report.

6. In paragraph 10 of his report (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1) the Secretary-General requests that all seven temporary posts for executive direction and management (1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 D-2, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 3 General Service) be converted to established posts. It is indicated in paragraph 10 that this request is in line with the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/570 and Corr.1). That report contains a discussion of the work of an interdepartmental review task force (*ibid.*, paras. 30-40) and the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General with regard to his overall responsibilities for the law of the sea (*ibid.*, paras. 41-59). On the assumption that the Office of the Special Representative will be established on a permanent basis, the Advisory Committee does not object to the proposed conversions.

7. An amount of \$5,359,700 is estimated for the programme of activity: Law of the Sea Affairs. Although the 1982-1983 appropriation for this programme was \$1,613,300, the revalued 1982-1983 resource base is shown in table 8 (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1, p. 13) at \$4,311,200 and is explained in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report.

8. With regard to the cost of occupying the Kingston office and the cost of using the conference complex, the Advisory Committee notes the statement in paragraph 20 of the report (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1), that, as requested by the Committee, "an agreement has been renegotiated with the Government of Jamaica which forms the basis of these estimates". The draft agreement can be found in annex II to the report (*ibid.*). The Committee recalls that, when the draft agreement with the Government of Jamaica was initially submitted to the Committee in July 1983, it recommended a number of changes in the text. The Committee also found that the costs to the United Nations, as specified in the agreement, were too high. The Committee notes that the proposed agreement has been revised to reflect the drafting changes recommended by the Committee. As for the costs specified in the draft agreement, the Committee notes that the amounts referred to in article II (Use of the Centre) and in article V (Operating costs of the premises) represent reductions from those originally proposed. In the case of article II, the amount is approximately 27 per cent less than what had been proposed in July 1983. The amount now shown in article V represents a reduction of approximately 30 per cent from what had previously been proposed, although the amount of space in question has also been reduced from 15,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet. In this connection, the Committee recalls that, in its comments on the proposals reported to it by the Secretary-General in July 1983, it had questioned whether 15,000 square feet of office space would be needed even with a full complement of staff.

9. In view of the observations in paragraph 8 above, and taking into account that the agreement stipulates that the payments to be made by the United Nations, as specified in the agreement, shall constitute the sole contribution by the United Nations for the purposes set forth in the agreement (see art. II, para. 3, and art. V, para. 2), the Committee has no objection to the draft agreement as contained in annex II of the report.

10. In paragraph 21 of the report (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1), it is proposed that 14 Professional and 9 General Service posts be converted to established posts. As with the request discussed in paragraph 6 above, the Committee does not object to this conversion.

11. The upgrading of one P-4 temporary post to the P-5 level and the downgrading of another P-4 post to the P-3 level is proposed in paragraph 24 of the report (ibid.). For the reasons given in that paragraph, the Committee has no objection to the above reclassifications.

12. Paragraph 27 of the report (ibid.) deals with travel of staff to service meetings, for which a provision of \$331,400 (at revised 1983 rates) is requested. As indicated in that paragraph, the travel envisaged would be to service the two sessions of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to be held at Kingston during the biennium 1984-1985. Travel costs may also arise in connection with working group meetings if these are held at Geneva rather than New York (see para. 14 below). The Advisory Committee requested a breakdown of the estimate and received the following information:

	Number of staff	Amount Travel + DSA a/	Total
<u>United States dollars</u>			
A. <u>Department of Conference Services</u>			
(a) Internationally recruited staff	126	(60 100) b/	
(b) Supervisory staff	20	79 100	<u>19 000</u>
B. <u>Other services</u>			
(a) Office of General Services	9	30 500	
(b) Department of Public Information	3	<u>10 200</u>	<u>40 700</u>
C. <u>Substantive services</u>			
(a) Office of Legal Affairs	1	3 400	
(b) Department of International Economic and Social Affairs	1	3 400	
(c) Department of Technical Co-operation for Development	1	3 400	
(d) Office of Personnel Services	2	4 000 c/	
(e) Office of Financial Services	2	6 800	
(f) Office of the Special Representative for the Law of the Sea	23	<u>85 000 d/</u>	<u>106 000</u>
	Grand Total (\$165,700 x 2) =		<u>165 700</u> <u>331 400 e/</u>

a/ DSA (daily subsistence allowance) calculated on the basis of 28 days at a rate of \$102 per day.

b/ Standard costs for this staff include DSA paid at the New York rate of \$138. Since this staff will be sent to Jamaica where the DSA rate is \$102, there will be savings of \$127,100 from the standard cost, partially offset by the travel cost of \$67,000 for a net savings of \$60,100.

c/ For two weeks only.

d/ Additional requirements in respect of the Office of Legal Affairs, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development will be met from within the entitlements of this office.

e/ Requirements for 1984-1985 for two years as requested in paragraph 27 of document A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1.

In addition, the Committee assumes that staff in the 25 temporary posts assigned to Kingston (see A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1, table 9) will be available for the session of the Preparatory Commission.

13. Annex I to the Secretary-General's report (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1) deals with conference-servicing requirements. These are estimated as follows:

A. Second session of the Preparatory Commission
(Kingston, 19 March to 13 April 1984)

	<u>United States dollars</u>
1. Standard conference-servicing costs	1 144 200
2. Provision for local staff and for travel and subsistence of staff	<u>227 300</u>
Total	<u>1-371 500</u>

B. Four-week session of the Preparatory Commission (Kingston, 1985)

	<u>United States dollars</u>
1. Standard conference-servicing costs	<u>1 207 600</u>
2. Provision for local staff and for travel and subsistence of staff	<u>227 300</u>
Total	1 434 900

C. Session of working groups (summer 1984)

	<u>New York</u> or <u>Geneva</u>
	<u>United States dollars</u>
1. Standard conference-servicing costs	936 600 642 900
2. Travel and subsistence of staff	<u>-</u> <u>105 500</u>
Total	<u>936 600</u> <u>748 400</u>

14. As indicated in paragraph 2 of annex I to the report (A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1), the estimates of standard conference-servicing costs are provided on the basis of full costing, that is, on the assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be made available from within existing resources. These standard requirements for conference services will be included in the consolidated statement in respect of conference-servicing costs to be submitted towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly (see A/C.5/38/104). In paragraph 3 of annex I, it is stated that, in addition to the standard requirements for conference services, provision for related travel and daily subsistence allowance for staff to be sent to Kingston and salary for locally recruited staff has been included in the revised estimates in section 2A.C (see A/38/570/Add.1 and Corr.1, paras. 25 and 27; see also para. 12 above). It is also envisaged that travel and subsistence costs in the amount of \$105,500 would arise should the Preparatory Commission decide to hold its working group meetings at Geneva in 1984. If the Commission should so decide, it is the intention of the Secretary-General to report expenditures incurred in this respect in the context of the first performance report.

Recommendation

15. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve an additional appropriation of \$887,000 for a total of \$6,314,300 under section 2A.C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. In addition, an amount of \$34,400 should be included under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. I, table 2A.27.

Nineteenth report

Administrative and financial implications of the
draft resolution contained in document A/38/L.35

(Agenda item 35)*

[Original: English]

[12 December 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/78 and Corr.1), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/38/L.35.
2. In paragraphs 8 to 11 and in annex I of the statement, the Secretary-General provides information on the preparatory activities and on related resources appropriated for the Conference in the biennium 1982-1983. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that \$936,100 was appropriated under several sections of the programme budget and that obligations and expenditures amounting to \$684,000 have been incurred, leaving a balance of \$252,100. In response to inquiries from the Advisory Committee, the representatives of the Secretary-General attributed the under-expenditure primarily to the postponement of the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference from 1983 to 1984 and to delayed recruitment of temporary staff approved for the Conference secretariat.
3. To implement operative paragraphs 1 to 5 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General estimates that \$3,531,000 (\$2,769,800 for 1984-1985 and \$761,200 for 1986) will be required. As regards the estimate for 1986, the Secretary-General states, in paragraphs 12 and 24 of the statement (A/C.5/38/78), that it will be included in the context of his initial proposals for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. The 1984-1985 estimate of \$2,769,800 consists of \$1,806,900 for non-conference costs and \$962,900 for conference-servicing costs for five regional expert group meetings and the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference in 1984. These conference-servicing costs will be included in the consolidated statement of total conference-servicing requirements for 1984 to be submitted to the General Assembly at the current session (see A/C.5/38/104) (A/C.5/38/78, paras. 17, 18, 24 and 25).
4. The Secretary-General's request for appropriations for 1984-1985 is limited at this stage to \$1,806,900, as follows:

* United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy: report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

United States dollars

Conference secretariat and related requirements	1 348 700
Regional expert group meetings	167 900
Fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference	23 900
Public information activities	<u>266 400</u>
Total	<u>1 806 900</u>

A. Conference secretariat and related requirements

5. The request under this heading amounts to \$1,348,700, comprising \$1,231,400 under section 4, \$15,000 each under sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 and \$57,300 under section 28M (A/C.5/38/78, paras. 13-16).

6. Of his estimate, \$1,008,700 (\$951,400 for salaries and common staff costs and \$57,300 for common services costs) relates to the Secretary-General's proposal to continue in 1984-1985 nine temporary posts (5 posts at the Professional and higher level - 1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-2 and 4 General Service posts - 1 at the principal level) for the Conference secretariat located at Vienna. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that in costing the above temporary posts no turnover deduction was applied to them. They also stated that, at present, two of the posts (1 D-1 and 1 General Service at the principal level) were vacant. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing requests. In view of the resources available under section 28M, the Committee recommends that the estimate of \$57,300 for common services costs (communications, supplies and materials, rental of equipment, furniture) be reduced by \$18,000 to \$39,300.

7. The Secretary-General requests \$220,000 to finance 44 work-months of consultant services, of which 32 work-months would be for the Conference secretariat (\$160,000) and three work-months each would be for four regional commissions: the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) (\$60,000). The Secretary-General further requests \$100,000 for travel by the Secretary-General of the Conference and his staff to "undertake consultations with Member States and to carry out ... substantive and technical preparations for the Conference and to attend sessions of the General Assembly" (A/C.5/38/78, para. 16). The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of these requests.

8. The Secretary-General estimates at \$20,000 the expenses related to proposed consultation travel by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. In paragraphs 7 and 15 of the statement (A/C.5/38/78), he indicates that it would not be possible to meet these expenses from within existing resources as called for in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. At the same time,

the Secretary-General points out that payment by the United Nations of these expenses would involve an exception to General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962 on the system of travel and subsistence allowances to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the estimate.

B. Regional expert group meetings

9. Five such meetings - one each at the headquarters of ESCAP, ECLA, ECA and ECWA and one at Vienna for experts from the European region are proposed to be held in 1984 (A/C.5/38/78, para. 17). The estimate of \$167,900 covers travel and subsistence costs. Of this amount, \$120,000 comprises estimates for experts for sections 11 (\$20,000), 12 (\$25,000), 13 (\$30,000), 14 (\$25,000) and 4 (\$20,000). The balance of \$47,900 is requested under section 4 to cover travel and per diem costs of the Secretary-General of the Conference and two staff members to attend those meetings to be held at the headquarters of the regional commissions. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the estimate.

C. Fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, (Vienna, June 1984)

10. In paragraph 18 of the statement (A/C.5/38/78), the Secretary-General requests \$23,900 for travel of (a) one staff member from each of the regional commissions (sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 - \$1,600, \$4,600, \$5,200, \$3,400 and \$2,900, respectively) and (b) two staff members from the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters (\$6,200 under section 4) to service the fifth session. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requests.

D. Public information activities

11. The total cost of the information activities proposed for the Conference is estimated at \$468,200 (A/C.5/38/78, paras. 19 to 23 and table 3). Of this, \$266,400 (\$264,100 under section 27 and \$2,300 under section 28D) relates to requirements in 1985 and \$201,800 (\$200,600 under section 27 and \$1,200 under section 28D) to requirements in 1986. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimates have been prepared on a full-cost basis, with minimum consideration taken of the possibility of absorbing some of the expenses from within resources recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 27 for 1984-1985 amounting to \$69.8 million. 1/ Furthermore, the provisional agenda as well as the venue and actual dates of the Conference remain pending.

12. The Advisory Committee questions the need to produce a supplement to the Development Forum (\$30,000) on the subject of the Conference. In the Committee's opinion, this topic, like other special topics, can be incorporated and highlighted in regular issues of the publication. The Advisory Committee notes from additional information provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the estimate for national activities (\$64,000 - \$1,000 for each of the United Nations information centres) is pro forma in so far as the individual programmes of activity and amounts of the grants to be provided to each of the centres have yet to be determined. As regards the temporary staff requested by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the requests for

one P-3 and one General Service post to be located at Vienna and one P-2 post in New York. The Committee recommends, however, that the request for one General Service post in New York should be met from within staffing resources available to the Department of Public Information.

13. In the circumstances and taking into account its observations in paragraphs 11 and 12 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that an overall provision of \$300,000 should be approved under section 27 for information activities for the Conference. Of this amount, \$200,000 relating to requirements in the biennium 1984-1985 would be appropriated at the current session of the General Assembly. The balance of \$100,000 for activities in 1986 should be reflected by the Secretary-General in his initial proposals for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. The Advisory Committee also recommends that the estimate for common services costs under section 28D (\$2,300 in 1985 and \$1,200 in 1986) be absorbed.

E. Recapitulation

14. In paragraphs 6 and 13 above, the Advisory Committee has recommended that the Secretary-General's estimate of \$1,806,900 be reduced by \$84,400 to \$1,722,500. The additional appropriation of \$1,722,500 recommended by the Advisory Committee comprises \$1,330,700 for the Conference secretariat and related requirements, \$167,900 for regional preparatory meetings, \$23,900 for the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and \$200,000 for public information activities.

15. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/38/L.35, additional amounts would have to be appropriated under budget sections 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 27 and 28M of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>United States dollars</u>
4. Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)	1 305 500
10. Economic Commission for Europe	1 600
11. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	39 600
12. Economic Commission for Latin America	45 200
13. Economic Commission for Africa	48 400
14. Economic Commission for Western Asia	42 900
27. Department of Public Information	200 000
28M. Administrative Services, Vienna	<u>39 300</u>
Total	<u>1 722 500</u>

In addition, an amount of \$285,500 (instead of \$290,500, as requested) would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

1/ The Advisory Committee recommended an appropriation of \$69,293,600 for section 27 in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, (Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7 and Corr.1), para. 27.24). An additional appropriation of \$574,000 under section 27 was also recommended by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee in his oral report to the Fifth Committee (see paragraphs 56-58 of the annex to this volume) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution on questions relating to information submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report on agenda item 72 (A/38/699, para. 17, draft resolution B).

Twentieth report

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions V and III submitted by the Third Committee in document A/38/681

(Agenda items 91 (b) and (d))*

[Original: English]

[13 December 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered two statements submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/77 and A/C.5/38/80), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions V and III submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/38/681, para. 21), relating respectively to the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

A. Draft resolution V (Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for women)

2. As stated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/38/77), under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 to 3 of draft resolution V submitted by the Third Committee (A/38/681, para. 21), the General Assembly would

(a) Decide to accept, with appreciation, the offer of the Government of Kenya to host at Nairobi, in 1985, the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women;

(b) Take note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on the work of its first session as the preparatory body for the Conference;

(c) Endorse the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission.

In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/38/77) that by accepting the offer of the Government of Kenya to host the Conference, which is expected to be held in September 1985 (*ibid.*, para. 19 (c)), the terms of section I, paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976 would apply.

* United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace:

(b) Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women;

(d) Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women: report of the Secretary-General.

3. The Secretary-General estimates total requirements related to the draft resolution at \$2,294,400. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 6 of his statement that these requirements, which relate to three of the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women, "refer only to the substantive and organizational preparations for the Conference. The requirements for the convening of the Conference itself will be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session depending on the recommendations which the Preparatory Body makes during its second session in 1984 in respect to the structure of the Conference".

4. Of the above-mentioned total, i.e., \$2,294,400, \$889,400 relates to conference-servicing requirements calculated on a full-cost basis. In accordance with standard practice, these will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session in the context of the consolidated statement for conference-servicing requirements for 1984 (see A/C.5/38/104). The remaining \$1,405,000 is for 1984-1985 non-conference-servicing requirements, namely:

	<u>United States dollars</u>
Activities at the regional level	231 000
Interregional seminar	71 900
Secretariat support	656 200
Public information activities	<u>445 900</u>
Total	<u>1 405 000</u>

Activities at the regional level

5. As indicated in paragraph 7 of his statement (A/C.5/38/77), the Secretary-General proposes to convene four regional intergovernmental meetings in 1984 for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and a regional intergovernmental seminar in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. According to the Secretary-General, travel and subsistence would be required for two staff members of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) at Vienna, to provide substantive support to each of the four meetings and the seminar. The substantive support of one staff member from the Department for International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA), New York, would also be required in respect of the ECE seminar. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's request of \$33,200 for these travel and subsistence costs.

6. In paragraph 10 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that consultancy services are required in respect of technical papers to be prepared and submitted to the five regional intergovernmental meetings. The related costs would amount to \$197,800, comprising \$50,000 for ECE, \$41,500 for ESCAP, \$51,300 for ECLA, \$30,000 for ECA and \$25,000 for ECWA.

7. The Advisory Committee sought additional information concerning the work to be undertaken by the consultants in the respective regions. However, it remains unconvinced that the Secretary-General's request is fully justified. Accordingly,

it recommends that the estimate should be reduced by \$47,800, i.e., from \$197,800 to \$150,000.

Interregional seminar

8. Paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/38/77) describes the interregional seminar to be convened at Vienna in 1984 in order to review and assess national experience relating to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas. According to the Secretary-General, "an average of three experts from each region (up to a total of 15 experts) would be invited to attend the 10-day seminar. One representative from each of the regional commissions and one staff member from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in New York would attend the seminar, which would be held at Vienna in 1984". The related travel and subsistence costs for the experts, regional representatives and the DIESA staff member are estimated at \$71,900. The Advisory Committee has no objection to this estimate.

Secretariat support

9. In paragraph 16 of his statement (A/C.5/38/77), the Secretary-General indicates that approximately two thirds of the resources available to the Branch for the Advancement of Women of CSDHA "will be allocated to the preparatory activities related to the Conference, including research for and preparation of the required documentation". However, according to the Secretary-General, "the work required for the preparation and the holding of a successful conference would require additional Secretariat support to supplement the resources that are being made available from the 1984-1985 regular budget" (*ibid.*, para. 19). Consequently, as can be seen from the table in paragraph 4 above, the Secretary-General is requesting additional resources under this heading in the amount of \$656,200, comprising \$524,200 for temporary posts, \$42,000 for consultancy services and \$90,000 for official travel of staff.

10. The estimate of \$524,200 for temporary posts would provide one P-5, one P-4 and three General Service posts in the Branch for the Advancement of Women for 24 months each, and one P-3 post in the same Branch for 21 months. The estimate also provides one G-5 post for 12 months in the Statistical Office in New York.

11. In response to inquiries, the Advisory Committee was informed that the current staffing table (Professional and above) of the Branch for the Advancement of Women is as follows:

	<u>Regular budget</u>			Total
	Established posts	Temporary posts	Extrabudgetary posts	
D-2	1	-	-	1
D-1	1	-	-	1
P-5	2	-	1	3
P-4	4	-	2	6
P-3	2	-	-	2
P-2/1	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	14	-	3	17

12. Representatives of the Secretary-General also informed the Committee that, in respect of the extrabudgetary posts shown in the above table, two posts (P-5 and P-4) are financed from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women until 31 December 1984, and one P-4 post is financed until the end of 1985 from bilateral sources. According to the Secretary-General, nine established Professional posts and five General Service posts from the Branch for the Advancement of Women would carry out activities related to the Conference.

13. On the basis of the above information, the Advisory Committee is not convinced of the need to augment the secretariat of the Conference in the manner requested. Moreover, in the light of the provision in section 6 of the 1984-1985 biennium programme budget for six months of consultants for conference-related preparations and the additional request for consultant services to prepare technical research papers in connection with the documentation of the Conference (A/C.5/38/77, para. 19 (e)) Committee questions the provision for a P-4 research officer who would be responsible for preparing and consolidating basic documentation (*ibid.*, para. 19 (b)). Accordingly, the Committee does not recommend approval of the P-4 post and one supporting General Service post. The corresponding reduction in the Secretary-General's estimate would be \$162,100. In addition, the Committee recommends that the provision of \$8,800 for common services costs in Vienna, shown in the table in paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's statement and included in the Secretary-General's estimate for Secretariat support, should be absorbed.

14. In the light of the staffing resources available in the Statistical Office, the Committee is also unconvinced of the need to provide for one G-5 post for 12 months, and therefore does not recommend approval of this request. The consequential reduction in the Secretary-General's estimate would be \$42,100, which includes \$8,700 for common services costs under section 28D.

15. In view of its recommendation in paragraph 13 above, the Committee does not object to the Secretary-General's estimate of \$42,000 for consultant services.

16. In paragraph 19 (f) of his statement (A/C.5/38/77), the Secretary-General indicates that the provision of \$90,000 for travel of the Secretary-General of the Conference and other staff members is required "in order to carry out the necessary consultations and to maintain close collaboration with Member States, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other interested groups".

17. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that travel resources amounting to \$174,800 have been requested for CSDHA in the biennium 1984-1985. 1/ Moreover, bearing in mind the concern of the General Assembly for maximum economy in the travel of staff on official business, the Committee believes that combining journeys through advance planning should result in savings. Accordingly, it recommends that the Secretary-General's estimate of \$90,000 for travel should be reduced to \$70,000.

Public information activities

18. In paragraph 21 of his statement (A/C.5/38/77) the Secretary-General outlines activities to be undertaken by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in 1984-1985, for which related resources have already been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. According to the Secretary-General, however, \$445,900 will be required to finance other activities in order to respond fully to the Commission's recommendation concerning publicity for the Conference. As indicated in paragraph 22 (h) of the Secretary-General's statement, the above-mentioned estimate also provides for two temporary staff members (P-3 and General Service) for 24 work-months each.

19. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the absorptive capacity of DPI in 1984-1985 should be greater than that estimated by the Secretary-General. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the requested amounts of \$50,800 and \$15,000 for the two publications, proposed in paragraph 22 (a) and (b) should be absorbed.

20. Furthermore, inasmuch as the Conference is expected to be held in September 1985, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that the P-3 and General Service posts will be required until the end of 1985. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the P-3 and General Service posts should be approved for 21 months each, with a consequential reduction of \$17,800 in the Secretary-General's estimate. The total reduction in the Secretary-General's estimate of \$445,900 for public information activities would be \$83,600.

Recapitulation

21. In paragraphs 7, 13, 14, 17, 19 and 20 above, the Advisory Committee has recommended reductions in the Secretary-General's estimate totalling \$364,400. Accordingly, the additional appropriations recommended by the Committee total \$1,040,600, comprising \$183,200 for regional activities, \$71,900 for the interregional seminar, \$423,200 for secretariat support and \$362,300 for public information activities. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution V of the Third Committee (A/38/681, para. 21), additional amounts would have to be appropriated under sections 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 as follows:

SectionUnited States dollars

4. Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)	505 200
6. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs	5 400
10. Economic Commission for Europe	41 800
11. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	36 600
12. Economic Commission for Latin America	47 000
13. Economic Commission for Africa	23 900
14. Economic Commission for Western Asia	18 400
27. Department of Public Information	<u>362 300</u>
Total	<u>1 040 600</u>

An additional amount of \$93,400 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an increase of the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

B. Draft resolution III (Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for women)

22. Under the terms of operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution III submitted by the Third Committee (A/38/681, para. 21), the General Assembly would urge

"the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, to give priority to solving the question of senior women's programme officers and to take urgently appropriate measures to ensure that all temporary and permanent senior women's programme officers posts should be continued at the regional commissions within regular budget resources available to them".

23. In paragraph 3 of his statement (A/C.5/38/80), the Secretary-General provides details on the number, level and source of funding of the Professional posts assigned to each regional commission in 1983 in respect of activities dealing with the integration of women in development. Of the nine extrabudgetary posts, four posts at the P-5 level (one at each Commission) are financed by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for women and are scheduled to expire by 31 December 1983. The financing of two posts by the United Nations Children's Fund will also cease on 31 December 1983, whereas the funding of two other posts by the Swedish International Development Agency will expire on 31 December 1984.

24. According to the Secretary-General, the Executive Secretaries have indicated it would be extremely difficult for them to extend the six posts that are expiring in 1983 within the regular budget resources expected to be available under the regular budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

25. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General indicates, in paragraph 5 of his statement (ibid.), that

"should the draft resolution be adopted, the Executive Secretaries would be consulted again in the hope that developments in 1984 would permit adjustments to be made in the programmed activities and actual requirements in the biennium with a view to continuing those posts through reemployment of resources from other programmes in the regional commissions."

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no additional appropriation will be requested at this stage. However, the Advisory Committee also notes that the Secretary-General will report on this question to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No.6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. I, table 6.14.

Twenty-first report

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I
submitted by the Second Committee in document A/38/704

(Agenda item 80 (a))*

[Original: English]

[15 December 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/86), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/704, para. 15). The Advisory Committee also considered the related report of the Secretary-General (A/38/220) on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

2. The Secretary-General submitted his statement (A/C.5/38/86) pursuant to operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, in which the General Assembly would decide

"to support the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his interim report on the financing of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research [A/38/220]" and agree, "on an exceptional basis, that an advance of \$886,000 should be given to the Institute to cover the deficit in its budget for 1983; this advance will be non-recurrent and reimbursable in accordance with the terms set out in the Secretary-General's report, [ibid., para. 7] and the repayment will begin after a grace period not exceeding two years".

3. In paragraph 7 of his report (A/38/220), the Secretary-General proposes that:

"Should the Assembly agree to authorize such an advance, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$886,000, on a non-recurrent and reimbursable basis, would be required under a temporary expenditure section 33 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. In view of the present financial situation of UNITAR, it is expected that the Institute will be able to repay the advance over several bienniums, at an average rate of repayment of approximately \$100,000 a year. Such repayments will be reported to the Assembly as they are received within the context of the final performance report of subsequent bienniums under income section 2 (General income) of the budget."

4. The Secretary-General states that the UNITAR operating deficit in 1983 of \$886,000 is due to "a shortfall of estimated income totalling \$586,000 as at

* Training and research: United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

31 October 1983 combined with an understatement of estimated expenditure of \$300,000" (A/C.5/38/86, para. 3). The elements comprising the shortfall under both expenditure and income are detailed in annexes I and II of his report (A/38/220).

5. The Advisory Committee notes that this is the third occasion on which the General Assembly is being requested to meet the budget deficits of UNITAR. At its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions, by resolutions 35/53 B of 5 December 1980 and 36/75 of 4 December 1981, the Assembly approved, on an exceptional basis, grants-in-aid amounting to \$658,300 to meet UNITAR budget deficits for 1980 and 1981. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that, in resolutions 1827 (XVII) of 18 December 1962 and 1934 (XVIII) of 11 December 1963 on the establishment of UNITAR, the General Assembly specified that the Institute "be financed by voluntary contributions, both public and private".

6. As regards the 1983 deficit of UNITAR, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the Institute should have received preliminary indications, by the first quarter of 1983, that actual income attainable for the year (estimated at \$1,834,000 at 31 October 1983) would be less than initially projected in September 1982 (\$2,420,000) and taken action to reduce expenditures accordingly. Instead, as shown in annex I of the Secretary-General's report (A/38/220), the Institute proceeded to increase its 1983 expenditure budget by \$300,000 from \$2,420,000 to \$2,720,000. Although the Executive Director of the Institute describes the increase as "a recalculation of the cost of the programme approved by the Board of Trustees in September 1982", 1/ the Advisory Committee notes that \$160,500 or 53.3 per cent of the increase relates to the expansion of the staffing establishment in the Office of the Executive Director (1 Special Assistant at the P-5 level, 1 secretary and 1 temporary Special Advisor at the D-2 level) and additional travel requirements. The Committee observes that such an approach is not consistent with paragraph 4 of resolution 36/75, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, had called upon the Institute "to organize its programme of work and activities and to adjust its administrative costs so as to ensure that, as from 1982, estimated expenditure does not exceed estimated revenue".

7. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the continuing funding difficulties of the Institute cast doubts on the future financial viability of UNITAR and its ability to repay the proposed advance from the General Assembly in the manner indicated. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee concludes that the time has come for the Secretary-General, together with the Executive Director and the Institute's Board of Trustees, to re-examine the future role of UNITAR. The Advisory Committee recommends that the report of the Secretary-General on the question of long-term financing arrangements for the Institute to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, as called for in operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, should also take into account institutional developments since its inception - in particular, the establishment of the United Nations University and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. Account should also be taken of earlier observations and recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on UNITAR. 2/

8. The role of the Advisory Committee in examining the proposed advance of funds to UNITAR has been circumscribed by the specification of the amount of \$886,000 to be advanced in operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution. At the same time, the Committee draws attention to the Secretary-General's report on programme budget performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1982-1983, in which he indicates a net decrease in requirements of \$4,074,000, as compared with revised

appropriations for the biennium (see A/C.5/38/49, para. 3). Should the General Assembly decide to approve an advance of \$886,000 to UNITAR to cover its 1983 budget deficit, this could be financed from the savings reported by the Secretary-General for the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly approve draft resolution I submitted by the Second Committee (A/38/704, para. 15), the advance should be financed by an additional appropriation of \$886,000 under a temporary section 33 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. Consequently, no additional appropriations would be required for this purpose in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. Reimbursement to the United Nations of the advance would be in the manner proposed by the Secretary-General in the text quoted in paragraph 4 of his statement (A/C.5/38/86).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/38/14), para. 102.

2/ See A/35/181.

Twenty-second report

Administrative and financial implications of the following proposals of the First Committee: draft resolutions A and H submitted in document A/38/640, draft resolution B submitted in document A/38/636, draft resolution C submitted in document A/38/639, draft resolution G submitted in document A/38/640, draft resolution J submitted in document A/38/628, draft resolution A submitted in document A/38/624 and the draft resolution submitted in document A/38/638

(Agenda items 46, 50, 58, 60, 61 and 62)*

[Original: English]

[15 December 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered eight statements (A/C.5/38/65, A/C.5/38/68 to A/C.5/38/70, A/C.5/38/73, A/C.5/38/83, A/C.5/38/88 and A/C.5/38/90), submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of eight draft resolutions submitted by the First Committee under agenda items 46, 50, 58, 60, 61 and 62.
2. The Secretary-General estimates total requirements in 1984-1985 at \$2,683,900, as follows:

* Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa [item 46].

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session [item 50].

Reduction of military budgets [item 58].

World Disarmament Conference [item 60].

Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons [item 61].

General and complete disarmament [item 62].

Table 1

Secretary-General's statement	Draft resolution	1984-1985		
		Section 2B	Section 29	Total
<u>Thousands of United States dollars</u>				
A/C.5/38/65	A/38/640, para. 38, draft resolution A	186.7	364.3	551.0
A/C.5/38/68	<u>Ibid.</u> , draft resolution H	227.1	513.1	740.2
A/C.5/38/69	A/38/636, para. 10, draft resolution B	37.8	-	37.8
A/C.5/38/70	A/38/639, para. 15, draft resolution C	110.1	305.5	415.6
A/C.5/38/73	A/38/640, para. 38, draft resolution G	135.9	511.1	647.0
A/C.5/38/83	A/38/628, para. 53, draft resolution J	35.4	40.1	75.5
A/C.5/38/88	A/38/624, para. 15, draft resolution A	45.1	-	45.1
A.C.5/38/90	A/38/638, para. 8, draft resolution	-	171.7	171.7
Total		778.1	1 905.8	2 683.9

3. As shown in table 1 above, the Secretary-General estimates that total conference-servicing requirements under section 29, calculated on a full-cost basis, will amount to \$1,905,800. These requirements will be reviewed and submitted towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements (see A/C.5/38/104).

4. The Secretary-General's request for appropriations is limited at this stage to \$778,100 for non-conference-servicing requirements under section 2B broken down by object of expenditure, as follows:

Table 2

Secretary- General's statement	Object of expenditure				
	<u>Ad hoc expert groups</u>	Consultants' fees and travel	Travel of staff	Contractual translation	Total
<u>Thousands of United States dollars</u>					
A/C.5/38/65	186 700	-	-	-	186 700
A/C.5/38/68	180 400	43 700	3 000	-	227 100
A/C.5/38/69	18 400	19 400	-	-	37 800
A/C.5/38/70	104 000	-	6 100	-	110 100
A/C.5/38/73	89 200	43 700	3 000	-	135 900
A/C.5/38/83	32 500	-	2 900	-	35 400
A/C.5/38/88	-	40 500	-	4 600	45 100
A/C.5/38/90	-	-	-	-	-
Total	611 200	147 300	15 000	4 600	778 100

Ad hoc expert groups (\$611,200)

5. The estimates under this heading are intended to cover travel and per diem expenses/fees for a total of 51 governmental experts/consultant experts to attend 25 weeks of meetings, during 1984-1985, of five ad hoc expert groups on conventional disarmament (A/C.5/38/65, paras. 3 and 4 (a)); concepts of security (A/C.5/38/68, paras. 3 and 6 (a)); chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons (A/C.5/38/70, paras. 3 and 5 (a) and (b)); the naval arms race (A/C.5/38/73, paras. 3 and 6 (a)); and unilateral nuclear disarmament measures (A/C.5/38/83, paras. 3 and 4). The estimates also provide for travel and subsistence expenses relating to four visiting missions (to Oslo and Helsinki; to Vienna and Rome; to London and Bonn; and to Washington, Ottawa and Canberra) by the Chairman and one or two members of the Group of Experts on Reduction of Military Budgets (A/C.5/38/69, para. 3). 1/

6. The Advisory Committee notes that an amount of \$652,800 under section 2B for ad hoc expert groups has already been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. 2/ Approval of the estimate of \$611,200 would increase the total resources available to the Department of Disarmament Affairs for this purpose to \$1,264,000. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, savings are possible since it is doubtful that all experts will attend all the scheduled meetings or participate in them for their entire duration. Savings would also be effected if

the number of sessions of the ad hoc expert groups were reduced. Furthermore, a combination of the proposed travel relating to reduction of military budgets could result in additional savings. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate of \$611,200 for ad hoc expert groups be reduced by \$61,200 to \$550,000.

Consultants' fees and travel (\$147,300)

7. The estimates are intended to finance 20 work-months of consultant services at the P-5 level in connection with work to be undertaken on concepts of security (A/C.5/38/68, para. 7); reduction of military budgets (A/C.5/38/69, para. 4); the naval arms race (A/C.5/38/73, para. 7) and South Africa's development of nuclear capability (A/C.5/38/88, para. 5). The Advisory Committee points out that approval by the General Assembly of the amount of \$147,300 requested by the Secretary-General would increase the total resources available in 1984-1985 to the Department of Disarmament Affairs for consultant services to \$276,800, since an amount of \$129,500 has already been included under this object of expenditure for the Department. 2/ In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, judicious use of consultant services should give rise to savings. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the estimate of \$147,300 be reduced by \$22,300 to \$125,000.

Travel of staff (\$15,000)

8. Requirements under this heading relate to substantive servicing of four ad hoc expert group meetings by the Department of Disarmament Affairs - three to be held at Geneva during 1984, concerning concepts of security (A/C.5/38/68, para. 6 (b)), chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons (A/C.5/38/70, para. 5 (c)); and the naval arms race (A/C.5/38/73, para. 6 (d)); and one to be held in New York in 1984, concerning unilateral nuclear disarmament measures (A/C.5/38/83, para. 5). It was proposed that two Professional staff members (one to act as secretary of the group) would travel to each of the Geneva meetings. For the New York meeting, travel by one staff member from the Geneva office of the Department (to act as secretary of the group) is proposed. Since some support should be available from the Geneva office of the Department, the Advisory Committee is not convinced of the need to send two staff members from New York to service each of the Geneva meetings. The Committee notes also that, for 1984-1985, resources for travel of staff amounting to \$271,300 will be available to the Department. 2/ In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate of \$15,000 for travel of staff be reduced by \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Contractual translation (\$4,600)

9. The estimate provides for contractual translation into English of approximately 100 pages of source material on data concerning the continued development of South Africa's nuclear capability (A/C.5/38/88, para. 6). The Advisory Committee recommends that this amount be absorbed within existing resources.

Recapitulation

10. In paragraphs 6 to 9 above, the Advisory Committee has recommended reductions totalling \$93,100. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the eight draft

resolutions in question, additional appropriations in the amount of \$685,000 would be required under section 2B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. The related conference-servicing costs amounting to \$1,905,800, calculated on a full-cost basis, will be reflected in the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session (see A/C.5/38/104).

11. After pro-rating the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee in respect of ad hoc expert groups, consultants, and travel of staff (see paras. 6 to 8 above), the requirements under section 2B attributable to the eight draft resolutions submitted by the First Committee would be as follows:

<u>Draft resolution</u>	<u>United States dollars</u>
A/38/640, para. 38, draft resolution A	176 500
<u>Ibid.</u> , draft resolution H	210 100
A/38/636, para. 10, draft resolution B	22 000
A/38/639, para. 15, draft resolution C	98 600
A/38/640, para. 38, draft resolution G	118 900
A/38/628, para. 53, draft resolution J	23 900
A/38/624, para. 15, draft resolution A	35 000
A/38/638, para. 8, draft resolution	- a/
Total	<u>685 000</u>

a/ Financial implications in respect of conference-servicing only (see A/C.5/38/90).

Notes

1/ Resources under ad hoc expert groups for section 2B of the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985 include an amount of \$108,500 (at revised 1983 rates) for eight members of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Reduction of Military Budgets to attend four sessions (two two-week sessions in 1984, one three-week and one one-week session in 1985) in New York (see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. I, para. 2B.22).

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. I, table 2B.9.

Twenty-third report

United Nations accommodation at Nairobi, Common services at the United Nations accommodation, Nairobi: revised estimates under sections 18, 19, 28N and 31 and income sections 1 and 2

[Original: English]

[16 December 1983]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress of construction of the United Nations accommodation at Nairobi (A/C.5/38/36) and on the establishment of common services at Nairobi (A/C.5/38/35).

A. United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

2. In paragraphs 6 to 8 of his report on the United Nations accommodation at Nairobi (A/C.5/38/36), the Secretary-General states his expectation that all construction and renovation work will be completed on or before the scheduled contractual completion dates of May and June 1984. In paragraphs 9 to 11 of the report, he describes those developments during 1983 which have led him to reassess the office space requirements of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to be housed at the Gigiri complex. Although he indicates, in annex I of his report, a revised projected office space deficit of 401 square metres, the Secretary-General believes that this projected deficit can be reduced by further negotiations with the various entities concerned.

3. The financing of the project, as well as the status of appropriations, disbursements and obligations as at 30 September 1983, is discussed in paragraphs 13 to 15 and annex II of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/36). As shown in annex II thereof, the total cost of the Nairobi project amounts to Kenyan shillings 295,685,516, comprising KSh 33,125,340 for contracts I and II (site clearance and ground works), which have already been completed, and KSh 262,560,176 for contract III (main construction), now in progress. Of the total costs, KSh 156,812,258 had been disbursed by 30 September 1983, leaving outstanding obligations of KSh 138,873,258.

4. The total of KSh 156,812,258 disbursed as at 30 September 1983 amounted, in United States dollar terms, to \$15,247,335. Since appropriations totalling \$27,078,200 were approved by the General Assembly for the project, the remaining balance is \$11,830,865. At the September 1983 exchange rate of KSh 13.50 to the dollar, the unexpended balance of \$11,830,865 is equivalent to KSh 159,716,678. This is KSh 20,843,420 (\$1,543,957) more than the total outstanding obligations of KSh 138,873,258 noted in the preceding paragraph. In this connection, the

* Incorporating document A/38/7/Add.22/Corr.1 of 17 December 1983.

Secretary-General states in paragraph 15 of his report that: "It is premature to forecast the final balance expected in the account, as the dollar amounts required to complete the project may fluctuate depending on the currency rates during the period in which the construction is in progress."

5. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's progress report (A/C.5/38/36) on the United Nations accommodation at Nairobi.

B. Common services at the United Nations accommodation, Nairobi

Introduction

6. In paragraph 3 of the report of the Secretary-General on common services at the United Nations accommodation, Nairobi (A/C.5/38/35), it is stated:

"Agreement has been reached between interested parties in Nairobi and at Headquarters on the proposed organizational structure, general procedures and the staffing for common services and the related functions of the administrative offices of UNEP [United Nations Environment Programme] and Habitat (UNCHS) [United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)]. Accordingly, the Secretary-General proposes that a United Nations Common Services Unit (UNCS) should be established in Nairobi, with effect from 1 July 1984, under a new subsection N of section 28 of the programme budget."

The reporting arrangements for the Office of the Chief, UNCS are described in paragraphs 48 to 50 of the report. In paragraph 5 of his report, the Secretary-General states, inter alia, that UNCS would be responsible for (a) common services to be provided to all tenants including UNEP and Habitat and (b) joint services, which would be provided only to UNEP and Habitat.

7. The Secretary-General proposes in paragraph 6 (a) of his report (A/C.5/38/35) that the cost of common services (as opposed to joint services) should, in the first instance, be charged exclusively to section 28N of the regular budget. A proportionate share, based on the allocation of office space, would be charged to extrabudgetary activities and specialized agencies, including the voluntary funds of UNEP and Habitat, and credited to income section 2B. In addition, as noted in paragraph 58 of the Secretary-General's report, an amortization factor would be charged, based on the cost of construction of the new office buildings. Common service costs are discussed in greater detail in paragraphs 32 to 47 of the Secretary-General's report and in paragraphs 16 to 18 below, while the related income is discussed in paragraphs 57 to 67 of the Secretary-General's report and in paragraphs 21 to 31 below.

8. As noted in paragraph 70 of the Secretary-General's report, the net additional cost to the regular budget is estimated at \$109,500 for the biennium, comprising additional expenditure of \$1,405,100 related to increased costs of occupancy of the accommodation, offset by additional income of \$1,295,600 from extrabudgetary activities and specialized agencies using the office space.

Financial overview

9. The Secretary-General provides a series of tables throughout his report (A/C.5/38/35) which attempt to show the nature and extent of the redeployments and transfers between funding sources contained in his proposal. While the Advisory Committee was unable to reconcile all of the proposed redeployments of posts as reflected in the Secretary-General's report, it notes that in a number of areas proposed staffing levels are lower than current levels. However, the costs of occupancy of the accommodation are expected to rise. Accordingly, the Committee sought information on the net effect on the regular budget and UNEP and Habitat extrabudgetary funds of the Secretary-General's proposals contained in the report and was provided with the following information:

Net effect on regular budget and UNEP and Habitat extrabudgetary funds of Nairobi common services proposal

	<u>Regular budget (RB)</u>	<u>Extrabudgetary funds (XB)</u>	
		<u>UNEP</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
<u>Thousands of United States dollars</u>			
A. <u>Joint services</u>			
Legal liaison	-	-	-
Computer services	-	-	-
Conference services	-	-	-
Document reproduction and library	-	-	-
Financial services			
UNEP XB: decrease 2 P-3, 1 P-2			
increase 2 LL*	-	(152.8)	-
Habitat XB: decrease 1 LL	-	-	(22.8)
Personnel services			
Habitat XB: decrease 2 LL	-	-	(45.6)
UNEP XB: decrease 1 LL	-	(22.8)	-
General services			
Habitat XB: decrease 2 LL	-	-	(45.6)
UNEP XB: decrease 3 LL	-	<u>(68.4)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total, joint services	-	(244.0)	(114.0)

	<u>Regular budget (RB)</u>	<u>Extrabudgetary funds (XB)</u>	
		<u>UNEP</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
<u>Thousands of United States dollars</u>			
B. <u>Common services</u>			
General services			
1 P-3 reclassified to P-4	12.0	-	-
RB: 36 LL created	707.8	-	-
UNEP XB: decrease 1 P-2 and 22 LL	-	(561.2)	-
Additional non-staff requirements			
Overtime	27.0		
Maintenance of premises	200.7		
Utilities	181.3	a/	a/
Rental and maintenance of equipment	152.0		
Miscellaneous services	63.0		
Total, common services	1 343.8	(561.2)	-
C. <u>Office of the Chief</u>			
RB: 1 new D-1. UNEP XB: increase 1 LL	61.3	22.8	-
I. Subtotal A, B and C	1 405.1	(782.4)	(114.0)
D. <u>Income</u>			
Cost of services - UNEP, Habitat	(495.1)	336.9	158.2
Others	(379.4)		
Amortization - Habitat	(123.9)	b/	123.9
Others	(297.2)		
II. Total income	(1 295.6)	336.9	282.1
Net additional costs (savings) (I less II)	109.5	(445.5)	168.1

* LL = Local level staff.

a/ Any adjustments that may be required will be presented to the governing bodies of the two organizations.

b/ The UNEP contribution towards amortization will be deferred (see para. 22 below).

Joint services and UNEP and Habitat administrative offices

10. The Secretary-General's proposals for joint services may be found in paragraphs 10 to 31 of his report (A/C.5/38/35). He also discusses related functions of the UNEP and Habitat administrative offices in paragraphs 51 and 52 of the report. The joint services would be provided to UNEP and Habitat only and would include legal liaison, computer services, conference and language services, document reproduction and library, financial services, personnel services, including the medical service, and general services, comprising local transportation, communications, messenger and mailroom services. Staffing proposals for each of these services would be provided by redeployment (ibid., paras. 10-29).

11. It is proposed to provide joint services entirely by redeployment, both within the regular budget (from sections 18 and 19 to 28N) and from extrabudgetary resources. According to paragraph 6 (b) of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/35), the contribution by both UNEP and Habitat would, for the time being, constitute adequate reimbursement for services rendered to them in 1984-1985. The Advisory Committee was informed that this meant, in effect, that both UNEP and Habitat proposed to contribute to the joint services approximately the levels of resources each was now devoting to the activities in question, pending the development of work-load statistics which could be used to establish a simple and fair formula for reimbursement. The initial contributions would be reviewed and, if necessary, corrected in the light of this formula (ibid., para. 6 (b)).

12. The Advisory Committee recalls that the issues relating to common services at Nairobi have been the subject of study for some years. 1/ In the present proposals for joint services, the Advisory Committee notes that certain functions, (e.g., the documents reproduction service) are already operating de facto as a joint service for UNEP and Habitat (A/C.5/38/35, para. 14). Other functions are proposed not to be entrusted to the joint services (e.g., project finance control for Habitat (ibid., para. 18), and certain general services functions (ibid., paras. 25 and 26)). As regards conference services, the Secretary-General concludes that "for practical reasons ... the most opportune time to integrate the service will be January 1986 ... bearing in mind that there will need to be a settling-down period before the basic administrative support services of UNCS are functioning smoothly" (ibid., para. 13).

13. Having considered the Secretary-General's proposals, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the principle of joint services remains valid where it leads to improved efficiency and economy or the elimination of duplication of effort. However, in view of the complexities involved both in the management of the proposed joint services and their financing, the Committee considers that the phasing of their implementation should be considered carefully. As experience is gained in the new accommodation in each of the cited functions, the Committee believes that practical opportunities will emerge for mutually beneficial co-operation between the organizations and for effecting the economies envisaged in joint services. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that no fixed date for the implementation of joint services should be set at this time. However, in making this recommendation, the Committee hopes that all parties concerned will continue to review this question with a view to determining whether some of the proposed joint services may be entrusted to the Common Services Unit. The Committee further recommends that the proposed budgetary transfer from sections 18 and 19 to section 28N in respect of joint services should not be made at the current session

of the General Assembly. The transfer to section 28N would therefore be reduced by \$2,538,600, with corresponding increases in section 18 (\$1,721,000) and section 19 (\$817,600). For the same reasons, the Committee does not recommend the establishment of a P-2 post through redeployment of temporary assistance as proposed in paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's report.

14. The Advisory Committee also recommends that the Secretary-General should report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session on the progress that has been made in integrating administrative services, including conference services, at Nairobi.

15. As to the proposal in paragraph 52 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/35) that the temporary D-1 and two temporary local level posts to be retained in Habitat should now be regularized and converted to an established post basis, the Advisory Committee does not consider the report on common services in Nairobi to be an appropriate medium for such a request, and accordingly recommends that the conversions should not be approved.

Common services

16. The Secretary-General's proposals for common services are outlined in paragraphs 32 to 47 of his report (A/C.5/38/35), and the additional costs have been summarized in the table in paragraph 9 above. Common services would include utilities, security, local transportation of some staff, and buildings and grounds management (including switchboard operations). In view of the expanded size of the premises, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the reclassification of a P-3 Buildings Management Officer post to the P-4 level, or to the establishment of a P-2 post for a deputy chief of security, through redeployment of temporary assistance, requested in paragraph 35 of the Secretary-General's report (*ibid.*). The Committee agrees that common services should be provided from the regular budget, subject to reimbursement, and accordingly concurs with the transfer of 22 local level posts to the regular budget, namely 7 in buildings management (*ibid.*, para. 37), 10 for security (*ibid.*, para. 39) and 5 for switchboard operations (*ibid.*, para. 41). The Committee also recommends approval of 14 additional local level posts (10 for security and 4 for switchboard operations) for the reasons given in paragraphs 38, 39 and 41 of the Secretary-General's report. However, in view of the need for maximum flexibility referred to in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee recommends that the 36 local level posts be approved in the first instance as temporary posts.

17. The non-staff requirements for common services are summarized in paragraph 42 and explained in greater detail in paragraphs 43 to 47 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/35). Of the total amount of \$873,400, \$249,400 is proposed for redeployment from sections 18 and 19 to section 28N and the balance of \$624,000 represents new requirements. The new requirements include \$200,700 for contractual services for the maintenance of premises and grounds and \$152,000 "in respect of the need to extend the existing bus service for all local-level staff at the site" (*ibid.*, para. 46). Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that there is no local bus service within a reasonable distance of Gigiri, and that transportation is being provided at United Nations expense. The Committee finds this practice open to question and recommends that the Secretary-General, in consultation with the staff, should consider an arrangement whereby those who benefit from this

service should make some contribution towards its cost. Subject to this observation, the Committee has no objection to the additional requirements for non-staff costs.

18. Concerning the amount of \$249,400 proposed for redeployment from sections 18 and 19, the Advisory Committee was informed that the source of this transfer was:

	<u>United States dollars</u>
UNEP	117 800
Habitat	<u>131 600</u>
Total	<u>249 400</u>

The Committee was not satisfied that a sufficiently rigorous analysis has been undertaken of the continuing needs of UNEP and Habitat once the common services have been established, particularly for rental and maintenance of equipment and miscellaneous services. Accordingly, it recommends that the amount to be transferred to common services should be reduced by \$19,400 to \$230,000, of which \$110,000 would be contributed by UNEP and \$120,000 by Habitat.

Office of the Chief, UNCS

19. In paragraph 48 of his report (A/C.5/38/35), the Secretary-General describes the reporting arrangements for the Chief of UNCS, stating in conclusion that he believes that the best reporting arrangement would be for the head of UNCS to report to both Executive Directors. The Advisory Committee was informed that the appointment of the Chief of the Unit would be made by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, in agreement with the two Executive Directors.

20. In view of its recommendations concerning the phased implementation of joint services, the Advisory Committee has concluded that the post should be established at the P-5 level in order to provide direction for the common services and to act as a focal point in the development of joint services. The consequential reduction in section 28N is \$6,800.

Estimates of income

21. The nature and proposed amount of the rental income related to the use of the United Nations accommodation at Nairobi is described in paragraphs 57 to 67 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/35). As noted in paragraph 59, rental charges will include elements related to:

- (a) Amortization of construction costs;
- (b) Maintenance of the buildings and gardens;
- (c) Cleaning of offices;
- (d) Rental and maintenance of equipment;
- (e) Utilities.

Rent will be charged to all users of the office space other than those financed by the regular budget.

22. The amortization to be charged in respect of construction costs will be based on the final cost of the new office blocks, amortized over 25 years, at an interest rate of 9 per cent (ibid., paras. 61 to 63). Pending final determination of the actual cost of office block construction, the Secretary-General has calculated amortization at \$42.56 per gross square metre per year. In paragraph 64 of his report, it is proposed that, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, the Environment Fund will be granted remission from amortization charges for the first four and a half years of occupancy. This will enable the Fund to recoup the current value of an investment of \$640,000 which it made at the time of the construction of the original buildings. The current value, per square metre, of the original buildings, after refurbishment, is estimated by the Secretary-General to be the same as the cost, per square metre, of the new buildings. This assumption enables the Secretary-General to charge amortization to tenants at the same rate whether they are located in the original buildings or the new buildings.

23. The Advisory Committee recalls that the proposal of the Secretary-General to the thirty-second session of the General Assembly indicated his intention to negotiate a rental arrangement with the specialized agencies which would provide, in addition to annual maintenance and operating costs, "an element representing retroactive participation in part of the construction costs." 2/ It was on that understanding that the Advisory Committee recommended 3/ and the General Assembly endorsed the proposal that the full costs of construction be charged to the regular budget.

24. The Advisory Committee notes that it is not the intention of the Secretary-General to recoup any of the construction costs of the conference or common facilities, or common areas such as the cafeteria, from the extrabudgetary funds (A/C.5/38/35, para. 62). According to the Secretary-General, these costs would have had to be met in any case, whether or not there were extrabudgetary or specialized agency tenants.

25. In the proposed allocation of common services, a similar approach is followed. While the costs noted in paragraph 65 (a) of the Secretary-General's report will be apportioned in full to users of office space, the costs in paragraph 65 (b), including buildings management and utilities, are to be apportioned over all built space. As may be seen from paragraph 66, this means that the share of buildings management and utilities not apportioned to the office space (approximately 40 per cent) will be absorbed by the regular budget.

26. A similar situation arises in respect of security, where the Secretary-General proposes, (ibid., para. 40), that the 2 supervisory posts and 30 local-level posts should be charged to the regular budget and only the balance of 16 local-level posts should be apportionable to organizations.

27. The result of the Secretary-General's calculations is reflected in paragraph 66 of his report, namely, that the apportionable costs of common services (\$54.32 per square metre) and amortization charges (\$42.56 per square metre) give rise to a total rental charge of \$96.88 per square metre.

28. Having reviewed these calculations, the Advisory Committee considered whether it was appropriate for the regular budget to assume so large a share of the

construction and common service costs in Nairobi given the relatively small number of regular budget staff located there as compared with extrabudgetary staff. While paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report indicates that approximately 63 per cent of the office space is allocated to extrabudgetary staff, a rough calculation of the allocation of the costs of common services between the regular budget and extrabudgetary funds shows that in financial terms the proportions are almost reversed, with the regular budget assuming nearly 62 per cent of the cost.

29. However, the Advisory Committee recalls that an element in the original understanding concerning the charging of rent is that the rate to be charged should be less than current commercial rates. 4/ It was also the understanding of the Committee that the full costs of construction should not be charged. Furthermore, inasmuch as the Governing Council of UNEP and the Commission on Human Settlements are subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council respectively, it is to be expected that costs related to those bodies, including conference facilities, should be borne by the regular budget. Under the circumstances, therefore, the Advisory Committee does not object to the proposals of the Secretary-General on the rates to be charged, subject to the following observations:

(a) Rental charges should be apportioned on the basis of office space allocated rather than office space actually used. Space allocation to specialized agencies should be made sufficiently far in advance to ensure the orderly planning of available space;

(b) Allocation of space for costing purposes as between the regular budget and extrabudgetary funds of UNEP and Habitat should be adjusted annually;

(c) In order to ensure orderly financial planning, cost allocations per square metre should not be adjusted too frequently;

(d) The total cost of security services should be apportioned over all built space;

(e) Amortization of the cost of office blocks should be on the basis of the proportionate share of gross space occupied, so that an organization occupying a whole office block would pay the whole cost, and not just the portion relating to office space within the block;

(f) Arrangements should be made whereby non-United Nations users of conference facilities will reimburse the United Nations at rates to be determined, based on costs.

30. The Advisory Committee was informed that negotiations with the specialized agencies on the financial aspects of their occupancy of the United Nations accommodation are still at an early stage. The Committee trusts that, once the General Assembly has taken action on the question of common services at its current session, negotiations will be concluded without delay, and the results reported to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

31. In view of the provisional nature of many of the components of the rental rate reflected in paragraphs 66 and 67 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/35), and in the absence of concluded agreements with the agencies, the Advisory Committee

is not recommending any adjustment in the estimate for income section 2, namely \$1,295,600. However, it expects that the observations in paragraph 29 above will be taken fully into account in the conclusion of agreements with tenants.

Recapitulation

32. In paragraphs 13 and 18 above, the Advisory Committee recommends reductions totalling \$2,558,000 in the amounts to be transferred from sections 18 and 19 to 28N, and in paragraph 20 a reduction in section 28N of \$6,800. Accordingly, it recommends that the General Assembly should approve a revised appropriation in the following amounts:

	<u>United States dollars</u>
Section 18	(447 400)
Section 19	(479 300)
Section 28N	<u>2 325 000</u>
Total expenditure sections	1 398 300
Income section 2	<u>1 295 600</u>
Net difference between income and expenditure	<u>102 700</u>

In addition, should the General Assembly approve the Advisory Committee's recommendation, an amount of \$250,600 will be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), offset by an equal amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

1/ See, for example, documents A/C.5/36/39, A/C.5/37/49 and Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/37/7 and Add.1-24), document A/37/7/Add.17, para. 15.

2/ See A/C.5/32/19, para. 14.

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/32/8/Add.1-30), document A/32/8/Add.10, para. 18.

4/ Ibid., para. 17.

Twenty-fourth report

Conditions of service and compensation for officials
other than Secretariat officials

[Original: English]

[17 December 1983]

1. In response to the request of the Fifth Committee at its 67th meeting on 15 December 1983 ^{1/}, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered proposals on post-retirement benefits for members of the International Court of Justice as put forward and discussed in paragraphs 86 to 106 and in annex II of the report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials (A/C.5/38/27).
2. Background information on post-retirement benefits for judges is given in paragraphs 66 to 69 of the Secretary-General's report (ibid.). As indicated in paragraph 66, pursuant to article 32, paragraph 7, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the judges have a separate non-contributory pension scheme.
3. The Secretary-General indicates, in paragraph 86 of his report (ibid.), that he has received suggestions from the Court to amend certain provisions of their present Pension Scheme Regulations. Paragraph 86 also contains a description of these suggestions.
4. For reasons given in paragraphs 87 and 88 of his report (ibid.), the Secretary-General states, in paragraph 89, that certain benefit provisions of the Pension Scheme Regulations of the Court should be amended. His proposals in this regard are contained in paragraphs 90 to 105 of his report and cover:
 - (a) Retirement age;
 - (b) Minimum period of service;
 - (c) Disability pension;
 - (d) Child's benefit;
 - (e) Pensions in payment and adjustment procedure.
5. The proposed amendments to the present Pension Scheme Regulations of the Court are contained in annex II of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/27). The financial implications of the Secretary-General's proposals in this regard are estimated at \$63,500 for 1984-1985, as shown in paragraph 110 (d), (e) and (f) of the report. In paragraph 111, the Secretary-General states, however, that "in view of the uncertainty attached to the assumptions underlying these estimates, no additional appropriations would be requested at this time. However, additional

requirements, if any, would be reviewed in the context of the first programme budget performance report for the 1984-1985 biennium".

6. Taking into account paragraphs 90 and 91 of the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee has no objection to changing from 65 to 60 the normal minimum age at which pension may be payable to members of the Court.

7. In paragraph 94 of his report (A/C.5/38/27), the Secretary-General recommends reducing the minimum period of service requirement from five to three years. The Secretary-General states that "such a change would extend to all judges the same three-year minimum service requirement for payment of a retirement pension as currently applies to judges elected to fill a casual vacancy". Taking into account the average age of the members of the Court on appointment in the past and the fact that this is unlikely to change in future, the Committee does not object to this proposal.

8. With regard to disability pension, it is noted in paragraph 95 of the Secretary-General's report that judges who are disabled and have not served a full term of nine years have their disability pensions proportionally reduced according to their years of service, subject to a floor provision that the disability pension cannot be less than one quarter of the annual salary. This is compared with provisions of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, according to which participants incapacitated for further service receive a benefit based on their service expectations rather than on the years of actual service at the time of the disability (see A/C.5/38/27, para. 96).

9. In the light of the above, the Secretary-General recommends that "the Pension Scheme Regulations of the Court be amended to provide that the disability benefit shall correspond to the rate of the retirement pension which would have been payable had the judge completed the term of office to which he or she was elected and had the annual salary remained unchanged, subject to the present floor provision that it would not be less than one quarter of annual salary" (*ibid.*, para. 97). The Advisory Committee concurs with this recommendation. In this connection, the Committee notes the statement, in paragraph 98 of the report, that amending the provision for disability pension "would also have the effect of providing a marked and justified improvement in the pension of a surviving spouse over the present provisions, whereby surviving spouses have often received minimum pensions".

10. In his discussion of child's benefit, the Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 100 of his report that, unlike the situation under the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, there does not, at present, exist any provision in the judges' scheme for continued payment of the child's benefit beyond age 21 if the child is incapacitated. In the case of the Fund, a benefit is paid for an incapacitated child (a) on his or her reaching the age of 21, or immediately prior thereto a child's benefit was payable, or (b) if the child who is over the age of 21 is incapacitated at the time of the participant's death in service or entitlement to a benefit. The Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's suggestion that a similar provision should be introduced in the Pension Scheme Regulations of the Court.

11. In paragraph 102 of his report (A/C.5/38/27), it is suggested that the Pension Scheme Regulations of the Court be amended to provide that the maximum child's benefit be expressed as a proportion of base salary rather than a specific dollar

amount. This would avoid the need for the General Assembly to consider separately the matter of a ceiling for the child's benefit on the occasion of its comprehensive reviews of the salaries of the judges. The Secretary-General suggests that the ceiling amount could be set at one thirty-sixth of the annual base salary of the judges. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this suggestion.

12. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the recommendation of the Secretary-General, in paragraph 104 of his report (ibid.), that the relevant article of the Pension Scheme Regulations of the Court be revised to provide that pensions in payment to former members of the Court or to surviving spouses shall be adjusted by amounts proportional to the changes in the annual base salary and, hence, the pension entitlements of members of the court. According to the Secretary-General, this would reflect the practice followed since 1972.

Conclusion

13. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General with regard to post-retirement benefits of the members of the International Court of Justice and recommends adoption of the amendments to the Pension Scheme Regulations of the Court as proposed in annex II to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/27).

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Fifth Committee, 67th meeting, paras. 46 and 47.

Annex

REPORTS PRESENTED ORALLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS AT MEETINGS OF THE
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Evaluation of the performance and utility of the Information Systems Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

1. At the 59th meeting of the Fifth Committee, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions observed that the report by the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS) on the evaluation of the performance and utility of the Information Systems Unit (ISU) of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.5/38/1) had endorsed the conclusions and recommendations in a report prepared by a consultant for ACCIS (*ibid.*, annex). The latter report had given a generally positive evaluation of the performance and utility of ISU and had recommended, *inter alia*, the establishment of ISU as a distinct and identifiable administrative unit within the Dag Hammarskjöld Library with identifiable budgetary support.

2. In document E/AC.51/1983/6, the Secretary-General had reported to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) on the work of ISU and had indicated that arrangements had been made to enable it to serve as a focal point for the expansion, merging and distribution of the development-related data bases of the regional commissions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/237 of 18 December 1981. However, that report did not describe the institutional arrangements or make proposals about them. In its report (A/38/38, (Part I)), CPC had suggested that ISU be given an institutional base in which to locate its activities and accordingly had proposed that the integration of the Unit within the Dag Hammarskjöld Library should be examined by the Secretary-General who should report thereon to CPC. The Advisory Committee had noted, however, that no proposals had been made by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/38/1 on the institutional arrangements or the budget of ISU. The cost of the Unit had been absorbed from the resources proposed for the 1982-1983 programme budget in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/237. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the report of ACCIS (see A/C.5/38/1) and decide that the financial arrangements which had applied to the Unit for the biennium 1982-1983 should be continued for the biennium 1984-1985 (see A/C.5/38/SR.59, paras. 2-4).

Methods, procedures and timetable followed in the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985; integration of the programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation functions in the Secretariat of the United Nations; strengthening of the capacity of United Nations evaluation units and systems*

3. In his address to the Fifth Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that in document A/C.5/38/7, the Administration, at the request of the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the Economic and Social Council, had identified a number of factors which had contributed to the late submission of the 1984-1985 programme budget document. As the Administration had stated in that document, the application of new technology to United Nations procedures and methods might offer solutions for improving United Nations work methods. That could be done by a variety of means, including the use of word-processing

* These questions relate also to agenda item 110.

equipment, to which the Advisory Committee had paid particular attention that year. On the basis of information provided to it, the Advisory Committee had concluded that while the extensive use of word-processing equipment as proposed in the budget estimates for the biennium 1984-1985 might improve productivity and efficiency, the current poorly co-ordinated, seemingly ad hoc programme of acquisition should be reviewed. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee welcomed the statement made in document A/C.5/38/7 that the administration intended to update the United Nations computer programmes utilized in the preparation of the budget and it hoped that such a review would also include the question of the use of word-processing and related equipment, taking into account the question of compatibility, as suggested by the Advisory Committee in chapter I, paragraph 38, of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (A/38/7 and Corr.1).

4. The Advisory Committee had also examined the Secretary-General's report on integration of the programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation functions in the Secretariat of the United Nations (A/C.5/38/6 and Corr.1). The Chairman noted that since the matter was currently under review by the Secretariat, it might be appropriate for the Secretary-General to report any further developments to the thirty-ninth session. In addition, information on how the same functions were handled in a number of the specialized agencies would be included in the co-ordination report of the Advisory Committee to be issued during the thirty-eighth session (see A/38/515 and Corr.1). The Committee had also been informed that it was no longer the intention of the Secretary-General to issue correlative amendments to the Financial Regulations as had been originally proposed. Should that position change, however, the Advisory Committee would look at any amendments which might be proposed.

5. On the question of evaluation, the Advisory Committee had examined the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/11) which outlined the programme, financial and administrative implications of the recommendations of CPC on strengthening the capacity of United Nations evaluation units and systems, as contained in paragraphs 189 and 190 of document A/38/38, (Part I). Since no additional resources were being requested at the current session, the Advisory Committee had decided to await the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

6. With regard to the financial implications referred to in annex I of the report of CPC on the second part of its twenty-third session (A/38/38 (Part II)), the Advisory Committee was of the opinion that if the CPC recommendations relating to sections 22 and 27 were adopted, the estimates for those sections would be further reduced by \$4,800 and \$83,000, respectively. However, the recommendation on output (i) of programme element 4.3 (Division of Narcotic Drugs) would require an additional amount of \$14,000 under section 20, which the Advisory Committee recommended should be absorbed within the resources to be appropriated for printing under that same section.

7. With regard to CPC's recommendation on the liaison function under section 25, the Advisory Committee had already recommended in its second report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (see, above, A/38/7/Add.1, para. 5) a reduction of the estimate by \$80,400 (see A/C.5/38/Sk.7, paras. 24 and 45-47).

Financial emergency of the United Nations

8. At the 3rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that the Advisory Committee had agreed with the analysis of the Controller that the financial situation of the organization had improved, as outlined in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/9 and Corr.1). However, Member States should not become complacent, but should continue their efforts to ensure prompt payment of their assessed contributions. The Committee had also agreed with the controller that the General Assembly would have the opportunity to re-examine the problem at its thirty-ninth session and decide whether further action was needed.

9. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee also observed that the Advisory Committee was collecting information of a similar nature from the specialized agencies, which would be included in the Committee's annual co-ordination report to be issued later in the current session (see A/38/515 and Corr.1). Accordingly, the Chairman recommended that if the Fifth Committee decided to proceed with the consideration of the agenda item it would have to postpone final decisions pending the issuance of the report of the Advisory Committee (see A/C.5/38/SR.3, paras. 33-36).

Interim arrangements for the International Jute Council

10. At the 39th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/20). The General Assembly had previously authorized an advance of \$150,000 under section 15 to cover the requirements of the Preparatory Committee and for the first session of the International Jute Council. Since expenditures in 1982-1983 had totalled \$46,000 in respect of a one-week session of the Preparatory Committee, the balance of \$104,000 would be surrendered in the context of the final report on the programme budget performance report of the United Nations for the biennium 1982-1983 (see A/C.5/38/49/Add.15). The Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's request for an appropriation of \$104,000 in 1984-1985 under section 15 in order that the preparatory work could be completed. Income section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 would reflect an increase of \$150,000 to offset the advance of \$104,000 for the biennium 1984-1985 plus the amount of \$46,000 expended in 1982-1983 (see A/C.5/38/SR.39, para. 37).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/38/L.2 concerning agenda item 23*

11. At the 16th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that the statement of administrative and financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/33) was divided into three sections. Section A related to the requirements for the Ad Hoc Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea, including the continuation of one D-1 post and one General Service post, the provisions for which had already been included under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

* The situation in Kampuchea.

12. Section B of the statement by the Secretary-General dealt with the estimates for the International Conference on Kampuchea. As noted in paragraph 8, should a decision to convene the Conference be reached, the necessary commitments could be entered into under the terms of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1984-1985, subject to the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

13. Section C of the statement related to co-ordination of the programme of humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people for which the Secretary-General proposed one Assistant Secretary-General post, one D-2 post, one P-5 post and two General Service posts for 1984. In this connection, the Advisory Committee had decided to inform the Fifth Committee that should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution A/38/L.2, an additional appropriation of \$273,400 would be required in 1984 in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, comprising \$257,900 under section 3B and \$15,500 under section 28D. An additional amount of \$62,700 would be required under section 31 (staff assessment) to be offset by an increase in the same amount under Income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) (see A/C.5/38/SR.16, paras. 44-46).

International Computing Centre: 1984 budget estimates

14. At the 44th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/39) submitted the 1984 budget estimates of the International Computing Centre (ICC) for review and approval by the General Assembly in accordance with section III of its resolution 31/208 of 22 December 1976. According to an agreed formula, the cost of the Centre's activities was shared among various participating organizations. The United Nations's share of the total estimate of \$5,518,000 for 1984 amounted to \$1,625,537. This would be met from the resources proposed for the Centre under section 28G of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (\$3,372,000), which had been approved by the Advisory Committee. No increase in the appropriation under section 28G would be required if the Fifth Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the 1984 budget estimates for ICC in the amount of \$5,518,000 (see A/C.5/38/SR.44, para. 1).

Revised estimates under section 28G (Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Division: Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (United Nations share))

15. At the 44th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee recalled the background and decisions which had led to the establishment in 1983 of the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS). The programme of work of ACCIS in 1984-1985 appeared in paragraphs 3 to 19 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/42) while paragraphs 20 to 27 provided details on the resources required to implement this programme. The Advisory Committee had noted that although several programme elements and outputs were identical to those which had formerly been included in the Inter-Organization Board for information systems programme, they had been reoriented to better meet the needs of Member States in conformity with the provisions of resolution 1982/71 of the Economic and Social Council, of 10 November 1982. Furthermore, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had approved the programme of work after an in-depth examination.

16. The Secretary-General's estimate amounted to \$1,306,000, which, in his opinion, did not in real terms exceed the amount approved in 1982-1983 for the former Inter-Organization Board. The United Nations share of approximately 43 per cent therefore totalled \$561,600 or \$288,200 in excess of the provisional amount of \$273,400 included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 and approved by the Advisory Committee. However, for the reasons stated in paragraph 29 of his report, the Secretary-General had not requested any additional appropriation. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should approve the estimate for ACCIS for 1984-1985 in the amount of \$1,306,000, a decision which would not entail any increase in the appropriation requested under section 28G (see A/C.5/38/SR.44, paras. 5-7).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II, entitled "Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories", submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/701) concerning agenda item 12*

17. At the 44th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/47 in which the Secretary-General had indicated that if the draft resolution in question were adopted, an additional appropriation of \$35,700 would be required under section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

18. In response to its inquiries, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the amount requested for 1984 had been calculated on the basis of previous experience (out of \$101,000 appropriated in 1982-1983 for that purpose, a total of \$36,000 had been committed or spent).

19. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee recalled that in his report (A/C.5/38/4) the Secretary-General had requested new posts under section 15 for establishing a special economic unit in implementation of resolution 146 (VI), of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on assistance to the Palestinian people (see A/38/7/Add.2, para. 4, above). Inasmuch as that request had been approved by the Fifth Committee, the Advisory Committee hoped that efforts would be made to co-ordinate the activities envisaged under both sections 7 and 15 in order to ensure a more efficient use of the Organization's resources (see A/C.5/38/SR.44, paras. 32-34).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I, entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories", submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/702/Add.8) concerning agenda item 78 (h)**

20. At the 44th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that the Committee had agreed with the figure of \$81,000 under section 19 submitted by the Secretary-General in his statement (A/C.5/38/48) on administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution in question. At the same time, the Committee had reiterated the importance of co-ordinating the activities to be financed from

* Report of the Economic and Social Council.

** Development and International Economic Co-operation: Human Settlements

that amount with those of the Special Economic Unit in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (see A/C.5/38/SR.44, para. 41).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/38/L.17 concerning agenda item 29*

21. In his statement on administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/38/50), the Secretary-General requested \$110,000 under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 in order that he might continue his diplomatic efforts with a view to finding a solution to the problem in Afghanistan.

22. At the 44th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that, according to the Secretariat, it was difficult to give a breakdown of the appropriation requested which was based on the experience gained in 1983 when \$102,000 was spent. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should approve the appropriation of \$110,000 under section 1 (see A/C.5/38/SR.44, para. 27).

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/38/593) concerning agenda item 74**

23. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/38/51/Rev.1) concerning the proposed activities of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees established by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/148 of 16 December 1981. The Secretary-General's estimate of \$72,600 in paragraph 3 of his statement was intended to finance the participation of experts from the least developed countries in the session which the Group was to hold in 1984, and had been based on the assumption that all of the experts from the least developed countries concerned would come to New York from their home countries to participate in the Group's work. However, in response to its inquiries, the Advisory Committee had been informed that participants in the Group's 1983 session in New York had included experts from the least developed countries who were based in the permanent missions in New York. Moreover, it was not possible to estimate accurately the number of experts who would be coming from their home countries in 1984.

24. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee did not recommend the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General under section 2A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. Instead, it recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to commit the necessary expenditures provided that he would include the relevant information in his programme budget performance report for the biennium 1984-1985, the same procedure approved by the Fifth Committee at the thirty-seventh session.

25. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee also observed that the amount of \$342,200 mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's statement referred to

* The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

** International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees.

conference-servicing costs which would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference servicing costs for 1984, to be submitted by the Secretary-General later in the session a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.54, paras. 25-27).

Revised estimates under section 11 (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) and establishment of a new section 5C (Regional Commissions Liaison Office)

26. At the 51st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General's proposal in his report (A/C.5/38/52 and Corr.1) to establish a new section 5C for the Regional Commissions Liaison Office in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 derived from the decision of the Fifth Committee to endorse the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in paragraph 222(b) of its report on the second part of its twenty-third session (A/38/38 (Part II)). Accordingly, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should take note of the establishment of the new section and approve the transfer thereto of an amount of \$598,500 allocated for that Office under section 11 in the first reading of the proposed programme budget. In this connection the Chairman also noted that the Secretary-General did not envisage any supplementary financial implications (see A/C.5/38/SR.51, paras. 12 and 13).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/38/L.20, 21, 24, 25, 30, and 31 concerning agenda item 32*

27. At the 51st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/53 and Corr.1). With regard to section A which dealt with draft resolution A/38/L.20 (Situation in South Africa), the Chairman noted that the Secretary-General had requested an allocation of \$248,200 for assistance to the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania to maintain offices in New York.

28. In respect of section C which dealt with draft resolution A/38/L.24 (Programme of work of the Special Committee against Apartheid), the Chairman stated that the Committee had had no objection to the reclassification from P-4 to P-5 of the post of the head of the Research Group of the Centre against Apartheid. As explained by the Secretary-General in his statement, the funds required for the purchase of word-processing equipment for the Centre against Apartheid (\$8,000 annually) and for missions, conferences, meetings and other activities sponsored by the Special Committee against Apartheid (\$507,100) had already been requested under sections 28G and 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

29. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee also observed that, under the terms of draft resolution A/38/L.24, the General Assembly would allocate an amount of \$400,000 to the Special Committee for 1984 to finance special projects.

* Policies of Apartheid of the Government of South Africa.

a/ See A/C.5/38/104.

30. With regard to section E of the Secretary-General's statement which dealt with draft resolution A/38/L.30 (Oil embargo against South Africa), the Chairman of the Advisory Committee pointed out that the necessary estimates would not be known until the end of the preparatory consultations and discussions at the meetings of the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the oil-producing and oil-exporting countries. If a programme of activities was established, the Secretary-General would request authorization to commit the necessary expenditures under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses to be approved for the 1984-1985 biennium.

31. Section F of the Secretary-General's statement which dealt with draft resolution A/38/L.31 (Apartheid in sports) indicated that the funds required for implementing the resolution (\$31,100) had already been requested under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

32. The total additional appropriation requested by the Secretary-General for non-conference-servicing costs thus amounted to \$670,000. In addition, \$10,200 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

33. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee also observed that conference-servicing costs related to the holding of a North American Regional Conference had been estimated at \$99,600 on a full-cost basis. This would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs for 1984 to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the thirty-eighth session a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.51, paras. 16-20).

Administrative and financial implications of the recommendations of the United Nations Council for Namibia in part four of its report (A/38/24 (Part II) and Corr.1) concerning agenda item 36*

34. In his statement (A/C.5/38/54 and Corr.1) the Secretary-General estimated that in addition to the provision already made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, an amount of \$5,522,400 would be required to implement the recommendations made by the United Nations Council for Namibia in part four of its report (A/38/24 (Part II) and Corr.1). Of that amount, \$2,050,600 related to conference-servicing costs to be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session. a/

35. The net balance of \$3,471,800 comprised \$6,400 under section 1B, \$2,733,400 under section 3C, \$629,000 under section 27, \$89,800 under section 28 and \$13,200 under section 29A.

36. At the 52nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that on the basis of the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General, the Advisory

* Question of Namibia.

Committee had noted that the planned activities in some areas were on a larger scale than activities in the programme of work submitted by the Council at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. For example, 50 missions were planned for 1984, as against 30 in 1983, and more seminars, regional symposia and other meetings were scheduled. As indicated in paragraphs 20, 22 and 26 of the Secretary-General's statement, some of those meetings and the related documentation would involve exceptions to General Assembly resolutions 3415 (XXX) of 8 December 1975, 31/140 of 17 December 1976 and 37/14 C of 16 November 1982, and also to decision 34/401 of 21 September, 25 October, 29 November and 12 December 1979; the nature of those exceptions was explained briefly in the observations of the Committee on Conferences submitted in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A (A/C.5/38/54/Add.1). In view of the extensive programme of meetings, funds were requested for temporary assistance to cope with the increased workload of the Planning and Meetings Servicing Section of the Department of Conference Services and of the Office for Field Operational and External Support Activities.

37. The Advisory Committee had also noted that the provision for the programme of information was almost the same as the amount which had been requested for 1983, even though the Council had emphasized in its report the need to improve the quality of documents and to disseminate them more widely. In this connection the Chairman of the Advisory Committee also observed that the capacity for absorption of the Department of Public Information would be lower in 1984 than it had been in 1983. In addition, although the amount allocated to the United Nations Fund for Namibia for 1984 was \$1 million, which was the same as that for 1983, the special allocation to the Council had increased by \$100,000, that is, from \$200,000 for 1983 to \$300,000 for 1984 (see A/C.5/38/54, para. 46). The Advisory Committee had also noted slight increases in other objects of expenditure, such as consultancy services for the implementation of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia (two consultants instead of one) and word processing and other equipment.

38. On the basis of the recommendations in the report of the Council, the Advisory Committee recommended the appropriation of an additional amount of \$3,471,800 as outlined in the Secretary-General's statement. An additional amount of \$6,300 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) (see A/C.5/38/SR.52, paras. 20 and 21).

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences: appointment of a Registrar for the settlement of disputes

39. At the 55th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee pointed out that the Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences had been adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1974 and had entered into force on 6 October 1983, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his note (A/C.5/38/55). Under article 46 of the Convention, the Secretary-General was requested to appoint a Registrar, whose functions were described in paragraph 4 of his note. The Secretary-General pointed out in paragraph 5 that when the Conference had considered the Convention in draft form, it had been informed that five posts would be required. However, the Advisory Committee had noted that the representatives of the Secretary-General had been unable to recall the factors on which that staffing estimate had been based. The Advisory Committee had been

further informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that since the Convention had only recently entered into force, it was not possible to estimate what the related work-load would be and that accordingly, only one Professional post, that of the Registrar, and one General Service post were requested at the current stage.

40. The Secretary-General had requested an amount of \$20,000 for travel. However, inasmuch as the Advisory Committee had been unable to obtain a satisfactory explanation for that amount and in the light of the functions described in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's note, it considered that an amount of \$10,000 for travel should be adequate.

41. The Advisory Committee had also recalculated the estimates for the two posts requested since it considered that the normal delayed recruitment factor of 50 per cent, and not 5 per cent as proposed by the Secretary-General, should be applied. Accordingly, it recommended approval of a total amount of \$142,000 under section 15, (\$63,700 for the P-5 post, \$34,800 for the General Service post, \$28,500 for common staff costs, \$5,000 for general temporary assistance and \$10,000 for travel of staff). An additional appropriation of \$32,500 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) (see A/C.5/38/SR.55, paras. 25-27).

Interim arrangements for the International Tropical Timber Council

42. At the 55th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee recalled that the United Nations Conference on Tropical Timber, 1983, had established the text of the International Tropical Timber Agreement 1983, which was expected to enter into force on 1 October 1984. The Conference had also established a Preparatory Committee to undertake the necessary preparatory work for the first session of the International Tropical Timber Council. The Advisory Committee recommended that the advance of \$200,000 requested by the Secretary-General in his note (A/C.5/38/58) under section 15 should be granted and that the estimate under income section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 should be increased by \$200,000 (see A/C.5/38/SR.55, para. 54).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I, entitled "International code of conduct on the transfer of technology", submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/702/Add.2) concerning agenda item 78 (b)*

43. At the 55th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that by the draft resolution in question the General Assembly would decide to convene the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology and would request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to determine the dates of the session.

44. According to the draft resolution, the negotiations on the code of conduct should be completed by the first half of 1985. The Secretary-General's estimate in document A/C.5/38/59 amounted to \$557,100 which would be included in the

* Development and international economic co-operation: Trade and development.

consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs for 1984 to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.55, para. 58).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/38/L.16, entitled "International Year of Peace", concerning agenda item 12*

45. In his statement (A/C.5/38/60), the Secretary-General estimated that an additional appropriation of \$84,100 would be required to implement the activities arising from the draft resolution in question.

46. At the 55th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that the travel and subsistence costs for the three senior academic experts mentioned in the Secretary-General's statement would be charged to section 2A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. Inasmuch as some travel funds were already included in that section, the Advisory Committee recommended that a total of \$70,000 be approved to cover travel and subsistence of substantive secretarial staff and experts. The conference-servicing requirements would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted by the Secretary-General towards the end of the current session a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.55, para.1).

Administrative and financial implications of draft decision I, entitled "Special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations", submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/701/Add.1) concerning agenda item 12*

47. At the 55th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/61 and stated that the General Assembly would authorize the Commission on Transnational Corporations to hold a special session early in 1984 to complete the formulation of a code of conduct on transnational corporations. Conference-servicing requirements, calculated on a full-cost basis at \$125,000, would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.55, para. 62).

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in its report (A/38/661) concerning agenda item 121**

48. At the 56th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that appropriations had been authorized at the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly to allow the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to prepare a study on the progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order. The amount of \$59,100 requested by the Secretary-General in

* Report of the Economic and Social Council.

** Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order.

document A/C.5/38/62 was to enable UNITAR to complete work on the study in time for the Secretary-General to submit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the amount requested by the Secretary-General under section 26 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (see A/C.5/38/SR.56, paras. 1 and 2).

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in its report (A/38/666) concerning agenda item 126*

49. At the 58th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that under the terms of the draft resolution in question the General Assembly would authorize the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations to continue its work on the drafting of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes and would request the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the necessary facilities and services. In document A/C.5/38/63, the Secretary-General had estimated that the related conference-servicing requirements for 1984 would amount to \$405,800. That amount would be included in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted towards the end of the current session a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.58, para. 10).

Revised estimates under section 5B (Centre for Science and Technology for Development) arising from the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development in its resolution 4 (V)

50. At the 62nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that the revised estimates under section 5B, as outlined in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/64), arose from the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. At its fifth session, the Intergovernmental Committee had adopted resolution 4 (V) on national and regional activities (see A/38/37, annex). Among the requests contained in the resolution was that addressed to the Executive Director of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development to pursue and expand, within existing resources, his co-operation with Governments through the established network of national focal points. The Secretary-General was also requested to submit in an appropriate manner proposals aimed at strengthening or enhancing the functioning of the existing structure for national and regional activities, again within existing resources. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated how he intended to respond to the Intergovernmental Committee's requests, and stated that he would endeavour to carry out those additional activities initially within the resources available under section 5B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. To the extent that that was not possible, the related programmatic adjustments and subsequent redeployment of resources would be reported in the context of the budget and programme performance reports on the biennium 1984-1985.

51. In response to its inquiries, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the funds required for implementing the activities outlined in the Secretary-General's report had been estimated at \$87,400 which would cover the requirements

* Report of the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations.

for a number of work-months of temporary assistance, consultants, the travel of staff and the travel of participants in ad hoc panels and in regional meetings, seminars and workshops at the national focal-point level. In the light of the information received from the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/64) (see A/C.5/38/SR.62, paras. 46-48).

52. At the request of the Fifth Committee, the Secretary-General, in an addendum to his report (A/C.5/38/64/Add.1), provided detailed information on the programme elements to be financed from the amount of \$87,400 he had requested. At the 69th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that paragraph 2 of that addendum reiterated that every attempt would be made to carry out the additional activities within the resources available under section 5B. At the same time, however, the addendum emphasized that the activities already approved by the Fifth Committee would not be curtailed for the purpose of undertaking the additional activities contained in resolution 4 (V) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. If the resources available under section 5B were insufficient, the Secretary-General would bring the matter before the Advisory Committee (see A/C.5/38/SR.69, para. 61).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I, entitled "Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers", submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/38/680) concerning agenda item 12*

53. At the 56th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that the draft resolution in question would request the Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families to complete its work as soon as possible. The Working Group would be authorized to hold an inter-sessional meeting of two weeks' duration in 1984, and to meet during the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The amount of \$6,500 for travel and subsistence referred to in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/38/66) would be absorbed.

54. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee also noted that a decision to hold the inter-sessional and sessional meetings of the Working Group in New York, away from its established headquarters in Geneva, would constitute an exception to General Assembly resolution 31/140. Furthermore, the holding of the sessional meeting during the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly would constitute an exception to General Assembly decision 34/401 on the scheduling of the meetings of subsidiary bodies to the General Assembly. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution in question, conference-servicing costs for holding the meetings in New York would arise and would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.56, paras. 16 and 17).

* Report of the Economic and Social Council.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I, entitled "Arabic language services for meetings of the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Human Rights Committee", submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/38/686 and Corr.1) concerning agenda item 96*

55. At the 56th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/67. Conference-servicing requirements in 1984-1985 had been estimated at \$831,000 on a full-cost basis. Since the requirement for 1984 would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs, a/ adoption of the draft resolution would not require any immediate appropriation of additional funds (see A/C.5/38/SR.56, para. 23).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution B submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/38/699) concerning agenda item 72**

56. In his statement (A/C.5/38/71), the Secretary-General estimated the additional requirements which the adoption of the draft resolution in question would entail at \$630,000, comprising \$574,000 under section 27 and \$56,000 under section 28.

57. At the 58th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee summarized the Secretary-General's request, noting that the costing of some of the proposed activities had been based on very precise indications in the draft resolution.

58. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the amount of \$56,000 in respect of common services under section 28D could be absorbed. Consequently, it recommended that \$574,000 be appropriated under section 27. An additional amount of \$114,200 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) (see A/C.5/38/SR.58, paras. 14-16).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/38/L.33 and 34 concerning agenda item 18***

59. At the 56th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that the requirements outlined in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/38/72) related to the implementation of the work programme of the Special Committee on the situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. As indicated in the Secretary-General's statement, a total of \$371,200 would be needed for items in that

* International Covenants on Human Rights.

** Questions relating to information.

*** Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

programme during 1984. However, because a provision of \$601,900 for the activities of the Special Committee had already been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, the adoption of the two draft resolutions would not entail additional financial appropriations (see A/C.5/38/SR.56, para. 32).

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/38/714) concerning agenda item 70*

60. At the 58th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/74 in which the Secretary-General had estimated that an amount of \$81,200 would be required under the draft resolution in question to cover the travel and subsistence costs of three groups of experts. In addition, an amount of \$3,200 would be required to cover the travel and subsistence costs for two Secretariat staff members to provide substantive services for the Geneva meeting. Conference-servicing costs, estimated at \$171,600 on a full-cost basis, would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly toward the end of the current session. a/

61. During its consideration of the Secretary-General's statement, the Advisory Committee noted the total provisions already made under section 2A of the proposed programme budget for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and, in the light of those provisions, recommended approval of an additional appropriation of \$74,000 instead of the \$84,000 requested by the Secretary-General (see A/C.5/38/SR.58, para. 48).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/38/L.37, 38 and 40 concerning agenda item 33**

62. In his statement (A/C.5/38/75), the Secretary-General estimated that an additional appropriation of \$1,288,000 for non-conference-servicing costs, comprising \$191,800 under section 1, \$523,400 under section 27, \$96,200 under section 28 and \$476,600 under section 29, would be required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 to implement the provisions contained in draft resolutions A/38/L.37 and 40. The Secretary-General also indicated that conference-servicing costs which had been estimated on a full-cost basis at \$3,370,400 would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs for 1984 to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session. a/

63. With regard to draft resolution A/38/L.38, the Secretary-General would have to undertake consultations before he would be able to ascertain the requirements for the conference called for in that draft resolution.

64. At the 62nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that the programme of work outlined in the Secretary-General's Statement included the convening of six seminars, five symposia and two meetings of representatives of

* International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

** Question of Palestine.

non-governmental organizations, the venues of which were indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement. The assumptions on which the costing of these seminars, symposia and meetings were based were explained in paragraph 4.

65. The Secretary-General had also informed the General Assembly that there would be a need to increase public information activities, as explained in paragraphs 9 to 15 of his statement. Those activities would include the production of two existing films in new languages, the organization of fact-finding missions, the production of newsletters, the organization of regional encounters and the publication of a booklet. The additional temporary posts requested were two Professional (1 P-4 and 1 P-3) and one General Service for the Division for Palestinian Rights, and two Professional (1 P-4 and 1 P-3) and two General Service for the Department of Public Information. Details on the temporary posts were provided in paragraphs 7 and 15 of the Secretary-General's statement.

66. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the programme of work relating to the seminars, symposia and meetings was somewhat ambitious; however, it had not recommended any reduction on that account. At the same time, the Committee hoped that any resources not used as a result of a modification in the programme of meetings would be applied to future requirements for that item. Subject to those observations, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt draft resolutions A/38/L.37 and 40 additional appropriations totalling \$1,288,000 would be required under sections 1, 27, 28 and 29, and that conference-servicing requirements not exceeding \$3,370,400 would be included in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted later in the current session. a/ An amount of \$64,800 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). The Advisory Committee had further recommended that the General Assembly be informed that the adoption of draft resolution A/38/L.38 would not require any additional appropriation at the current stage (see A/C.5/38/SR.62, paras. 1-6).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II, entitled "Question of the international legal protection of the human rights of individuals who are not citizens of the country in which they live", submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/38/680) concerning agenda item 12*

67. At the 62nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/76 in which the Secretary-General had estimated that the establishment by the General Assembly, at its thirty-ninth session, of the open-ended working group called for under the draft resolution in question would involve conference-servicing requirements totalling \$156,500 on a full-cost basis.

68. That estimate, which would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs, a/ was based on the assumption that the working group would meet twice a week for six weeks during the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the estimate (see A/C.5/38/SR.62, para. 34).

* Report of the Economic and Social Council.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution K, entitled "University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds' for Palestine Refugees", submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/38/700) concerning agenda item 73*

69. At the 62nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/81. Under the terms of the draft resolution in question the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary measures for the establishment of the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" in accordance with Assembly resolution 35/13 B of 3 November 1980.

70. In this connection, the Secretary-General had indicated that he would continue to require the services of two consultants for a period of three months each and that the cost of those services and of other ancillary requirements had been estimated at \$68,800. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of an appropriation of that amount under section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (see A/C.5/38/SR.62, para. 21).

Technological innovations in the production of the publications and documentation of the United Nations

71. At the 70th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/79 in which the Secretary-General had recommended that word-processing equipment should be introduced in the Conference Services Division at Geneva, in view of the positive experience with such equipment at Headquarters. The system would be introduced first in the English, French and Spanish typing units at Geneva in accordance with a three-phase plan that would entail the recruitment of a co-ordinator, site preparation and the simultaneous installation of equipment in the three units. A temporary P-4 post was requested to accommodate the co-ordinator, for which an amount of \$132,100 was required for the biennium 1984-1985. The cost of preparing the site for the equipment was estimated at \$649,500 while the total cost of the equipment and related software and technical items was estimated at \$1,009,000. In this connection, the Chairman noted that the New York and Geneva systems would be compatible but that the Geneva system would also benefit from recent technological developments. Additional amounts of \$37,000 and \$90,000 would also be required for installation costs and furniture, respectively. Maintenance costs were estimated at \$234,000 for the biennium, with an additional \$104,000 required for supplies.

72. The total cost of the aforementioned elements was estimated at \$2,255,600. However, the Secretary-General intended to meet the cost of the equipment and installation charges (\$1,046,000) and maintenance costs (\$234,000) from existing resources. Thus, of a total of \$2,255,600 required, an amount of \$1,280,000 would be absorbed. Additional appropriations totalling \$975,600, comprising \$194,000 under section 28I, \$132,100 under section 29B and \$649,500 under section 32 were therefore sought. An additional amount of \$26,800 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's request (see A/C.5/38/SR.70, paras. 50 and 51).

* United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

Adequacy of the conference facilities of the Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa

73. At the 70th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee pointed out that the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/82) had become available only on 12 December 1983 when the Advisory Committee had been deeply involved in the consideration of a large number of other reports, including many statements of administrative and financial implications in respect of which the Fifth Committee was required to submit reports in plenary meeting before action could be taken on the reports of other main committees. The Advisory Committee had therefore not been able to give the Secretary-General's report the detailed consideration which it believed was necessary in view of the magnitude of the expenditure envisaged. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that consideration of the report should be deferred to the thirty-ninth session, at which time it would be able to examine the Secretary-General's proposal in greater detail. However, it also recommended that the Assembly should approve an additional appropriation of \$320,700 under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 for the programme of minor alterations and improvements and ongoing maintenance projects at the Economic Commission for Africa (see A/C.5/38/SR.70, para. 59).

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in its report (A/38/637) concerning agenda item 59*

74. At the 62nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that in accordance with the draft resolution in question the General Assembly would renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and request it to hold three further sessions in 1984. In his statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/38/84), the Secretary-General had estimated conference-servicing requirements on a full cost basis at \$1,597,600; these would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the thirty-eighth session. a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.62, para. 39).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution D submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/38/718) concerning agenda item 69**

75. At the 62nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/85 in which the Secretary-General had estimated that \$255,700 would be required under section 23 to implement the activities arising from the draft resolution in question. To assist the Special Committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories in undertaking its programme of work, the Secretary-General had requested temporary assistance funds for two Professional posts, (one each at the P-3 and P-2 levels) and for two General Service posts; the same number of posts had been required for the activities carried out in 1983. The Chairman noted that the

* Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean.

** Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories.

proposed programme of work for 1984 was similar to that for 1983; accordingly, the Committee recommended approval of an additional appropriation of \$255,700 under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. An amount of \$34,400 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). Conference-servicing costs, estimated on a full-cost basis at \$438,700, would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs for 1984 to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the thirty-eighth session a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.62, para. 24).

Conversion of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization into a specialized agency: revised estimates under sections 17 and 28M

76. At the 73rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that background information on the conversion of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) into a specialized agency was given in paragraphs 1 to 5 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/87), while information on the current arrangements for the provision of services at the Vienna International Centre was provided in paragraphs 6 and 7. The impact of the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency on these arrangements and the required changes were discussed in paragraphs 8 to 17 of the report.

77. In this connection, the Advisory Committee noted the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 8 that the conversion of UNIDO should not alter the premise on which common services were based, namely, that they should not be duplicated. However, the Secretary-General had also indicated that a review of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations, UNIDO and the International Atomic Energy Agency was being initiated to determine whether the current distribution of responsibilities among the parties needed to be modified.

78. The Secretary-General's proposals and intentions with regard to public information, personnel, conference services, general services and finance were outlined in paragraphs 10 to 17 of his report. The Advisory Committee noted the statement in paragraph 9 that separate and distinct United Nations services would be required for personnel and public information and that the establishment of those services should be initiated forthwith. The responsibilities of the proposed public information service were described in paragraph 10. They would include serving as an information centre for Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany. It was indicated in paragraph 11 that the total cost of the information service would be \$821,400 under section 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. In order to meet that cost, it was proposed that \$390,300 to cover one P-5, one P-3 and four General Service posts should be redeployed from the UNIDO information service under section 17 and that \$352,100 to cover one P-4, one P-3 and three General Service posts and operational costs should be redeployed from resources available to the Department of Public Information under section 27. The remaining \$79,000 would be for a D-1 post. The Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 12 that the possibilities of meeting that requirement through redeployment would be reviewed in 1984 and that no additional appropriation for that purpose was requested at the current stage.

79. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a public information service at Vienna. It noted that the intention to have the service act as an information centre for Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany was consistent with recommendation 39 made by the Committee on

Information in paragraph 94 of its report (A/38/21 and Corr.1). The Advisory Committee trusted that the institutional structure at Vienna for public information services would be kept small in scale and would utilize, to the maximum extent possible, resources already available for New York or Geneva. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's request for an appropriation of \$390,300 under section 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 for the creation of a United Nations information service at Vienna. That appropriation would be offset by a reduction in the same amount under section 17.

80. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee also observed that to form the nucleus of a Personnel Service at the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Secretary-General proposed reassigning seven posts (2 P-3 and 5 General Service posts), created under section 28M and previously assigned to UNIDO to strengthen its Personnel Service. Further developments in that regard would be reviewed during 1984 and, if necessary, reported to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session (see A/C.5/38/SR.73, paras. 8-13).

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/38/720) concerning agenda item 75*

81. At the 62nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that the draft resolution in question would have the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and assess all aspects of the adverse effects arising from the implementation of the decision by Israel to construct a canal linking the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea. In his statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/38/89), the Secretary-General had indicated that in order to implement the request he would require outside expertise the cost of which, together with that of related ancillary services, had been estimated at \$50,000 under section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of that additional appropriation (see A/C.5/38/SR.62, para. 28).

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in its report (A/38/644) concerning agenda item 67**

82. At the 66th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that under the terms of the draft resolution in question, the General Assembly would decide to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Implementation of the Collective Security Provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. In his statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/38/91), the Secretary-General had indicated that the conference-servicing requirements, which would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs, a/ had been estimated at \$363,300 on a full-cost basis (see A/C.5/38/SR.66, para. 1).

* Israel's decision to build a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea.

** Implementation of the collective security provisions of the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Job classification of the General Service category in Geneva

83. At the 69th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/92 and Corr.1 in which the Secretary-General had reported on the results of the job classification exercise carried out for all posts in the General Service category at Geneva and the proposed measures to implement those results. As indicated in his report (A/C.5/38/92 and Corr.1), the Secretary General proposed to convert 11 General Service posts to the Professional category; transfer 72 General Service principal level posts between budget sections to reflect the new distribution of General Service posts classified at the principal level; and provide 27 "temporary principal level" posts to accommodate the situation whereby 29 posts currently occupied at the principal level had been classified below that level.
84. Of the 11 posts classified at the Professional level, only one was currently vacant. In the opinion of the Secretary-General, since the incumbents of the remaining 10 posts had been exercising the functions concerned prior to the introduction of competitive examinations, they should be considered for promotion to the Professional category, notwithstanding the requirements of General Assembly resolution 33/143 of 20 December 1978. In that connection, the Secretary-General also noted that the competitive examination applied to the filling of vacant posts. The Secretary-General stated that the vacant post would be filled through external recruitment.
85. The financial implications of reclassifying the 11 posts amounted to \$58,000 under section 10, \$113,400 under section 15, and \$22,800 under section 28I, for a total of \$194,200 for the biennium 1984-1985. Staff assessment under section 31 and income from staff assessment under income section 1 would decrease by \$84,000. The Advisory Committee had been informed that that decrease was due to the fact that standard costs included staff assessment calculated on the total net salary for General Service staff but only on the net base pay, not including post adjustment, for Professionals. The Secretary-General, however, had not requested any appropriation at the current stage. Instead, he had stated that every effort would be made to absorb the costs of reclassifying the 11 General Service posts to the Professional level. On that basis, and in view of the special circumstances involved, the Advisory Committee recommended, as an exception to the requirements of General Assembly resolution 33/143, acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposals for dealing with the 11 General Service posts at Geneva which had been reclassified at the Professional level.
86. The Advisory Committee also recommended approval of the transfer of the 72 posts at the principal level between the various sections of the budget to meet the requirements shown in table (b) of paragraph 9 of the report. Since the total number of principal level General Service posts would not change as a result of the redeployment, no additional appropriation would be required for the budget as a whole.
87. As for the requested 27 "temporary principal level" posts to accommodate the 29 staff members whose posts had been reclassified below the principal level, the Advisory Committee noted that the temporary arrangement would be entirely phased out by January 1990, in the manner indicated in paragraph 16 of the report. The estimated costs of maintaining the 27 lower-level posts as "temporary principal level" posts were \$216,000 for 1984-1985, \$149,000 for 1986-1987 and \$85,000 for 1988-1989. The Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 17 that every effort would

be made to absorb those costs and that he was not requesting any appropriation at the current stage. On that basis the Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's request to provide 27 "temporary principal level" posts (see A/C.5/38/SR.69, paras. 28-33).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II, entitled "Transport and Communications Decade in Africa", submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/701/Add.1) concerning agenda item 12*

88. At the 68th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that the draft resolution in question would have the Secretary-General provide the Economic Commission for Africa with \$1 million from the regular budget to enable it to organize four consultative technical meetings, to elaborate the studies requested in the draft resolution and to organize the meetings planned in 1984, such as those specified in paragraphs 7 and 9 of the text, within the context of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. It further indicated that additional support from extrabudgetary resources should be sought.

89. In his statement (A/C.5/38/94) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General estimated total requirements at \$2,307,700, of which he requested an appropriation of \$1 million, as provided for in the draft resolution.

90. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly be informed that should it adopt the draft resolution an additional appropriation of \$1 million would be required under section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (see A/C.5/38/SR.68, paras. 65-67).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/702/Add.3) concerning agenda item 78 (c)**

91. At the 71st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee pointed out that section A of document A/C.5/38/93 dealt with senior industrial development field advisers (SIDFAs) and corresponded to operative paragraph 5 of section I of the draft resolution in question which proposed regular budget financing to maintain the total staffing of the SIDFA programme at the existing level. Nineteen of the 30 SIDFAs would be financed by the United Nations Development Programme and two by extrabudgetary funds available to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). It was therefore proposed that the nine remaining posts be financed from the regular budget at an estimated cost of \$1,112,000. In addition to covering the nine SIDFA posts (3 at the D-1 level and 6 at the P-5 level), this amount would support 18 local level posts. As indicated in paragraph 6 of his statement, however, the Secretary-General requested an appropriation of only \$1 million to which the Advisory Committee had no objection.

92. In section B of his statement, which dealt with the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the Secretary-General noted that under the terms of section II

* Report of the Economic and Social Council.

** Development and international economic co-operation: Industrialization.

of the draft resolution the General Assembly would increase the allocation to UNIDO by \$1 million in 1984 for assistance to African countries and to intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of the programme for the Decade. However, the Secretary-General had not requested an additional appropriation in accordance with the understanding in document A/C.5/38/99 that the allocation should be obtained through savings and redeployment. None the less, as also indicated in document A/C.5/38/99, the Fifth Committee had been requested by the Second Committee to undertake to provide the necessary resources at the current session of the General Assembly.

93. Section C of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/38/93) dealt with the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO. The Secretary-General had not requested an additional appropriation because resources amounting to \$1,071,700 for that conference had already been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

94. In conclusion, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that, subject to the Fifth Committee's decision concerning the allocation of \$1 million to UNIDO for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa pursuant to paragraphs 7 to 14 of document A/C.5/38/93 and the understanding in document A/C.5/38/99, the Advisory Committee recommended an additional appropriation of \$1 million non-recurrent, under section 17 for the financing of 9 SIDFA posts. The additional requirement under section 31 (Staff assessment) of the proposed programme budget amounted to \$242,100 which would be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) (see A/C.5/38/SR.71, paras. 31-35).

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/702/Add.11) concerning agenda item 78 (m) *

95. At the 66th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that the draft resolution in question would have the General Assembly request the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to continue to collaborate with the relevant bodies to ensure at the secretariat level the full mobilization and co-ordination of the United Nations system for the purpose of implementation and follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. Although provision for one D-1 post and one General Service post had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 programme budget for the same purpose, the posts had been deleted from the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, pending the Second Committee's consideration of the item. As indicated in his statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/38/95), the Secretary-General had now requested the reinstatement of the two posts.

96. The Advisory Committee accepted the amount of \$204,900 required under section 5A to cover the two temporary posts. An additional amount of \$53,800 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) (see A/C.5/38/SR.66, paras. 23 and 24).

* Development and international economic co-operation: Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution III, entitled "Development of the energy resources of developing countries", submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/701/Add.1) concerning agenda item 12*

97. At the 67th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/96).

98. As stated therein by the Secretary-General, every effort would be made to meet the additional requirements arising from the draft resolution in question from the resources already requested under section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. The statement provided additional information on the programme aspects of the draft resolution, the adoption of which would not necessitate additional appropriations at the current session (see A/C.5/38/SR.67, para. 48).

Programme, administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in its report (A/38/674) concerning agenda item 134**

99. At the 66th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/97 in which the Secretary-General had estimated conference-servicing requirements at \$424,200 on a full-cost basis. These would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the thirty-eighth session a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.66, para. 7).

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in its report (A/38/669) concerning agenda item 129***

100. At the 66th meeting the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the draft resolution in question would have the General Assembly decide that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries should continue its work of drafting the international convention and specified the dates of the Ad Hoc Committee's fourth session.

101. In document A/C.5/38/98, the Secretary-General had estimated the conference-servicing costs to be \$359,800, on the assumption that the Ad Hoc Committee would meet in New York. That assumption resulted from the fact that the Ad Hoc Committee was a New York based body and was serviced by the Office of Legal Affairs. It, as an exception to General Assembly resolution 31/140, the Ad Hoc Committee met in Geneva, the additional amount required would be \$201,600, as was indicated in the observations submitted by the Committee on Conferences in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A (A/C.5/38/98/Add.1). However, if the Ad Hoc Committee met in New York, the conference-servicing costs would be absorbed.

* Report of the Economic and Social Council.

** Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

*** Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries.

102. Accordingly, the Fifth Committee might wish to inform the General Assembly that the adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to conference-servicing costs not exceeding \$359,800, if the Ad Hoc Committee met in New York. That amount would be reflected in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the thirty-eighth session a/ (see A/C.5/38/SR.66, paras. 14-16).

Revised estimates under section 12 (Economic Commission for Latin America: accommodations for the Subregional Office for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America at Port-of-Spain)

103. At the 71st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported on document A/C.5/38/100 in which the Secretary-General had requested \$242,500 under section 12 in order to improve and expand the accommodation of staff in the Subregional Office of the Economic Commission for Latin America in Port-of-Spain. The need for the additional space was explained in paragraph 2 of the said document. The proposed biennial rental of \$162,000 for an additional 6,000 square feet reflected a 40 per cent rental subsidy by the host Government.

104. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee approve the request for additional appropriations in the amount of \$242,500 under section 12 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (see A/C.5/38/SR.71, paras. 1 and 2).

Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

105. At the 71st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee drew attention to the revised rates of exchange contained in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/102). Those rates were based on United Nations operational rates effective at 1 December 1983. The latest information showed that there had been an increase in the value of the dollar relative to other currencies. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the Secretary-General consistently applied the December rate of exchange to the estimates for the following year; in other words, no attempt was made to forecast any further movement in rates of exchange. That meant that if the current value of the dollar were to fall below the rates which had been in effect prior to the recent increase a serious cash flow problem could result.

106. With regard to inflation rates, the Chairman recalled that the Advisory Committee had recommended earlier that, if warranted, the Secretary-General should propose an adjustment to reflect the most recent movements in inflation rates. In the light of the lower rate of inflation experienced in New York during 1983, the Secretary-General had now proposed a revised inflation rate of 5 per cent as compared with the 5.5 per cent which had been used in calculating the proposed programme budget.

107. For the reasons provided in his report, the Secretary-General had decided to maintain the inflation rates originally projected in other duty stations and to retain the 10 per cent rate recommended by the Advisory Committee for field offices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and for United Nations information centres.

108. The overall effect of applying the new exchange and inflation rates to the proposed programme budget as approved by the Fifth Committee in the first reading

and to all revised estimates and statements of administrative and financial implications approved by the Fifth Committee up to and including its 63rd meeting were given in paragraph 7 of the report. The revised total for expenditure sections amounted to \$1,571,245,200, while the revised total estimate of income came to \$280,445,900. A breakdown by section was given in annex I of the report.

109. The Chairman also drew attention to annex II of the report, which listed the revised estimates and statements of financial implications pending at the time the Secretary-General's report was prepared. The Advisory Committee had been informed that an addendum would be issued reflecting the amounts approved by the Fifth Committee, recosted at the revised rates (see A/C.5/38/102/Add.1). Any statement approved subsequent to that addendum would be costed at the original rates and adjustments would be made as necessary in the first performance report for the biennium 1984-1985.

110. Subject to those observations the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the revised estimates contained in the Secretary-General's report (see A/C.5/38/SR.71, paras. 15-19).

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II, entitled "Conversion of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization into a specialized agency", submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/38/702/Add.3) concerning agenda item 78 (c)*

111. At the 73rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that, under the terms of the draft resolution in question, the General Assembly would decide that adequate resources should be provided in the regular budget of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for the biennium 1984-1985 to ensure the provision of the necessary funds, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 34/96 of 13 December 1979, for the first General Conference of UNIDO and other costs associated with the conversion of the organization into a specialized agency. The Assembly would further decide that the financial implications arising from paragraph 6 of the draft resolution would be considered at its thirty-ninth session. Accordingly, no request for additional appropriations would be submitted to the General Assembly at its current session.

112. For purposes of information, however, the Secretary-General had indicated in paragraph 5 of his statement (A/C.5/38/103) that it was anticipated that the first General Conference would be held in two parts and that a session of the new Industrial Development Board and of the Programme and Budget Committee would be held in the intervening period. The cost of holding the first General Conference was estimated at \$1,191,700 at 1984 rates based on the assumptions given in the Secretary-General's statement.

113. The Secretary-General had also indicated that the resources already requested for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 would meet the costs of servicing two sessions of the Industrial Development Board and four sessions of its subsidiary organ, the Permanent Committee. In that regard, the Advisory Committee had noted that for servicing sessions of the Industrial Development Board

* Development and international economic co-operation: Industrialization.

and its Permanent Committee, an amount of \$1,958,700 had been requested in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. However, according to the Secretary-General, should the first session of the new Industrial Development Board and its Programme and Budget Committee be convened in 1985 after the nineteenth session of the existing Board, it would be necessary to request additional appropriations to meet the related costs of the first session of the new Board and its Programme and Budget Committee, which were estimated at \$1,257,500 based on document A/C.5/38/103 (see A/C.5/38/SR.73, paras. 3-5).

Consolidated statement of administrative and financial implications in respect of conference-servicing costs

114. In his statement (A/C.5/38/104) the Secretary-General requested an additional appropriation for 1984 of \$8,573,000 under sections 29, 28D, 28I, 31 and income section 1 for the servicing of conferences approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session. On a full-cost basis the requirements in question had been estimated at \$18,972,100, comprising \$15,293,200 for Headquarters, \$2,751,000 for Geneva and \$927,900 for Vienna.

115. At the 71st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that on the basis of its review of the Secretary-General's statement and of the information provided to it, the Committee believed that a slight increase in the percentage of over-programming in a number of areas, combined with an increase in productivity, could result in a reduction of \$1,233,000. Accordingly, the Committee recommended a total appropriation of \$7,340,000, broken down as follows: section 29A, \$3,300,000; section 29B, \$1,900,000; section 29C, \$1,900,000; section 28D, \$200,000; section 28I (unchanged), \$40,000. In addition, an appropriation of \$913,000 (instead of \$1,097,300) would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) (see A/C.5/38/SR.71, paras. 7-9).

Programme, administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/38/L.49 concerning agenda item 34*

116. At the 70th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that the draft resolution in question would request the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of competent experts, a comprehensive study regarding the negative short-term and long-term consequences of the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States of America. However, as indicated in document A/C.5/38/105, because the Secretary-General was not in a position to ascertain the costs involved or the manner in which the request would be implemented, no additional appropriations were requested at that stage. Rather, the Secretary-General intended to seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee to commit the necessary funds after he had determined the manner in which the study would be carried out and the associated costs (see A/C.5/38/SR.70, para. 1).

* The situation in the Middle East.

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