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THE POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1970

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution B contained  
in the report of the Special Political Committee (A/7773, paragraph 18)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Gregor WOSCHNAGG (Austria)

1. At its 1332nd meeting, held on 20 November 1969, the Fifth Committee, in compliance with rule 15<sup>4</sup> of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1262) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution B (A/7773, paragraph 18), which was adopted by the Special Political Committee on 14 November 1969. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions is contained in document A/7775.
2. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that sub-paragraph 12 (b) of the draft resolution would have financial implications in the amount of \$5,000 under section 17 of the budget for the financial year 1970. This amount would be used to meet the cost of travel and subsistence for three such representatives as referred to in paragraph 12 (b), should the General Assembly specifically authorize the Secretary-General to make such payments. In paragraph 6 of its report, the Advisory Committee, bearing in mind the absence of a precedent, agreed that specific authority by the General Assembly is required to enable the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of this nature. Moreover, the Advisory Committee felt that a clear distinction should be drawn

between individuals specifically invited to appear before United Nations bodies in truly exceptional cases, and those who may themselves request to appear and be heard. In the case of the latter, no travel or subsistence expenses have ever been paid by the United Nations, and the Advisory Committee believed that this practice should continue. As for the former, the Advisory Committee recommended that any future invitations be carefully considered on their merits by the competent organ, and that the arrangements envisaged by the Secretary-General in the present case should not be interpreted as establishing a precedent for the future. The Advisory Committee noted that, if the General Assembly decided to proceed along the lines indicated by the Secretary-General, it concurred in the estimate of \$5,000 for this purpose.

3. The financial requirements arising from operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution were estimated by the Secretary-General at \$49,750, comprising \$8,650 under section 3 of the budget for the financial year 1970, \$500 under section 4 and \$40,600 under section 10. These amounts were estimated to be required to meet the cost of the expanded information programme as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report. The Advisory Committee was of the view that some of these costs could be accommodated without the need for additional appropriations and accordingly recommended a reduction of \$4,000 in the estimate under section 10.

4. One delegator was opposed to the estimate in respect of the periodical Objective: Justice on the grounds that apartheid could be dealt with more effectively in other ways. Several delegations were opposed to the proposed payments to representatives of movements such as the one referred to in paragraph 12 (b) of the draft resolution. Some of these delegations considered such payments to establish an unwise precedent. On the other hand, a number of delegations did not regard such payments to establish an undesirable precedent, and were, furthermore, of the opinion that the distinction referred to in paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report should be maintained. Several delegations considered the question of the payments to be subsidiary to the purpose of the draft resolution, that is, the elimination of the policy of apartheid.

5. By a vote of 61 to 4, with 6 abstentions, the Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution B contained in paragraph 18 of the report of the Special Political Committee (A/7773), an additional amount of \$54,750 would be required in 1970, comprising \$8,650 under

section 3, \$500 under section 4, \$36,600 under section 10 and \$5,000 under section 17 of the budget for the financial year 1970. The latter amount, covering the costs of travel of the representatives referred to in paragraph 12 (b) of draft resolution B, would require a specific authorization by the General Assembly to incur these expenditures. The Committee also decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the comments of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 6 of its report (A/7775).

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