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QUESTION OF TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975  
AND MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1974-1977

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II  
recommended by the Fourth Committee (A/9338, para. 17)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernesto C. GARRIDO (Philippines)

1. At its 1613th meeting, on 29 November 1973, the Fifth Committee, in compliance with the provisions of rule 155 of the rules of procedure, considered the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1553 and Corr.1) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II recommended by the Fourth Committee (A/9338, para. 17). The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions is contained in document A/9008/Add.13.
2. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would establish a representative commission of inquiry consisting of five members to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly after due consultations with Member States.
3. In his statement (A/C.5/1553 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General indicated that implementation of the draft resolution would give rise to costs estimated at \$71,000, comprising \$30,000 for the travel costs of the five members and 13 Secretariat staff, for a visit to the region lasting from three to four weeks, \$12,500 for subsistence costs and \$28,500 for other expenditures including the recruitment of six interpreters for 30 days.
4. In its report (A/9008/Add.13), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended that the Secretary-General review the Commission's requirements in supporting staff and, if possible, combine functions so as to reduce the total numbers involved. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee recommended that every effort be made to recruit at Geneva the non-substantive staff with a

view to reducing travel costs. After noting that certain elements in the Secretary-General's statement appeared to have been underestimated, and indicating other areas where savings might be effected, the Advisory Committee concluded that it would be prudent to estimate the cost of the mission at \$70,000, on the understanding that the actual requirements for fares and subsistence might prove less than estimated.

5. One delegation stated that, since in its view the activities proposed in the draft resolution were contrary to the provisions of Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, it wished to express strong reservations concerning the draft resolution and its financial implications. Other delegations disagreed with that point of view and expressed support for the activities proposed in the draft resolution. Several delegations raised questions regarding the actual financial requirements as estimated by the Secretary-General and suggested means by which reductions could be achieved. The representative of the Secretary-General replied to the various questions raised. One delegation stated that, in accordance with the position it had taken on this question in the Fourth Committee, it would not participate in the vote on the financial implications of the draft resolution if they were put to the vote.

6. The Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution II recommended by the Fourth Committee (A/9338, para. 17), an additional appropriation of \$70,000 would be required under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975.

7. One delegation stated that, if the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution had been put to a vote, it would have abstained.

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