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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW  
CONCERNING FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION AMONG STATES

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1970

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution  
recommended by the Sixth Committee (A/7809, para. 40)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Gregor WOSCHNAGG (Austria)

1. At its 1343rd meeting, held on 8 December 1969, the Fifth Committee, in compliance with rule 15<sup>4</sup> of the rules of procedure, considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1273) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/7831) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee (A/7809, para. 40).
2. Under the terms of the draft resolution the General Assembly would:
  - (a) Decide that the Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States, as constituted by General Assembly resolution 2103 (XX), meet in the early months of 1970 at Geneva or in any other suitable place for which the Secretary-General receives an invitation;
  - (b) Request the Secretary-General to co-operate with the Special Committee in its task and to provide all services, documentation and other facilities necessary for its work;

(c) Decide to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-fifth session an item entitled "Consideration of the report on principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations".

3. In his report to the Fifth Committee, the Secretary-General indicated that the cost of convening a meeting of the Special Committee in Geneva for five weeks, from 31 March to 1 May 1970, would amount to \$115,300. This estimate provides for two meetings a day with interpretation into English, French, Russian and Spanish and in-session documentation expected to total 250 pages. The provision of these services would make it necessary to recruit eight interpreters, twenty-five translator/précis-writers, eight revisers, twenty-five stenographer/typists, one secretary, one meetings service officer and three technicians. In addition, eight substantive staff members would be sent from New York to service the meetings. The total cost of convening the 1970 session of the Special Committee in Geneva was therefore estimated as follows:

(a) Staff to be recruited in Geneva	\$ 95,000
(b) In-session documentation, provisional and final summary records	9,000
(c) Travel and subsistence for staff to be sent from New York	11,300
Total	<u>115,300</u>

4. In its report, the Advisory Committee was of the view that some of the conference servicing costs could be absorbed by use of the permanent staff based in Geneva since the dates proposed by the Secretary-General corresponded to a period of relatively light conference activity in Geneva. In view of this, the Advisory Committee believed that the requirements submitted by the Secretary-General with respect to conference servicing staff and in-session documentation could be reduced. It was therefore recommended that the Secretary-General's estimate be reduced to \$100,000.

5. As for the venue of the session of the Special Committee, the Advisory Committee had noted that the draft resolution made provision for an alternative to Geneva should the Secretary-General receive an invitation. It had been informed by the Secretary-General that in such a case, the host Government

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would defray the additional costs as provided in General Assembly resolution 2478 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968.

6. The Advisory Committee was also informed that if the session of the Special Committee were held in New York no budgetary appropriation would be required, in view of the reservoir of conference servicing and facilities available at Headquarters. In view of the considerable efforts deployed in recent years by a number of United Nations bodies to reduce the level of resources required for meetings and conferences, the Advisory Committee considered that such a problem merited the General Assembly's close attention.

7. The Advisory Committee had seen fit to comment on this aspect of the question before it in the light of the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/1273 that the final arrangement with respect to the session of the Special Committee would be subject to the recommendations of the Committee of Conferences, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 2239 (XXI) on 20 December 1966.

8. During the discussions on this item one delegation stated that the Advisory Committee had exceeded its authority by recommending that the session of the Special Committee be held in a place other than Geneva. In this connexion, the same delegation was of the view that the Advisory Committee was not entitled to comment on this aspect since the decision with respect to the site of the session was already taken by the Sixth Committee, which is the competent Committee on this matter.

9. Another delegation, in its explanation of vote after the voting, explained its objection to the proposal of the Sixth Committee with respect to the site of the session of the Special Committee on the grounds that the proposal was not in accordance with recommendations of the Committee on Conferences.

10. By 59 votes to 9, with 7 abstentions, the Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that the adoption of the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee (A/7809, para. 40) would not require any additional provision under the budget for 1970 if the session was held elsewhere than in Geneva. However, if the session is actually held in Geneva, the Fifth Committee wishes to inform the General Assembly that an additional appropriation of \$100,000 would be required under section 2 of the budget for 1970.