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QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions I and II
recommended by the Fourth Committee (A/9892, para. 19)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahmoud M. OSMAN (Egypt)

1. At its 1690th meeting, on 12 December 1974, the Fifth Committee considered the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions I and II recommended by the Fourth Committee in its report regarding agenda item 65 (A/9892).
2. The Committee had before it two statements submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure. In the first of these (A/C.5/1643/Rev.1) the Secretary-General estimated that draft resolution I, if adopted, would require additional appropriations of \$131,000 and \$55,000, respectively, under sections 23 (United Nations Council and Commissioner for Namibia) and 27 (Office of Public Information) of the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975. In his second statement (A/C.5/1644), the Secretary-General estimated that draft resolution II, if adopted, would require an additional appropriation of \$200,000 under section 23 of the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975.
3. The Committee further had before it a report (A/9608/Add.15) of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the statements by the Secretary-General. As regards draft resolution I, the Advisory Committee pointed out that given the contingent nature of the requirements, provisionally estimated by the Secretary-General at \$70,000, in respect of legal fees and studies, they should more appropriately be financed, if and when they arose, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 3196 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1974-1975. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee believed that the tasks requested of the Office of Public Information

in connexion with the implementation of this resolution, for which an amount of \$55,000 was included in the Secretary-General's estimates, could be carried out within available resources for that Office. In the light of these observations, the Advisory Committee concluded that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution I, an additional appropriation of \$61,000 would be required under section 23 for the biennium 1974-1975.

4. With reference to the setting up of a United Nations radio transmitter in an African State, the Secretary-General had proposed to undertake a thorough study, to be submitted to the United Nations Council for Namibia, and to transmit the related administrative and financial implications to the Advisory Committee for its consideration under the terms of General Assembly resolution 3196 (XXVIII) on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1974-1975. The Advisory Committee suggested, in this connexion, the possibility that an African country or countries might be prepared to offer the United Nations the use of existing transmitter facilities for this purpose.

5. As regards draft resolution II, the Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General had indicated in his report on the United Nations Fund for Namibia (A/9725 and Corr.1), which had been considered by the Fourth Committee, that a further subvention to the Fund of \$200,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations was indispensable to ensure that commitments entered into by the Secretary-General in respect of programmes related to Namibia were honoured. The Advisory Committee pointed out that the financial assumptions underlying that recommendation by the Secretary-General had not been placed before the Fifth Committee, which was thus unable to determine whether the request for funds corresponded to actual requirements and was thus prevented from fully exercising its functions. As the amount of the subvention from the regular budget was explicitly indicated in the draft resolution, the Advisory Committee concluded that the adoption of draft resolution II by the General Assembly would require an additional appropriation of \$200,000 under section 23 of the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975.

6. One representative indicated that he did not agree with the comment made by the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 4 of its report (A/9608/Add.15), that the number of substantive officers accompanying the Council on its journeys might be reduced. In the view of his delegation, the number of officers accompanying the Council was already at a minimum and could not be reduced. It was also disappointed at the reduction proposed by the Advisory Committee in respect of the requirements of the Office of Public Information and requested assurance that the Secretary-General would, even in the absence of the appropriation he had requested, ensure that the activities would be implemented within available resources.

7. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that the General Assembly, by adopting the draft resolution, would thereby approve the related programme of work. Therefore, the Office of Public Information would implement it and would do so within available credits; only if this were not possible would the Secretary-General find it necessary to request additional credits at the appropriate time.

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

8. The Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to inform the General Assembly that:

(a) Should draft resolution I recommended by the Fourth Committee (A/9892) be adopted, an additional appropriation of \$61,000 will be required under section 23 of the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975, it being understood that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3196 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1974-1975 will be invoked as necessary in relation to the activities referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/9608/Add.15);

(b) Should draft resolution II recommended by the Fourth Committee (A/9892) be adopted, an additional appropriation of \$200,000 will be required under section 23 of the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975.
