



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/34/39
15 November 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 97

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

First-class travel in the United Nations organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, at its thirty-second session, adopted resolution 32/198, the operative paragraphs of which are as follows:

"2. Decides that the principle of seeking the most economical air fare structures shall be implemented as follows:

"(a) The Secretary-General and one representative of each Member State attending regular, special or emergency special sessions of the General Assembly shall be entitled to first-class travel;

"(b) Other persons previously entitled to first-class travel under General Assembly resolutions 2245 (XXI) and 3198 (XXVIII) and those chairmen of intergovernmental committees at present entitled to travel paid by the United Nations shall be entitled to first-class travel only when the duration of a particular flight exceeds nine hours (by the most direct and economical route), including scheduled stops for such purposes as change of planes or refuelling, but excluding travel time to and from airports;

"(c) Payment by the United Nations for travel expenses in all other cases shall be limited to the least costly air-fare structure regularly available, or its equivalent, by recognized public carrier via the shortest and most direct route;

"3. Authorizes the Secretary-General to exercise his discretion in making exceptions in the most exigent circumstances to allow first-class travel on a case-by-case basis;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on the implementation of the present resolution, noting all exceptions made under paragraph 3 above, the reasons therefor, and the savings achieved through utilization of economy and other air fares."

2. Responding to the above-mentioned resolution, the present report, covering the period 1 October 1978 through 30 September 1979, is submitted to the General Assembly.

3. The total savings accrued during that period as a result of the implementation of resolution 32/198 amounted to \$195,261.

4. The Secretary-General exercised his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class travel in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 32/198 in the following cases:

(a) Approval to travel first class was accorded to a former President of the General Assembly travelling to participate in the meeting of an expert group;

(b) First-class travel was arranged for two guests of the Special Committee against Apartheid to attend the presentation ceremony of a gold medal to each of them at the special meeting of the General Assembly on 11 October 1978;

(c) Four persons (of whom one was a staff member and three were members of subsidiary organs) were authorized to travel first class on the grounds of physical disability, on the recommendation of the Medical Service;

(d) The travel by first class in respect of four senior officials was authorized owing to the urgency of travel in connexion with their official functions;

(e) In nine cases, first-class travel was authorized retroactively when it was determined that special circumstances existed;

(f) Six persons travelled by first class to accompany the Secretary-General for official work during the flights;

(g) First-class travel continued to be authorized for one immediate aide of the Secretary-General accompanying him during his official travels for security purposes.

5. Details of the individual exceptions referred to above have been provided to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.
