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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution  
contained in document A/C.2/34/L.51

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153  
of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied  
Arab territories

1. The Second Committee at its 53rd meeting held on 28 November 1979, adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.51. It had before it a statement of financial implications (A/C.2/34/L.78).
2. In paragraph 6 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.51, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a report taking into consideration the provisions of paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 32/161.
3. It will be recalled that in paragraph 2 of resolution 32/161, the General Assembly noted that, owing to the time constraint, incomplete coverage and technical and other limitations, a previous report 1/ did not cover all pertinent losses, such as:
  - (a) The adverse economic effects extending beyond the year 1975;
  - (b) Losses in the Arab territories still under Israeli occupation;
  - (c) Human and military losses;

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1/ A/32/204.

(d) The loss of and damage to items of the national, religious and cultural heritage;

(e) Losses in the traditional sectors, including the retail trading, small industries and farming sectors;

(f) The full impact on the development process of the Arab States, territories and peoples subjected to Israeli aggression and occupation.

4. It has been determined that, in view of the nature of the report that would now be requested by the General Assembly, should it adopt the draft resolution, the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) will have to be entrusted with its preparation on the understanding that the United Nations Agencies concerned and other departments of the United Nations Secretariat would assist the Commission with respect to those aspects of the study falling directly in their respective areas. Because of ECWA's limited resources for the implementation of its work programme, consultant services would be required for this substantial task. However, in view of ECWA's imminent move to Baghdad, it has been rather difficult for the Secretariat to provide meaningful estimates of financial implications.

5. It will be recalled that for the preparation of the previous report 1/ 14 work-months of Professional services at the P-5 level and seven work-months of secretarial assistance were requested. 2/ Therefore, it is proposed that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution in document A/C.2/34/L.51, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$77,750 be approved under section 14, ECWA, of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 to cover the cost of 14 work-months of consultant services (\$70,000) and seven work-months of temporary assistance at the local level (\$7,750). This proposal is made on the understanding that the situation would be reviewed by the Secretary-General in the context of the preparation of the first performance report for the biennium 1980-1981, with a view to determining whether the above preliminary estimate is adequate.

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2/ A/C.5/1759.