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FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 98 and 39 (b)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE
INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A
and B recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee (A/34/29, para. 21)

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

1. The First Committee, at its 50th meeting held on 30 November 1979, adopted the draft resolutions A and B contained in document A/34/29. It had before it a statement of financial implications (A/C.1/34/L.53).

2. Under the terms of the draft resolutions the General Assembly, inter alia, would:

Renew the general mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee;

Decide to convene a conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo, Sri Lanka;

Request the Ad Hoc Committee to undertake the preparatory work for the convening of the Conference and to hold its preparatory sessions at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at least two such sessions, including the final one, in Mauritius;

Request the Secretary-General to make the necessary provision for the Conference, including the essential background information, relevant documentation and summary records, and to render all necessary assistance to the expanded Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records and interpretation in the languages of the General Assembly, as required.

3. In compliance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/140, calculations of the costs of the Conference and the required preparatory meetings are made on the basis that such meetings will be held at the location of the substantive secretariat, namely, Headquarters, New York. Consequently, any additional costs arising from the holding of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean undertaking preparatory work for the Conference and the Conference on the Indian Ocean itself away from Headquarters will be borne by the host country under the provisions of the same resolution.

Conference servicing

4. The assumptions under which the Secretary-General would provide services to the Ad Hoc Committee and the Conference are indicated below.

(a) Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

- (1) The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean would hold three sessions during 1980 and two in 1981.
- (2) The duration would be one week for the first session, two weeks for the second session, three weeks for the third session and two weeks each for the fourth and fifth sessions.
- (3) Interpretation would be provided in six languages for two meetings daily.
- (4) Documentation for the combined sessions would be 350 pages for pre-session, 375 pages for in-session and 275 pages for post-session documentation in 1980, and 400, 350 and 225 pages respectively in 1981.

(b) United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean

- (1) The Conference would meet for four weeks in 1981.
- (2) Four meetings per day for the first 1 1/2 weeks and six meetings per day for the remainder of the Conference, with interpretation in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).
- (3) Documentation would be provided in six languages for pre-session (200 pages), in-session (350 pages) and post-session (150 pages) documentation.

5. While the draft resolutions call for the provision of summary records, attention is drawn to the decision of the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee 1/ at its 76th meeting on 23 November 1979. At this meeting, the General Assembly decided, for an experimental period of one year, to

1/ A/34/625.

dispense with the provision of summary records to its subsidiary organs. Consequently, no summary records will be provided to the Ad Hoc Committee during 1980. The provision of summary records to the Ad Hoc Committee and the Conference in 1981 will depend on decisions to be taken after the experimental period.

6. Accordingly, the costs of conference servicing will be as follows:

| | <u>Preparatory sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean</u> | | | <u>Conference on the Indian Ocean</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------|---|--------------|
| | <u>1980 (Three sessions)</u> | <u>1981 (Two sessions)</u> | <u>Total</u> | | |
| 1. Interpretation | 177,200 | 118,200 | 295,400 | 313,100 | 608,500 |
| 2. Translation, revision and typing | 381,800 | 370,800 | 752,600 | 259,100 | 1,011,700 |
| 3. Reproduction and distribution | 39,500 | 38,500 | 78,000 | 27,600 | 105,600 |
| 4. Travel and other costs | 180,700 | 100,100 | 280,800 | 118,600 | 399,400 |
| 5. General Services (sound engineering, security and general operating expenses) | 30,000 | 20,000 | 50,000 | 55,500 | 105,000 |
| Total | 809,200 | 647,600 | 1,456,800 | 773,900 | 2,230,700 |
| Inflation | - | 38,800 | 38,800 | 46,400 | 85,200 |
| Total Conference Services | 809,200 | 686,400 | 1,495,600 | 820,300 | 2,315,900 |

Public information

7. To publicize the Conference on the Indian Ocean and the meetings of the preparatory committee, the Department of Public Information would require additional staff as follows:

- One P-4 for 4 weeks;
- One P-3 for 12 weeks;
- One G-5 for 4 weeks;
- One G-4/1 for 4 weeks.

The cost of this staff is estimated in an amount of \$12,100. The publication and distribution of booklets in the official languages would also require an additional appropriation amounting to \$15,000.

Department of Political and Security Council Affairs

8. Temporary assistance at the P-4 level would be required for a period of six months each in 1980 and 1981 to assist in the preparatory work for the Conference. The associated salary cost is estimated at \$40,500.

Conference accommodation

9. Attention is drawn to paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution B, by which the General Assembly would, inter alia:

Decide to enlarge the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean by the addition of new members to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee;

Invite the permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean referred to in paragraph 12 (c) of the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean that have not yet done so to serve on the expanded Ad Hoc Committee.

10. In view of the possible conference servicing implications of these elements of the resolution, the General Assembly should be made aware that an increase by six or more members would require a large conference room for meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee, contrary to the past, when it could be accommodated in small conference rooms. As a consequence of the heavy meeting programme, in particular that of bodies requiring large conference rooms, under the calendar of conferences which has been approved by the General Assembly (see document A/34/625), it might become extremely difficult, if not impossible, to accommodate the Committee at its established headquarters, New York, in certain periods. Difficulties in the scheduling, management and servicing of the meetings, to which the Committee on Conferences drew the attention of the Assembly (see para. 38 of A/34/32), are likely to be encountered.

11. The estimated costs for conference servicing indicated in paragraph 6 above to be \$2,315,900 are based on full cost, at current rates. Towards the close of the present session of the General Assembly, when the definitive pattern of conferences for 1980 is considered, it will be indicated in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements to be submitted at that time, to what extent the costs in respect of conference servicing dealt with in this document can be absorbed within existing resources. Thus, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolutions contained in document A/34/29, paragraph 21 additional appropriations will be required under section 27 for temporary assistance in the amount of \$12,100 and for publication and distribution of documents in the amount of \$15,000 for a total of \$27,100 and under section 2B for temporary assistance in the amount of \$40,500.
