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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.53

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

1. The Second Committee, at its 48th meeting held on 23 November 1979, adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.53. It had before it a statement of financial implications (A/C.2/34/L.56).
2. In paragraph 2 of the draft resolution the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), would be requested to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a comprehensive and analytical report on the social and economic impact of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.
3. The report requested in the draft resolution would require a more intensive deployment of expertise than the report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories (A/34/536 and Corr.1), which was submitted to the General Assembly as requested in its resolution 32/171.
4. Moreover, the report would have to be prepared under extremely difficult constraints of time and place. These constraints would not permit the undertaking of time-consuming intensive basic research and surveys. The report would be based necessarily on the material available within the United Nations system and on information to the extent that it is obtainable in the respective countries. All Governments concerned would be requested to make available whatever information they have and to co-operate in providing and obtaining other information as needed.

Available written material would have to be supplemented through personal interviews and other direct inquiries, which will necessitate considerable field work.

5. If permission to visit the occupied territories were not granted, the inquiry would not be able to provide a first-hand account of the social and economic impacts. The report would interpret the impact only in a general sense and based on several indicators that would have to be established on the basis of material that could be obtained in other countries concerned.

6. In view of the very broad scope of the report now being requested, and in order to ensure a balanced expert view, a team of three consultants, comprising a physical planner, an economist and a sociologist, would be required to discharge properly the task. Since the team of consultants would need to interview the local population as well as discuss the relevant issues with key community leaders and government officials, proper communication in the Arabic language must be assured. As it may not be possible to find experts with sufficient knowledge of Arabic, provision is to be made for interpreters and translators.

7. It is envisaged that the task would take a total of 14 work-months of consultant services. For the purpose of collecting data, including the interview of witnesses, one of the consultants, the team leader, would make two trips to the countries concerned in the Middle East, while the two other consultants would make one trip. They would be assisted during the trips in the countries concerned by an officer from UNRWA or ECWA, as well as by three interpreters since each consultant may have to concentrate on different aspects of the inquiry.

8. The related costs are summarized as follows:

		<u>Costs</u>
<u>Consultants</u>		
14 work-months including travel and subsistence		\$ 70,000
<u>UNRWA/ECWA officer</u>		
Travel and subsistence		5,500
<u>Interpreters</u>		
Salary	24,700	
Travel and subsistence	<u>7,000</u>	31,700
<u>Contractual translation to English of collected basic material</u>		
400 pages from Arabic and 100 pages from Hebrew	12,000	<u>12,000</u>
Total		<u>\$119,200</u>

9. In summary, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution in document A/C.2/34/L.53, total additional appropriations in the amount of \$119,200 would be required under the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in section 19 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.

10. In addition, provision in the amount of \$20,300 would have to be made under section for the processing of the experts' report (50 pages) in six languages as follows:

Processing of report

	<u>Number of staff</u>	<u>Number of days</u>	<u>Daily rate</u> \$	<u>Total</u> \$
Translation	10	5	171	8,550
Revision	5	5	190	4,750
Typing	11	5	69	3,800
				<u>17,100</u>
Reproduction and distribution				<u>3,200</u>
Total				\$20,300

11. The conference servicing requirements indicated above have been estimated on a "full costing" basis, in the sense that all incremental costs have been estimated as "non-absorbable". To the extent that any additional appropriations might be required, this will be reflected in the consolidated report now being prepared to reflect any additional requirements under the section of the budget related to the Department of Conference Services.