



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/7/Add.12
30 November 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
Agenda items 48, 49 and 98

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING
THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT
TELEVISION BROADCASTING

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II
recommended by the Special Political Committee (A/34/664, para. 10)

Thirteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II on the second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/C.5/34/45), recommended by the Special Political Committee in paragraph 10 of its report (A/34/664).
2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution the Secretary-General is requested "to make, within the ceiling for expenditure established for the Conference, the necessary organizational and administrative arrangements as set out in the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. 1/ The Conference is scheduled to be held in the latter half of 1982.
3. The Secretary-General estimates the ceilings for the cost of the Conference at \$2,058,500 or \$2,128,400, depending on whether the Conference is to last two

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session,
Supplement No. 20 (A/34/20), paras. 84-115.

or three weeks. 2/ The difference between the two amounts, i.e., \$69,900 is attributable to the additional cost of interpretation services for a third week of the Conference. The estimates represent the total cost over the three-year period 1980-1982. 3/ They include \$1,433,500 for the substantive secretariat and \$625,000 or \$694,900 for conference servicing costs (on a full-cost basis), depending on whether the Conference will last two or three weeks. In document A/C.5/34/45 the Secretary-General is not seeking appropriations for conference servicing since he will deal with those requirements in the context of the consolidated statements of conference servicing costs for 1981 and 1982 to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions respectively (para. 7).

4. Upon inquiry the Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the above estimates constituted the maximum levels of expenditure for the Conference.

5. The estimate of \$1,433,500 for the substantive secretariat in 1980-1982 is broken down as follows.

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980-1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Substantive secretariat</u>					
Salaries and common staff costs of 13 additional posts (8 Professional and above, and 5 General Service) <u>a/</u>	-	392,300	392,300	438,000	830,300
Consultancy services for a total of 60 work months	139,100	158,800	297,900	36,100	334,000
Travel and subsistence	26,800	34,000	60,800	12,000	72,800
Regional seminars	-	34,000	34,000	..	34,000
Publicity activities	-	28,300	28,300	30,100	58,400
Hospitality	..	2,300	2,300	3,600	5,900
Subtotal	165,900	649,700	815,600	519,800	1,335,700
<u>General operating expenses</u>	..	47,600	47,600	50,500	98,100
Total	165,900	697,300	863,200	570,300	1,433,800

a/ All Professional and above posts and three General Service posts (including one at the Principal level) are for 18 months each from 1 April 1981 to 30 September 1982. two General Service posts are for 12 months each from 1 October 1981 to 30 September 1982.

2/ The Preparatory Committee for the Conference, which requested the Secretary-General to provide estimates for this option, will decide the duration of the Conference at its meeting in summer 1980.

3/ For 1982, the Secretary-General has applied an inflation rate of 6 per cent (A/C.5/34/45, para. 6).

/...

6. On that basis, the additional resources requested by the Secretary-General for 1980-1981 amount to \$863,200 (net of staff assessment), consisting of \$815,600 under section 2B for substantive activities of the Outer Space Affairs Division and \$47,600 under section 28D for related general operating expenses.

7. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the Outer Space Affairs Division would be able to absorb the preliminary work for the Conference in 1980 from within established resources and that the need for additional temporary staff would commence in spring 1981. They also indicated that the bulk of the staffing resources requested would be for 18 months from 1 April 1981 to 30 September 1982, predicated on the target date for the submission of national papers to be received by the Secretary-General of the Conference (spring 1981) and for the convening of the Conference in August 1982.

8. The Outer Space Affairs Division currently has available to it 132 Professional work-months a year, i.e., 264 work-months for the biennium. In paragraph 11 of his report, the Secretary-General describes the range of activities undertaken by the Division. Annex II to his report provides a detailed distribution of Professional staff resources required for the preparation of the Conference. The Secretary-General estimates that the task would require 222 work-months (20 in 1980, 100 in 1981 and 102 in 1982) and that the Division would be able to absorb a total of 78 work-months (20 in 1980, 27 in 1981 and 31 in 1982) (para. 12).

9. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee points out that the Secretary-General has not made clear the relationship between the request for additional resources and the contribution to be made by the existing staff of the Outer Space Affairs Division to the preparation of the Conference. Similarly, the related workload information contained in the report is not placed in the context of the over-all programme of work of the Division in 1980-1981. The Committee recalls the statement in the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 under subprogramme 2 on strategy and output that upon decision by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to endorse the convening of the Conference preparation for documentation input for the Conference will receive priority. ^{4/} Given that situation, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that the absorptive capacity available to the Secretary-General for 1980-1981 is limited to the total of 47 work-months stated by him.

10. The temporary staffing resources requested by the Secretary-General consist of:

One ASG post for the Secretary-General of the Conference (para. 9),

Three D-1 posts for three Deputy Secretaries-General of the Conference (para. 9),

^{4/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/33/6/Rev.1), vol. I, para. 4.38.

One P-5 post for a special assistant to the Secretary-General of the Conference (para. 13 (a)),

One P-4/P-5 post for a technical officer (para. 13 (b)),

One P-3 post for a scientific editor (para. 13 (c)),

One P-3 post for an administrative and financial officer (para. 13 (d)), and

Five GS posts, including one at the Principal level (para. 14).

In this connexion, the Committee notes that the Outer Space Affairs Division would provide the Executive Secretary and the secretariat of the Conference (para. 8 (b)).

11. The Advisory Committee inquired into the need for three deputy secretaries-general of the conference "to assist in the co-ordination of the work of the consultants, preparation of the national papers and background papers, and drafting of the final report" (para. 9). Considering the programme of work envisaged and the substantive support to be provided by the Outer Space Affairs Division, and bearing in mind that no previous United Nations conference had three Deputy Secretaries-General the Committee is not convinced that the proposed arrangement is warranted.

12. The Committee is nevertheless aware that the proposal to appoint three Deputy Secretaries-General of the Conference was contained in the recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space ^{5/} and endorsed by the Special Political Committee. In response to inquiries the Committee was informed that the Secretary-General intended to recruit the three Deputy Secretaries-General from outside. In view of the availability of internal expertise, the Committee is of the opinion that efforts should be made to have some of these functions undertaken by staff members already serving with the Secretariat.

13. Considering that the Conference secretariat will include three Deputy Secretaries General, and bearing in mind the professional staff resources already available to the Division, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that there is need for one technical officer at the P-4/P-5 level to perform the functions described in paragraph 13 (b) of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/45). Accordingly the Committee cannot support this request.

14. The Committee also believes that the need for one P-3 post to accommodate an administrative and financial officer for the Conference will only arise in 1982. Accordingly it recommends that no provision need be made for this post in 1981.

^{5/} Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/34/20), para. 111 (ii).

15. In line with its recommendations in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, and in view of the level of General Service resources already available in the Outer Space Affairs Division, the Committee recommends that recruitment of one of the two G-3/4 posts which the Secretary-General proposes to fill as of 1 October 1981 be deferred and that the need for that post in 1982 be reviewed in the context of requirements in the biennium 1982-1983.

16. The Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 13 to 15 above would entail a reduction in the estimate for additional temporary posts by \$79,800. The consequential reduction in general operating expenses under section 28D would amount to \$10,000.

17. As indicated in the table following paragraph 5 above, the estimate of \$334,000 for consultants, consists of \$297,900 for 1980-1981 (\$139,100 in 1980 and \$158,800 in 1981) and \$36,100 in 1982. It provides for 60 work-months of consultancy services: 26 in 1980, 28 in 1981 and 6 in 1982 (annex III). The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed total number of work-months reflects the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that the Secretary-General take into account the cost of consultancy services "for a maximum of 60 work-months". 6/ The breakdown of consultancy services by activity in annex III shows that half of the total number of work months is earmarked for the preparation of background papers. The Committee points out that the level and scope of this activity cannot be fully determined in advance of the consideration of the list of topics for background papers by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (designated as the advisory committee to the Preparatory Committee) at its session early in 1980. 7/ On that basis, the Committee is not convinced that the Secretary-General's estimate of the work-months required has been fully justified. The Committee also notes from annex III that several of the headings for background papers to be prepared by the consultants fall within the competence of the Outer Space Affairs Division. In the circumstances, and bearing in mind the observation in paragraph 9 above that the Division has the capacity to absorb more additional work than has been estimated by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate of \$297,900 for consultants be reduced to \$250,000, i.e. by \$47,900.

18. The reductions in temporary staff resources and consultancy services recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 16 and 17 above amount to \$137,700. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution II recommended by the Special Political Committee in paragraph 10 of its report (A/34/664), a total net additional appropriation of \$725,500 would be required in the programme budget for 1980-1981 consisting of \$687,900 under section 2B and \$37,600 under section 28D. Additional provision of \$91,500 would also have to be made under section 31 to cover the related staff assessment, to be offset by an increase in the same amount in the estimate of income from staff assessment under income section 1.

6/ Ibid., para. 111 (viii).

7/ Ibid., para. 101 (ii).