



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/7/Add.23
14 December 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
Agenda items 53 and 98

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II
recommended by the Special Political Committee (A/34/808, para. 15)

Twenty-fourth 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 (A/C.5/34/81), 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 questions relating to information, recommended by the Special Political Committee (A/34/808).
2. The Secretary-General estimates the substantive requirements related to this draft resolution at \$1,347,700, net of staff assessment, under section 27A. He estimates the related conference-servicing costs, on a full-cost basis, at \$661,200 (\$330,600 in 1980 and \$330,600 in 1981). With regard to conference-servicing costs for 1980, the Secretary-General will review actual requirements in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted to him towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly.
3. In paragraph 2 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the financial implications relate to six operative paragraphs of the draft resolution, namely, operative paragraphs 1, 3, 7, 11, 12 and 13. He also states that the implementation of other operative paragraphs will give rise to an additional workload, but that he intends to absorb this from within the resources to be made available to him under section 27.
4. The Secretary-General relates the estimates to the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution as follows:

(In United States dollars)

Operative paragraph of
draft resolution B
(A/34/808)

	Purpose	Estimate
1	Meetings of the United Nations Committee on Information, three sessions of two weeks each year (A/C.5/34/81, paras. 3-6)	<u>a/</u>
2	Conversion of two temporary posts in support of the Committee to established posts (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 7 and 8)	no additional cost
7	Participation of the Committee in the work of the intergovernmental planning Conference on Communication Development in 1980 (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 9 and 10)	4,600
11	Adaptation and production of information material in other official languages (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 11-15)	476,300
12	Measures relating to the issue of the <u>United Nations Chronicle</u> (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 16-18)	466,800
13	Contribution from the budget of the United Nations towards the financing of <u>Development Forum</u> (<u>ibid.</u> , paras. 19-23)	<u>400,000</u>
	Total	1,347,700

a/ The financial implications relate to the conference-servicing costs, estimated at \$661,200 on a full-cost basis (see para. 2 above).

5. In paragraph 8 of his statement, the Secretary-General requests that the two temporary posts (one P-4 and one General Service) currently providing support for the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities be converted to established posts, at no additional cost. The Advisory Committee recalled that, in paragraph 27.5 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, it recommended that the decision to convert the two posts in question be deferred until after the General Assembly had determined the future mandate and programme of work of the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities. 1/ Considering that, pursuant to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the Assembly would decide to maintain the

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7).

Committee (and rename it the Committee on Information), the Advisory Committee recommends that the request be approved.

6. In paragraph 10 of his statement, the Secretary-General estimates at \$4,600 the financial implications of operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution (see para. 4 above). This estimate relates to travel and subsistence costs for the Chairman, the Rapporteur and the Secretary of the Committee on Information to attend the Intergovernmental Planning Conference on Communication Development at Paris in 1980. The Advisory Committee, noting that the recommendation contained in operative paragraph 7 relates to "the undertaking of the necessary consultations concerning the participation of the Committee in the work of that Conference", questions the need for three persons to travel to Paris. The Committee recommends that the travel costs in question be absorbed from within the resources to be made available under section 27 of the programme budget for 1980-1981.

7. In operative paragraph 1 (a) of section II of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested to take necessary measures immediately to ensure a balance in the use of official languages through the establishment of a small adaptation unit. The Secretary-General estimates the financial implications of this request at \$476,300, as follows:

(In United States dollars)

	\$
(a) Five P-3 and six General Service posts to be established for the production of Arabic, French and Spanish printed information materials <u>a/</u> (para. 2, sect. II).	324,400
(b) One P-4 and one General Service post to be established for the preparation, on a weekly basis, of an Arabic television news package and a television news programme for francophone Africa (para. 3, sect. II)	76,900
(c) The printing and reproduction of the additional material produced in Arabic, French and Spanish (including a provision to meet requests from the information centres) (para. 4, sect. II).	75,000
Total	<u>476,300</u>

The Advisory Committee has no objection to this request.

a/ According to the Secretary-General, the task would require three teams of writer/adapters, consisting of two P-3 and two General Service staff each; however, he would be able to redeploy one P-3 post from within the resources to be made available to him for 1980-1981 under section 27.

/...

8. In operative paragraph 2 of section II of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested to take the necessary measures to issue the United Nations Chronicle again on a monthly basis, to ensure its simultaneous publication in the English, French and Spanish languages, and also to issue it in Arabic. The Secretary-General estimates that the implementation of this request would entail an additional expenditure of \$466,800. This amount consists of:

(a) \$344,300 for external printing, of which \$250,800 relates to the Arabic edition;

(b) \$91,800 for the restoration of one P-2 and one General Service post ^{2/} which were surrendered in 1979 following the decision by the General Assembly to change the periodicity of the United Nations Chronicle from a monthly to a quarterly publication (A/C.5/34/81, para. 17);

(c) \$30,700 for a new P-2 post to be established for a proofreader for the Arabic edition.

9. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's statement that the writer/adapters referred to in paragraph 7 above (five P-3 and six General Service posts) would have as one of their primary responsibilities the adaptation and translation of the United Nations Chronicle for the Arabic, French and Spanish editions. In the circumstances, the Committee is not convinced that there is also need to restore the P-2 post and the General Service post referred to in paragraph 8 (b) above. The Committee recommends that the related estimate of \$91,800 be disallowed. The Committee has no objection to the request for a new P-2 post for an Arabic proofreader.

10. Under the terms of operative paragraph 3 of section II of draft resolution II (A/34/808, para. 15), the General Assembly would affirm the importance of the role played by the periodical Development Forum in disseminating the objectives of the new international economic order and would decide that the continued publication of Development Forum as an interagency project was essential and that the United Nations participation in the production of the publication should be ensured. As indicated in paragraph 4 above, the Secretary-General proposes the allocation of \$400,000 from the regular budget of the Organization for that purpose. In paragraphs 20 to 22 of his statement, he reviews the history of Development Forum since it was launched in 1972 on the basis of voluntary contributions, and refers to the impending financial difficulties that prompted the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) in 1979 to instruct the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) to examine the situation with a view to strengthening the financial and organizational structures of the publication by devising "a system of predictable voluntary contributions based on fixed criteria, to be implemented from 1982 and beyond" (A/C.5/34/81, para. 21). The Secretary-General reports that in the meantime, ACC has urged the organizations of the United Nations system in a position to do so to contribute to the financing of the publication for 1980 and 1981.

^{2/} The Advisory Committee was informed that the estimate for the P-2 post was calculated on the basis of applying the 5 per cent turnover deduction used for continuing posts.

11. In paragraph 23, the Secretary-General states that, in the opinion of ACC, an amount of \$400,000 is a reasonable contribution from the United Nations towards the financing of Development Forum, to be made available for this purpose within the context of a jointly financed activity under the auspices of ACC. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the level of subsidy by the Organization for 1980-1981 was in accordance with a plan devised by JUNIC on the allocation of costs and expected income. The representatives of the Secretary-General have informed the Advisory Committee that the JUNIC plan is as follows:

(In United States dollars)

<u>Development Forum (general edition) - expected income plan</u>	<u>1980-1981</u>			
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1982</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
United Nations	200 000	200 000	400 000	220 000
United Nations organizations <u>a/</u>	250 000	267 000	517 000	285 600
United Nations University	200 000	200 000	400 000	220 000
	650 000	667 000	1 317 000	725 600
Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information <u>b/</u>	180 000	100 000	280 000	-
Subscriptions	40 000	90 000	130 000	100 000
Estimated contribution from business edition	65 000	75 000	140 000	90 000
Total estimated income	935 000	932 000	1 867 000	915 600
Total estimated expenditure	1 000 000	1 100 000	2 100 000	1 275 000
<u>Deficit</u>	65 000	168 000	233 000	359 400

a/ Estimated income based on initial indications, including 10 per cent correction for inflation:

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980-1981</u>	<u>1982</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
UNDP	60 000	66 000	126 000	72 600
UNICEF	25 000	27 500	52 500	30 200
UNFPA	80 000	80 000	160 000	80 000
UNEP	20 000	22 000	42 000	24 200
IBRD	60 000	66 000	126 000	72 600
WHO	5 000	5 500	10 500	6 000
	250 000	267 000	517 000	285 600

b/ The Member States, traditionally sponsoring the Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information, have made it clear that they see the publication as a full United Nations system periodical, for which the costs should be covered by the respective budgets of the organizations of the system.

/...

12. The Advisory Committee understands that the above plan is based on the assumption that 10 issues of Development Forum will be published each year in three languages (50,000 copies in English, 22,000 in French and 11,000 in Spanish per issue).

13. The representatives of the Secretary-General were unable to provide the Advisory Committee with a detailed budget of Development Forum. The Committee notes that, under the expected income plan as worked out by JUNIC (see para. 11 above), limited support is to be provided by other United Nations agencies in spite of the recommendation contained in operative paragraph 3 of section II of the draft resolution that the publication of Development Forum continue "as an interagency project". In the circumstances, the Committee believes that the Secretary-General should submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, which would contain an analysis of the criteria on which the proposed plan of financing is based, and also full budget details for 1980 and estimates for 1981. Pending consideration of that report by the Assembly at its next session, the Advisory Committee recommends that a lump-sum amount of \$150,000 be appropriated under section 27 of the programme budget for 1980-1981 by way of a subvention to Development Forum in 1980.

14. The Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 6, 9 and 13 above would reduce the Secretary-General's estimates of \$1,347,700 under section 27A by \$346,400, to \$1,001,300. The consequential reduction under section 31 (staff assessment) and income section 1 would be \$17,600.

15. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that should it adopt draft resolution II recommended by the Special Political Committee (A/34/808, para. 15), additional appropriations totalling \$1,001,300 would be required under section 27A of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. An additional appropriation of \$94,800 would also be required under section 31 (staff assessment) and the estimate of income under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, would have to be increased by \$94,800.

16. The related conference-servicing costs would amount to \$661,200 on a full-cost basis (\$330,600 in 1980 and \$330,600 in 1981). The costs in 1980 would be reflected, to the extent necessary, in the Secretary-General's consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its thirty-fourth session.
