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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Report of the Committee on Conferences

Programme budget implications of holding a special session of the International Civil Service Commission

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

A. Introduction

1. The Executive Secretary of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), in a letter addressed to the Committee on Conferences dated 13 August 1990 ^{1/} requested that arrangements be made to hold a special session of the Commission from 5 to 9 November 1990. This request constitutes an exception to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243 which states that "no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly".
2. The Committee on Conferences at its 317th meeting, on 23 August 1990, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it authorize ICSC to hold the special session at Headquarters from 5 to 9 November 1990 on the understanding that (a) meetings would be accommodated as facilities and services became available so that the activities of the General Assembly itself were not adversely affected and (b) that a statement of programme budget implications would be submitted to the Assembly in accordance with existing procedures. ^{2/}

B. Background to the request by ICSC

3. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/198, section I D, paragraph 4, had instructed the Commission to complete as soon as possible, and preferably by the end of 1991, a round of place-to-place surveys, on the understanding that the surveys at the seven headquarters duty stations and at other duty stations with more than 150 Professional staff members would be finalized by the end of 1990.

4. The place-to-place surveys at headquarters duty stations and Washington are currently under way and will be examined by the Commission's Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions (ACPAQ) at a special session to be held from 15 to 19 October in New York. The recommendations of ACPAQ on the surveys, must then be considered and approved by the Commission before results are implemented. It is only at that stage that the surveys at the headquarters locations are considered to be completed.

C. Activities by which the proposed recommendation would be implemented

5. Should the General Assembly decide to approve the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences, a special session of ICSC would be held from 5 to 9 November 1990 in New York to consider the recommendations of ACPAQ on the results of the surveys mentioned in paragraph 3 above.

6. It is assumed that the related conference services would be provided for the session on the following basis:

(a) The Commission would hold two meetings a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon;

(b) Interpretation would be provided in four official languages of the General Assembly (English, French, Russian and Spanish);

(c) There would be a total of 60 pages (8 documents) of documentation to be issued in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

7. It is envisaged that the necessary substantive support services to the Commission would be provided by the regular staff of the Commission's secretariat. The special session would also entail payment of travel costs and daily subsistence allowance for the members of the Commission.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

8. The requirements for holding the special session have been estimated as follows:

(a) Conference-servicing costs (New York, one week):

	\$	\$
(i) <u>Pre-session documentation</u>		
(40 pages, 4 documents: E,F,R,S)	26 600	
(ii) <u>In-session documentation</u>		
(20 pages, 4 documents: E,F,R,S)	13 900	
(iii) <u>Meeting servicing</u>		
(Interpretation: E,F,R,S)	27 800	
Total (a)		68 300

(b) Substantive costs

Travel and daily subsistence allowance for
13 members of the Commission for the one-week
special session in New York

68 000

E. Potential for absorption

9. The estimates of conference-servicing costs of \$68,300 outlined in section D above are provided for information purposes only since, as stated in paragraph 2 above, the meetings of the special session of ICSC would be accommodated as facilities and services become available.

10. As to the additional substantive costs associated with the special session (\$68,000), it is envisaged that they would be met from within the existing resources in section 28H of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

F. Request for additional appropriation

11. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 141 of the report of the Committee on Conferences, 2/ no additional appropriations would be required under section 28H or 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

Notes

1/ A/AC.172/1990/CRP.5.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/45/32) para. 141.