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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1986-1987

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 32/198 of 21 December 1977, as amended by section X of resolution 35/217, of 17 December 1980, section III of resolution 37/237 of 21 December 1982 and section VII of resolution 39/236 of 18 December 1984, and decision 40/455 of 18 December 1985, the Secretary-General submits herein his annual report on the implementation of these resolutions, noting all first-class travel and exceptions made to the rules on standards of accommodation for air travel, including details of resultant additional costs of, and reasons for, such exceptions. The report covers travel for the period 1 July 1986 to 30 June 1987.

2. The table below provides information on the expenditures for first-class travel as requested in General Assembly decision 40/455. Such expenditures are presented in three categories, in respect of: (a) the travel of one member of each delegation attending sessions of the Assembly, who is entitled to first-class air travel in accordance with Assembly resolution 32/198; (b) other travel by non-Secretariat officials; and (c) travel of Secretariat officials other than the Secretary-General, according to their entitlement.

	<u>No. of journeys</u>	<u>Total cost of travel</u>
(a) Delegation travel:		
Forty-first session	106 <u>a/</u>	336 544
(b) Other non-Secretariat officials	150	546 151
(c) Secretariat officials other than the Secretary-General	<u>170</u>	<u>662 387</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>426</u></u>	<u><u>1 545 082</u></u>

a/ Includes only journeys of delegations whose claims have been submitted to date.

3. For comparison purposes, the table below provides information on the expenditures on first-class travel related to the 1985/86 period as reported in document A/C.5/41/19 of 17 October 1986:

	<u>No. of journeys</u>	<u>Total cost of travel</u>
(a) Delegation travel		
Fortieth session	123 <u>a/</u>	361 712
Thirteenth special session	24 <u>a/</u>	84 926
(b) Other non-Secretariat officials	225	742 922
(c) Secretariat officials other than the Secretary-General	<u>184</u>	<u>643 197</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>556</u></u>	<u><u>1 832 757</u></u>

a/ Includes only journeys of delegations whose claims have been submitted to date.

4. The figures on the cost of travel reported in the above tables in respect of other non-Secretariat officials and Secretariat officials represent those journeys that were either entirely by first-class or only partially by first-class because one or more legs of the journey involved flights of less than nine hours. In the latter cases, the cost was calculated as the sum of the cost of return travel by business class from the point of origin to the farthest point of destination plus the difference between the published first-class and business-class fares for each leg of the itinerary actually flown by first-class.

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5. The Secretary-General exercised his discretion in making exceptions to the rules or standards of accommodation for air travel in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 32/198 as amended by section VII of Assembly resolution 39/236, in 43 cases. Of these, 41 involved first-class travel (none of which were by Concorde) and 2 involved business-class travel. During the previous reporting period, July 1985 to June 1986, the number of exceptions was 56, 44 involving first-class travel and 12 involving business class. The exceptions approved in the current reporting period were as follows; 1/

(a) For seven individuals (two staff members and five non-staff members) on medical grounds on the recommendation of the Medical Service:

<u>Designation of traveller</u>	<u>Itinerary</u>	<u>Additional cost</u>
Executive Secretary	- Baghdad/Cologne/London/Baghdad	711
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	- Baghdad/Cairo/Baghdad	287
	- Baghdad/Amman/Baghdad	119
	- Baghdad/Amman/Baghdad	119
	- Baghdad/Amman/Jeddah/Riyadh/Baghdad	280
	- Baghdad/Paris/Istanbul/Baghdad	676
	- Baghdad/Casablanca/Baghdad	872
	- Baghdad/Geneva/Baghdad	480
Permanent Representative of Australia for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva	- Geneva/Beijing/Geneva	2 517
Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations	- New York/Geneva/... (business class)	118
Member, Investments Committee	- London/New York/London	1 840
	- London/New York/London	1 830
	- London/New York/London	1 600
	- London/New York/London	1 600
Regional Representative, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Canada	- . . ./Montreal/Oslo	594
Wife and nurse required to accompany above staff member travelling by first-class on medical grounds	- . . ./Montreal/Oslo	594
	- . . ./Montreal/Oslo/ . .	594

<u>Designation of traveller</u>	<u>Itinerary</u>	<u>Additional cost</u>
(b) For the immediate aides/security officers accompanying the Secretary-General during his official travels: 11 journeys at an additional cost of		10 183

(c) For the four members of the Selection Committee for the Environment Prize, approval was given for the first-class travel when it was determined that all travel costs were defrayed from the interest accruing from the endowment of the prize (established from private sources). The additional cost involved was

7 475

(d) For 10 individuals (7 staff members and 3 non-staff members), approval was given for first-class or business class travel when it was determined that no lower class seat was available and it was either not feasible to await a later flight owing to the exigencies of service or cheaper to authorise the upgrading in relation to the related cost of addition; subsistence allowance:

<u>Designation of traveller</u>	<u>Itinerary</u>	<u>Additional cost</u>
Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	- ... /New York/Geneva	767
Under-Secretary-General, Office of the Secretary-General, Office for Special Political Affairs	- ... /Nairobi/Mogadisho/...	46
United Nations Commissioner for Namibia	- ... /Lusaka/Luanda/...	77
Chef de Cabinet, UNHCR	- ... /Johannesburg/Paris/...	345
Officer-In-Charge, Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems, Geneva	- ... /Port of Spain/Georgetown/...	50
Chief of Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning Programme, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	- ... /Santo Domingo/Miami/...	99

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<u>Designation of traveller</u>	<u>Itinerary</u>	<u>Additional cost</u>
Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD	~ .../Paris/Geneva (business class)	100
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden	~ .../Khartoum/Addis Ababa/...	108
Manager, United States Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D.C.	~ Washington/Bridgetown/Washington	400
Consultant, UNCTAD	~ .../Lusaka/Nairobi/...	156

(e) For the Minister of State for Population and Environment of Indonesia and then concurrently president of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) providing major participation in a UNEP conference at Nairobi. The additional cost involved was

1 093

6. A breakdown by category of the exceptions granted during the past two reporting periods is provided below:

<u>Summary of exceptions</u>	<u>Number of trips</u>	
	<u>July 1986-June 1987</u>	<u>July 1985-June 1986</u>
(a) Medical grounds	17	21
(b) Security officers/immediate aides accompanying the Secretary-General during his official travels	11	9
(c) Chairman and members of the Selection Committee for the Environment Prize	4	5
(d) No lower class available	10	9
(e) Others	1	4
(f) Security Officer accompanying the President of the General Assembly	-	2
(g) Official accompanying the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	-	1

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<u>Summary of exceptions</u>	<u>Number Of trips</u>	
	<u>July 1986-June 1987</u>	<u>July 1987-June 1988</u>
(h) Eminent artist/entertainer with accompanying person donating services free of charge to the Organization		2
(i) Members of the Security Council Commission of Investigation	—	3
TOTAL	<u>43</u>	<u>56</u>

7. The total additional costs incurred by the Organisation as a result Of exceptions to the current rules during the period July 1986 to June 1987 was \$35,650. The corresponding additional costs in the preceding reporting period was \$38,060.

Travel entitlement for members of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

8. In view of questions raised by the United Nations Board of Auditors regarding the travel entitlement for members of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, this issue is raised in this report for appropriate decision by the General Assembly.

9. Members of the Committee have been provided first-class travel in accordance with the provisions of resolution 2145 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, which was adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-first session after consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the "Standards of air travel accommodation". 2/ In paragraph 11 of his report, the Secretary-General had recommended the reinstatement of first-class travel entitlement to all members of organs and subsidiary organs serving in their individual, personal or expert capacity. He had further enumerated in annex I to said report the list of organs and subsidiary organs involved, which specifically included the Committee.

10. In March 1986, however, the United Nations Board of Auditors, in an audit observation, had questioned the validity of extending first-class air accommodation to members of the Committee. They specifically referred to paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, which stated that the Committee was to be composed of scientists designated by specified Governments to be their representatives. In light of that, the Auditors concluded that the scientists sitting in the Committee were not persons serving in their individual capacity but were representatives of Governments and that, as such, they were only entitled to economy-class accommodation (or the class immediately below first, for flights exceeding nine hours) in accordance with the provisions of Assembly resolution 2245 (XXI).

11. It may be assumed that the Secretary-General in his proposal and the General Assembly in its 1966 decision had considered the Committee members to have the dual status of being scientific experts and government representatives. In the light, however, of the nature of the observation made by the Board of Auditors, this matter is presented to the General Assembly for its consideration.

Notes

1/ Unless otherwise indicated, the exceptions granted were for the use of first-class. The dots included in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes,
agenda item 74, document A/C.5/1074.
