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REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

CONCLUSION OF A TREATY ON THE COMPLETE AND GENERAL PROHIBITION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE
FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1976-1977

Financial implications of draft resolutions recommended
by the First Committee

Fifteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statements by the Secretary-General, submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure, of administrative and financial implications of six draft resolutions recommended by the First Committee on agenda items 34, 39, 40, 47, 49 and 50 (A/C.5/31/63-68).

A. Document A/C.5/31/63

2. In this document the Secretary-General indicates that the financial implications of the draft resolution under agenda item 39 adopted by the First Committee at its 44th meeting, on 29 November 1976, which is contained in

paragraph 20 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, 1/ amount to \$34,000 (to the nearest \$1,000). They consist of conference servicing costs for the two sessions which the Ad Hoc Committee intends to hold in 1977.

3. In paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/31/63, the Secretary-General indicates that he will report later in the current session of the General Assembly whether servicing the two sessions in question will require additional appropriations.

4. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee 2/ there would be need to provide conference servicing to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean at an estimated cost of \$34,000, including the cost of services to be provided from already approved resources.

B. Document A/C.5/31/64

5. In his statement (A/C.5/31/64), the Secretary-General submits the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.21) under agenda item 34 (Reduction of military budgets) which the First Committee recommended at its 47th meeting, on 1 December 1976. The total cost of the programme of work envisaged in this draft resolution is estimated by the Secretary-General at \$217,000 (to the nearest \$1,000), including \$143,000 in conference servicing costs. Of the total \$217,000, \$12,000 relates to the external printing in six languages of the report (A/31/222), pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, and the balance of \$205,000 to the preparation of a further report containing an analysis of the comments provided by States in the light of the suggestions contained in the report (A/31/222), as requested in operative paragraph 4 of the same resolution.

6. The estimate of \$205,000 for the preparation of the report requested in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution is broken down by object of expenditure in paragraph 6 of the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/64). For the reason explained in paragraph 7 the Secretary-General is not requesting at this stage any appropriation for conference servicing, the full cost of which he estimates at \$143,000. He does, however, request \$62,000 for travel and subsistence for 12 governmental budgetary experts and two staff, and for fees, travel and subsistence for five consultants.

7. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the report (A/31/222) was prepared with the help of 10 experts. The Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate for

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/31/29 and Corr.1).

2/ Ibid., para. 20.

travel and subsistence of experts be calculated on the basis of the same attendance as in 1976, which would entail a reduction of \$8,100 in the amount requested by the Secretary-General. Considering that the report called for under operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution (A/C.1/31/L.21) is to be an analysis of government comments on the report prepared in 1976 (A/31/222) and not a study of a new subject, the Committee is not convinced that there is need to engage consultants to help prepare the report; accordingly, the Committee recommends that the provision for consultants (\$7,400) be deleted. Inasmuch as the expert group is scheduled to meet at Geneva at a time when several staff of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs will be there in connexion with the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and other meetings, the Committee recommends that the number of substantive staff to be sent for the meeting of the expert group be reduced to one, with a consequential saving of \$3,200 in travel and subsistence. Thus, the total reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee amounts to \$19,000 (to the nearest \$1,000).

8. Accordingly the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it approve the draft resolution, A/C.1/31/L.21, recommended by the First Committee, additional requirements of \$56,000 (\$12,000 for external printing and \$44,000 for the meeting of the expert group) would arise under section 2C of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977. The Fifth Committee may also wish to inform the General Assembly that adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to conference servicing costs not exceeding \$143,000 including the cost of services to be provided from within already approved resources.

C. Document A/C.5/31/65

9. In this document the Secretary-General estimates at \$216,000 gross (\$183,200 net) the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.11/Rev.1 recommended by the First Committee at its 48th meeting, on 1 December 1976. Under operative paragraph 1 of that draft resolution, the General Assembly would endorse the agreed proposals made by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament 3/ and, under operative paragraph 3, it would request the Secretary-General to implement as soon as possible the measures recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee and falling within his area of responsibility.

10. The additional resources requested by the Secretary-General are as follows:

- (a) For the issuance of a United Nations Disarmament Yearbook (paras. 6 and 7 of document A/C.5/31/65):

New posts ... 1 P-5, 1 G-5, 1 G-4/1 (full-year cost - \$77,000 net)

Processing of one issue of the Yearbook: \$55,000

3/ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/31/36), para. 18.

- (b) For strengthening the Committee and Conference Services Section (paras. 9 and 10 of document A/C.5/31/65):

New posts ... 1 P-4, 1 P-2/1, 1 G-4/1 (full-year cost - \$74,000 net)

- (c) For the transformation of the Disarmament Affairs Division into the United Nations Centre for Disarmament (para. 11 of document A/C.5/31/65):

New posts ... 1 ASG, 1 G-5 (full-year cost - \$77,000 net)

11. In its examination of the Secretary-General's request, the Advisory Committee was mindful of the views expressed in the Ad Hoc Committee on the costs of that Committee's agreed proposals. ^{4/} The Committee also took into account the increase in the manpower resources for the Disarmament Affairs Division approved by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session (see para. 13 below).

12. The Committee noted that the proposed issuance of the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook represents a new activity. Accordingly the Committee recommends approval of the related staff resources requested in paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/31/65. The Advisory Committee was informed that the estimate of \$55,000 for the "processing" of the Yearbook consists of \$29,000 for external printing, \$23,000 for contractual translation and \$3,000 for contractual editing. In the expectation that regular-staff translators will be used to the maximum extent possible the Advisory Committee recommends that the provision for processing the Yearbook be reduced by \$10,000 to \$45,000.

13. As for the request for additional posts for the Committee and Conference Services Section, the Advisory Committee recalled that the General Assembly, at its thirtieth session, had approved a strengthening of that Section by four posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 General Service) so that it could discharge its responsibilities in 1976-1977. In the Advisory Committee's opinion, a further strengthening of the Section would be justified only if the 1977 volume of meetings and conferences in the field of disarmament exceeded the forecast made last year. Information provided to the Advisory Committee by the representatives of the Secretary-General shows that the 1977 calendar of conferences and meetings does include items which had not been foreseen at the thirtieth session of the Assembly. In the Advisory Committee's opinion, however, the extra workload does not warrant the addition of three posts as proposed by the Secretary-General. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that one new post (P-4) be approved for the Committee and Conference Services Section.

14. The request for one post at the Assistant Secretary-General level derives from paragraph 9 (b) of the agreed proposals of the Ad Hoc Committee ^{5/} that "the United Nations Centre for Disarmament be headed by an official with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General".

^{4/} Ibid., annex.

^{5/} Ibid., para. 18.

15. The Advisory Committee draws to the attention of the General Assembly the growing practice of United Nations organs, the terms of reference of which do not include competence in administrative and budgetary questions, to make recommendations and sometimes take decisions on the grading of individual posts. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee recalls also its observations in paragraph 8 of its twenty-third report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on the programme budget for 1976-1977. 6/

16. The Secretary-General interpreted the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation as calling for the addition of one Assistant Secretary-General post to the approved manning table. The Committee points out that a more economical way to ensure that the proposed Centre be headed by an official having the rank of Assistant Secretary-General would have been to reclassify the existing D-2 post of Director of the Disarmament Affairs Division and to upgrade the related secretarial post from G-4 to G-5.

17. The Advisory Committee also draws attention to the fact that if the General Assembly approves the recommendation that the Centre be headed by an Assistant Secretary-General, the United Nations will have two officials of that rank dealing with disarmament affairs, the other one being the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. 7/ The Advisory Committee recommends that the incumbent of the post of Assistant Secretary-General serve both as head of the Centre and as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

18. The Advisory Committee notes, from paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/31/65, that the question of the publication of a United Nations disarmament periodical is to be considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session. The Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the preliminary cost estimates assume that three or four issues of the periodical will be issued annually; the Committee recommends that the possibility of having two issues a year be also studied.

19. The reduction in posts recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 13 above entails a reduction of \$28,000 in the estimate submitted by the Secretary-General under section 2C (i.e., from \$128,000 net to \$100,000). Thus, the additional resources recommended by the Advisory Committee amount to \$145,000 net consisting of \$100,000 in staff costs and \$45,000 for the processing of the Yearbook. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 17 above would entail a reduction of \$59,000 in temporary-assistance credits under section 2A.

6/ Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 8 A (A/10008/Add.1-28), document A/10008/Add.22.

7/ This is a temporary-assistance post; ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/10006), vol.I, para. 2.13.

20. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee contained in document A/C.1/31/L.11/Rev.1, additional requirements of \$145,000 would arise under section 2C of the programme budget for 1976-1977 and that requirements under section 2A could be reduced by \$59,000. Additional provision of \$10,000 would also have to be made under section 25 (Staff assessment), offset by an equal amount under section 1.

D. Document A/C.5/31/66

21. In this document the Secretary-General estimates that the meetings of the nuclear-weapon States, called for under agenda item 47 in draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.16 which was adopted by the First Committee at its 45th meeting, on 29 November 1976, will require documentation and conference services costing \$78,000 (to the nearest \$1,000). Pending a review of what services can be rendered from within already approved resources, he is not seeking any additional appropriations at this stage.

22. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee contained in document A/C.1/31/L.16, there would be need to provide documentation and conference services at a cost not exceeding \$78,000, including the cost of services to be provided from already approved resources.

E. Document A/C.5/31/67

23. In operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.29/Rev.1, which was adopted by the First Committee at its 49th meeting, on 2 December 1976, the General Assembly requests the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, inter alia, to meet briefly in 1977. In document A/C.5/31/67 the Secretary-General for the reason given in paragraph 5, does not request at this stage any additional appropriations for the related documentation and conference services (which he estimates, on a full-cost basis, at \$51,200).

24. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee contained in document A/C.1/31/L.29/Rev.1, there would be need to provide documentation and conference services at a cost not exceeding \$51,000, including the cost of services to be provided from already approved resources.

F. Document A/C.5/31/68

25. In this document the Secretary-General submits his estimate, under agenda item 49, of the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/31/L.7/Rev.2 on the convening of a special session of the General Assembly

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in New York in May/June 1978, which was adopted by the First Committee at its 50th meeting, on 2 December 1976.

26. The Secretary-General estimates the related requirements in 1977 at \$90,000 for consultants and \$203,000 (to the nearest \$1,000) in conference servicing costs for three sessions of the preparatory committee for the special session (paras. 4-6). As regards the costs of the special session itself (which will be included in the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979), the Secretary-General - for the reasons given in paragraphs 3 and 7 of his report - confines himself to indicating orders of magnitude only.

27. The request for \$90,000 for consultants is related by the Secretary-General, in paragraph 6 of his report, to operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution which calls upon him to provide "essential background information, relevant documents and summary records" to the preparatory committee. The work involved would appear to be more in the nature of compilation than of original research; in the circumstances, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that it will require much expertise that is not already available within the Secretariat. The Committee recommends, therefore, that the Secretary-General's estimate for consultants be reduced by \$60,000 to \$30,000.

28. For the reason given in paragraph 15 of his report, the Secretary-General does not request at this stage any appropriation for conference services for the preparatory committee.

29. In the light of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/31/L.7/Rev.2 recommended by the First Committee, there would be need for additional appropriations of \$30,000 under section 2C of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977. The Fifth Committee may also wish to inform the General Assembly that the full cost of the documentation and conference services to be provided to the preparatory committee, including the services to be rendered from within already approved resources, would not exceed \$203,000.

30. The General Assembly will have the opportunity at its thirty-second session to review and approve appropriations for the special session itself under the programme budget for 1978-1979. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee draws attention to the fact that the cost of the special session would be affected by the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly on the proposals currently before it in document A/C.5/31/22 and Corr.1 regarding modifications to and enlargement of the General Assembly Hall and conference rooms at United Nations Headquarters.
