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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A, D and E
and the draft decision recommended by the First Committee (A/33/435,
paras. 24 and 25)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hamzah Mohammed HAMZAH (Syrian Arab Republic)

1. At its 60th and 61st meetings, on 14 December 1978, the Fifth Committee considered statements submitted by the Secretary-General, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A, D and E and the draft decision adopted by the First Committee at its 56th, 57th and 59th meetings, on 29 and 30 November and 1 December 1978, respectively (A/33/435, paras. 24 and 25).

2. The statement of the Secretary-General concerning draft resolutions A, D and E respectively, is contained in document A/C.5/33/80, while the statement in respect of the draft decision of the First Committee (A/33/435, para. 25) is contained in document A/C.5/33/89.

Draft resolution A

3. Under the terms of draft resolution A the General Assembly would, inter alia:

(a) Request the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate and the decisions that the General Assembly has taken at its current session and which have a bearing on the Commission's programme of work in 1979;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to render to the Disarmament Commission all necessary assistance that it may require for implementing the present resolution.

4. In his statement, the Secretary-General noted that the report of the Disarmament Commission, which had been endorsed in the draft resolution, had recommended that a period of four weeks beginning on 14 May 1979 should be provided for the session to be covered at Headquarters in New York, and that, further, "verbatim records should continue to be published for the meetings of the Commission in 1979" (A/C.5/33/80, para. 3).

5. The Secretary-General noted further that the Commission had recommended that provision should be made for two simultaneous meetings in order to accommodate the Commission and a Committee of the Whole, should the latter be established. It was, however, pointed out that, should the General Assembly decide that two simultaneous meetings should be held, certain other bodies may have to be rescheduled due to the reconstruction programme at Headquarters taking place at that time (*ibid.*, para. 5).

6. In view of the considerations cited in paragraph 5 above, the statement of the Secretary-General provided cost estimates on two bases, namely, two meetings daily (one in the morning, one in the afternoon) and four meetings daily (two in the morning, two in the afternoon). The cost of the former alternative was estimated (on the assumption that six languages be provided) at \$759,500 and the cost of the second alternative was estimated (also on the assumption that six languages be provided) at \$1,043,800.

7. At the 60th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions made a statement to the Fifth Committee, in which he presented the Advisory Committee's recommendations in respect of the draft resolutions. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly be informed that, should it adopt draft resolution A, no additional appropriation would be required but that an amount not exceeding \$760,000 for conference servicing should be considered in the context of the consolidated statement.

8. The statements made in the course of the discussion are contained in the summary records of the meeting (A/C.5/33/SR.60) and the decision of the Fifth Committee may be found in paragraph 22 below.

Draft resolution D

9. Under the terms of draft resolution D the General Assembly would, by operative paragraph 1, request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of qualified experts, to carry out a comprehensive study providing factual information on present nuclear arsenals, trends in the technological development of nuclear weapons systems, the effects of their use and the implications for international security as well as for negotiations on disarmament of:

(a) The doctrines of deterrence and other theories concerning nuclear weapons;

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(b) The continued quantitative increase and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons systems.

10. Based on the assumption that 15 experts would participate in the study and would hold two meetings in New York from 5 to 13 March 1979 and from 9 to 13 July 1979, the statement of the Secretary-General estimated that the associated costs would amount to \$152,000 of which \$101,800 related to conference servicing and \$50,200 related to the travel and subsistence costs of the group of experts.

11. In his oral report, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions stated that the Advisory Committee recommended in respect of draft resolution D that the General Assembly be informed that, should it adopt the draft resolution an additional appropriation of \$50,200 would be required under section 2 C of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 in connexion with the costs associated with the experts, and that an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for conference servicing be considered in the context of the consolidated statement.

12. No discussion of this resolution took place. The decision of the Fifth Committee taken at its 61st meeting may be found in paragraph 22 below.

Draft resolution E

13. By operative paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of draft resolution E, the General Assembly would:

1. Decide to undertake a comprehensive study of all the aspects of regional disarmament;

3. Request the Secretary-General to carry out the study with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, appointed by him on a balanced geographical basis, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

4. Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session a progress report on the work of the group of intergovernmental experts.

14. In his statement, the Secretary-General estimated the costs of implementing the resolution, should it be adopted, to be \$98,400 of which \$59,900 related to conference servicing and \$38,500 related to the travel and subsistence costs of the 15 experts and two substantive staff members envisaged in the report.

15. In his oral report, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that the Advisory Committee recommended in respect of draft resolution E that the General Assembly be informed that, should it adopt the draft resolution an additional appropriation of \$38,500 would be required under section 2 C of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 in connexion with the costs associated with the experts, and that an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for conference servicing be considered in the context of the consolidated statement.

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16. No discussion of this resolution took place. The decision of the Fifth Committee taken at its 61st meeting may be found in paragraph 22 below.

Draft decision of the First Committee

17. The draft decision contained in document A/33/435 (para. 25), adopted by the First Committee at its 58th meeting, on 30 November 1978, in connexion with the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/33/389, would have the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to proceed with the production of a United Nations film on wars and their consequences at the cost of approximately \$200,000.

18. The Secretary-General had submitted a statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/33/89) in which it was estimated that an additional appropriation in the amount of \$203,000 would be required under section 21 A of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979.

19. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that in regard to the draft decision contained in paragraph 25 of document A/33/435, the Advisory Committee recommended that, should it be adopted by the General Assembly, the additional appropriation under section 21 A of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 would be \$165,000.

20. Statements made in the course of the discussion are reflected in the summary record of the 60th meeting of the Committee (A/C.5/33/SR.60).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

21. At its 60th meeting, on 14 December, the Fifth Committee decided by 62 votes to 20, with 11 abstentions, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft decision recommended by the First Committee (A/33/435, para. 25), an additional appropriation in the amount of \$165,000 would be required under section 21 A of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979.

22. At its 61st meeting, on 14 December, the Fifth Committee decided, by 70 votes to 10, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolutions A, D and E recommended by the First Committee (A/33/435, para. 24), an additional appropriation in the amount of \$88,700 would be required under section 2 C of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 and that an amount not to exceed \$900,000 for conference servicing be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted toward the close of the current session.
