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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985

Revised estimates under section 25, International Court of Justice,
section 31, Staff assessment, and income section 1, Income from
staff assessment

Second report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates for the International Court of Justice for the biennium 1984-1985 (A/C.5/38/3). As indicated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report, the initial estimates were provisional since, at the time they were prepared, consultations had not been concluded between the Court and the Secretary-General on the level of the Court's proposals for the biennium 1984-1985.

2. The estimate now submitted for section 25 of the proposed programme budget amounts to \$9,580,400, an increase of \$623,700 over the 1982-1983 appropriation of \$8,956,700. As shown in table 1 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/3), the estimate contains resource growth of \$533,900 (at revised 1983 rates) and reflects a rate of real growth of 6.3 per cent.

3. The estimate of \$4,259,400 for members of the Court covers salaries and allowances for judges, their pensions, travel and common staff costs. The estimate includes resource growth of \$18,100 (at revised 1983 rates) for pensions. The Committee was informed that the increase was due to changes in the numbers of retired judges and of widows of judges rather than to any change in the pension scheme itself, which, together with salaries, is normally reviewed every five years in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/204 of 22 December 1976. The last such review took place in 1980 and resulted in Assembly resolution 35/220 of 17 December 1980 (see A/C.5/38/3, paras. 9 and 10).

4. The Registry accounts for an estimate of \$4,003,700 for 1984-1985. Resource growth of \$352,800 (at revised 1983 rates) is attributable to requests for three additional posts (one D-1, two G-4), as well as proposed increases for temporary assistance for meetings and hospitality.

5. As stated in paragraph 14 (a) of the Secretary-General's report, the establishment of a D-1 level post in New York is proposed in order to provide liaison at Headquarters with members or officials of other organs of the Organization and specialized agencies. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26.19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 that the responsibilities of the Office of the Legal Counsel include "liaison with the International Court of Justice and discharging the legal responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Statute of the Court". ^{1/} Under the circumstances, the Committee is not convinced that, at this point, a separate liaison function in New York needs to be created for the Registry of the Court. Instead, the Committee believes that the Secretary-General should examine the liaison requirements of the Court with a view to ensuring that the services provided by the United Nations, including the Office of the Legal Counsel, are fully responsive to the needs of the Court. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the establishment of the D-1 post should not be approved, with a consequential reduction in the estimate for section 25 of \$80,400.

6. The Committee has no objection to the establishment of two additional General Service posts to provide security in the new wing of the Peace Palace.

7. As shown in table 8 of the Secretary-General's report, common services for the Court account for an estimate of \$1,317,300. Resource growth of \$163,000 (at revised 1983 rates) is attributable to additional requirements for external printing, communications and furniture and equipment.

8. As the result of the Committee's recommendation (see para. 5 above), the Secretary-General's revised estimate for section 25 would be reduced by \$80,400 to \$9.5 million. In view of the fact that the Advisory Committee has already recommended an amount of \$8,911,700 under section 25 in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, ^{2/} the additional amount now recommended by the Committee is \$588,300. Moreover, an additional amount of \$11,800 will be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6), vol. III, para. 26.19.

^{2/} Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/38/7), para. 25.1.
