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FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 100

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and  
delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly at its thirty-first session in resolution 31/195 approved the schedule for the expansion of seating in meeting rooms which was contained in the Secretary-General's report on this subject (A/C.5/31/22). The schedule as approved provided inter alia, that the reconstruction and remodelling of the General Assembly Hall would take place in 1978.
2. In the course of developing plans for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session recommended to the General Assembly in its report that "the Special Session should be held between 23 May and 28 June 1978 in New York in the General Assembly Hall". 1/ Further the Committee recommended that, "In light of the programme of alterations scheduled to take place at the Headquarters building in New York in 1978 and 1979, as decided by the General Assembly in resolution 31/195, the Committee recommends that, at its thirty-second session, the Assembly should take a decision, by 15 October 1977, to reverse the phases of the construction work at Headquarters and thereby make the General Assembly Hall available for the special session in 1978. 2/
3. At the time that the Special Committee made these recommendations offers for tender for the reconstruction of the General Assembly Hall were in the hands of potential bidders and the Secretary-General was not in a position to state whether the proposed change in the construction schedule would have any financial implications. The bids have now been received and the Secretary-General is able

1/ A/32/41, para. 19.

2/ Ibid., para. 20.

to report that there would be no increase in the cost of the reconstruction of the General Assembly Hall as a result of the postponement of the work to 1979. If this action were to be approved by the General Assembly, the work schedule would provide in 1978 for the expansion of seating in Conference Rooms 1 and 3, the Trusteeship Council Chamber and modification of the area adjacent to the Security Council Chamber. In 1979 similar work would be carried out in the General Assembly Hall and Conference Rooms 2 and 4.

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