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CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1970

Administrative and financial implications of the recommendations  
contained in document A/L.570/Rev.1

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Gregor WOSCHNAGG (Austria)

1. At its 1318th meeting, held on 31 October 1969, the Fifth Committee, in compliance with rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/L.570/Rev.1. Under the terms of this draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to undertake as soon as possible the preparation of such indices as he deems necessary to facilitate the use of the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council including its functional commissions, and the Trusteeship Council, covering the first twenty-five years of their existence.
2. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in an oral statement before the Fifth Committee, indicated that the Secretary-General had informed the Advisory Committee that the cost of indexing the resolutions was estimated to be of the order of \$600,000 to \$625,000. A further amount of \$25,000 would be necessary to provide for the cost of printing of the indexes. Accordingly, the total financial implications of the draft resolution would be of the order of \$625,000 to \$675,000, assuming that an average of five lines of text used for each resolution to be recorded in the indexes would be based on the contents of the operative paragraphs alone.

3. However, it was the understanding of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General had not had sufficient time to study the question thoroughly enough to determine whether the objectives of the resolution might not be attained in a more economical manner. The Advisory Committee suggested, therefore, that it would be desirable that the Secretary-General be given additional time to consider the question in greater detail.

4. In the course of the discussion in the Fifth Committee, it was generally conceded that the objectives of the draft resolution would be of universal benefit; however, there were some delegations who were of the opinion that there had not been enough time for a proper study of the matter and that it would be preferable that the question be postponed in order that its various aspects, both practical and financial, could be considered so as to carry out in the most efficient manner possible the intent of the draft resolution.

5. Some delegations felt that the initial estimate of financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General was somewhat exaggerated and favoured postponement of the question for that reason.

6. The Fifth Committee decided to advise the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/L.570/Rev.1, the financial implications could be of the order of \$625,000 to \$675,000. At the same time, the Fifth Committee concurred in the observations of the Advisory Committee and agreed that the Secretary-General should be given additional time to consider the question in greater detail.

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