Thirty-seventh session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 55 (c)

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO THE PROCESS OF DISARMAMENT

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/37/L.67

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of part III of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.67, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to revive the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies in line with his note A/37/550, and to entrust it with the functions listed therein, taking into account the provision of part IV of that resolution and the further relevant decisions of the General Assembly in this regard.

2. As stated in the Secretary-General's note, the composition of the Advisory Board should take due account of the needs for practical effectiveness and financial restraint. It is foreseen that, while the requirement of equitable geographical representation must be met, the membership of the Board should be somewhat smaller than in its previous composition. It is envisaged that the Advisory Board will hold one session of two weeks in April/May and one session of two weeks in September 1983.

3. An appropriation for the activities of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies including travel costs and per diem for the members of the Board is already included in the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. Consequently, there will be no additional financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

4. The total estimated cost for conference-servicing requirements amount to $318,300 in 1983 and is based on full costs at 1983 rates. Towards the close of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the extent to which this cost
can be absorbed within existing resources will be indicated in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements to be submitted at that time.

5. Under the terms of paragraph 1 of part V, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to "transform the Centre for Disarmament appropriately strengthened within the existing overall resources of the United Nations, into a Department for Disarmament Affairs, headed by an Under-Secretary-General and which will be so organized as to reflect fully the principle of equitable geographical distribution".

6. This proposal comes at a time when the Secretary-General is formulating his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. He has already indicated that his intention as regards the 1984-1985 budget would be to recommend some redeployments as one of the means by which certain activities of high priority could be strengthened.

7. In the meantime, as regards the specific request in the draft resolution, the Secretary-General intends to explore means to utilize a certain number of vacant posts in the Secretariat in order to meet the immediate needs of the new Department of Disarmament Affairs on a temporary basis to the extent possible. In this manner up to three Professional (two P-4 and one P-3) and four General Service posts may be made available in 1983. As for the longer term, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of these posts as a priority element in the context of the 1984-1985 budget.

8. The Centre for Disarmament is presently headed by an Assistant Secretary-General. In order to minimize the requirements for additional resources the Secretary-General would propose to upgrade the existing Assisting Secretary-General's post in the Centre to the Under-Secretary-General's level. The total estimate cost would amount to $8,300.

9. As regards the application of the principle of geographical distribution, the Secretary-General will be guided by the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter bearing in mind specific considerations explained in his Report now under consideration by the Fifth Committee (A/37/378/Add.1).