2. The First Committee considered, in accordance with rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.1/ L.436) concerning the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution. The costs of implementing the proposal were estimated by the Secretary-General to amount to $115,300 for the substantive and technical servicing of the proposed Committee.

3. The Fifth Committee, at its 1294th meeting, on 19 December 1968, was informed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, speaking on behalf of that Committee, of the possible adoption of the aforementioned draft resolution and proposed that, in order to expedite the work of the Fifth Committee, it might agree to inform the General Assembly that, should the draft resolution be adopted by the General Assembly, it should be necessary to appropriate $63,200 under section 3 (Salaries and wages) and $36,800 under section 10 (General expenses) of the budget for 1969. Any additional expenditure which might arise beyond the amount appropriated could be met, if necessary, under the terms of the General Assembly resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the financial year 1969.

4. The Fifth Committee concurred in the proposal of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and decided to inform the General Assembly accordingly.

**DOCUMENT A/C.1/973**

*Note by the Secretary-General*

In accordance with a request received from the Director-General of UNESCO, the Secretary-General has the honour to submit the attached summary containing the main conclusions and recommendations of a meeting of consultants convened by the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to discuss the functional, statutory, administrative and financial implications, for the Commission and the agencies concerned, of an expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science. At its recently concluded forty-sixth session, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination took note of the summary.

A large measure of agreement between the representatives of UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) was reached at the recent meeting of a small group of consultants convened by the Bureau of IOC to consider functional, statutory, administrative and financial implications for the Commission and the agencies concerned of the expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science, as proposed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his report “Marine science and technology” (E/4487 and Corr.1-6, paras. 246-285).

It was agreed that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, provided its base was suitably broadened to link the Commission more closely with the interested agencies and to ensure its recognition by their governing bodies, would have a most important function in the formulation and co-ordination of the expanded programme, which would include scientific research and related service activities concerning not only the ocean itself but also its boundaries and resources. This function would not detract in any way from the respective present responsibilities of the individual Governments and of the organizations of the United Nations system relating to the ocean and its resources, which would use the Commission as an instrument for discharging certain of these responsibilities in the field of marine science. The expansion thus would occur both in the sphere of concerted action and in other IOC activities as well as in the co-ordination of international efforts. A step-by-step procedure for the establishment and review of the expanded programme was agreed, involving scientific advisory bodies of the IOC, UNESCO, FAO and WMO, Governments and agencies, with the suitably broadened IOC entrusted with over-all finalization of the expanded programme consisting of projects which may be implemented by Governments, international organizations, including UNESCO, FAO and WMO, as well as by the IOC itself. Some of the above steps are already scheduled to be taken.

FAO and WMO had already indicated that they are ready to join with UNESCO in contributing to the Commission’s secretariat, in carrying out their own programmes to sustain the Commission’s work and in using the Commission for advice and review in the area of marine science affairs. For this purpose a mechanism was proposed (originally by the Director-General of UNESCO) which would take the form of an inter-agency board for the IOC consisting of senior representatives of the Executives Heads of UNESCO, FAO and WMO meeting together with the Chairman of the Commission. Other organizations of the United Nations system could adhere to this Board when they were prepared to participate in the Commission’s work in the manner indicated above.

The Board would harmonize the programmes of the agencies and of the Commission. Among its functions would be selection of staff for the Commission’s secretariat and allocation of funds related to the Commission’s programme, as well as exchange of views on the most effective ways to facilitate the Commission’s work and the related activities of the agencies.

It was understood that equitable participation of the agencies concerned is eventually to be achieved and should be adequately reflected in the constitution of the Commission, but it was agreed, as an interim step, to keep the constitutional and administrative base of the IOC in UNESCO, while broadening suitably the degree and character of national participation at IOC sessions. In this connexion it was also found appropriate that, administratively, members of the Commission’s secretariat, provided by the sponsoring agencies and possibly by member countries, would, during this interim period, be under the Director-General of UNESCO, who would
act on behalf of the inter-agency board for the IOC. Although members of the secretariat would be responsible to the IOC and would work under the supervision of the IOC secretary, they would have a relation with their own agency whereby the experiences and resources of that agency could be made known and more readily available for the Commission’s work. There may also be occasions where the IOC work can be more effectively carried out if a responsible staff member of the IOC secretariat is stationed for a short or long period of time in an agency possessing the appropriate expertise.

Funds for the Commission’s work would fall into several categories. Programmes of support of the participating agencies would be developed under their usual budgetary processes, although co-ordinated through the inter-agency board of the IOC. Estimates of the Commission’s requirements for operating funds to be provided by the sponsoring agencies would be developed by the Commission in consultation with the board, which would recommend financing to the agencies and would supervise utilization of the funds so provided. Any trust fund that might be established for the benefit of the Commission would be administered by UNESCO in accordance with the conditions stated by the contributors.

In order to broaden IOC along the lines discussed, revision of the IOC statutes will be required, and a procedure for preparing new draft statutes was proposed.

In view of the interest in marine science affairs of the General Assembly at its present session, it was agreed to suggest to the Executive Heads of UNESCO, FAO and WMO, and the IOC Chairman, that they inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the main conclusions and recommendations of the present meeting.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At its 1752nd plenary meeting, on 21 December 1968, the General Assembly adopted the draft resolutions submitted by the First Committee in document A/7477. Draft resolution A was adopted by 112 votes to none, with 7 abstentions; draft resolution B by 119 votes to none and draft resolution C by 85 votes to 9, with 25 abstentions; draft resolution D was adopted without objection. For the final text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 18, resolutions 2467 A (XXIII), 2467 B (XXIII), 2467 C (XXIII) and 2467 D (XXIII).

CHECK LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Note. This check list includes the documents mentioned during the consideration of agenda item 26 which are not reproduced in the present fascicle.

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<td>A/C.1/L.425</td>
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