Twenty-ninth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 73 and 31

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNium 1974-1975

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE
INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Administrative and financial implications of the draft
resolution contained in document A/9629/Add.1

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 the draft resolution contained in document A/9629/Add.1, adopted by the First Committee at its 2019th meeting on 14 November 1974, the General Assembly would (a) endorse the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean for its future work, as contained in paragraph 35 of the report 1/ of the Committee, and (b) request the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to enter into consultations with a view to convening a conference on the Indian Ocean.

2. The Secretary-General understands, in regard to the programme of work of the Committee referred to in paragraph 35 of their report, that the Committee would meet at Headquarters for a total of five weeks in 1975, in February, June, and September; that it would require interpretation for Chinese, English, and French; that there would be two meetings per day, for which summary records would be provided in English and French only; that there would be no pre-session documentation and that post-session documentation would total some 80 pages. Because of the full calendar of conferences, the Secretary-General believes that it will be difficult to provide services to the meetings from existing resources. The related costs are therefore estimated at $65,000 as follows:

Six interpreters (locally recruited) $17,000
Translation and typing $33,000
Reproduction costs of summary records and post-session documentation $15,000

$65,000

3. In regard to the consultations of States with a view to convening a conference on the Indian Ocean, actual requirements can only be determined later, because of the exploratory nature of these consultations. The Secretary-General would therefore propose that, should it be necessary to incur commitments in this respect, he should do so with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in accordance with the provisions of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1974-1975.

4. In summary, adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/9629/Add.1 would give rise to expenditure provisionally estimated at $65,000. As no provision for this expenditure was made in the 1974-1975 budgets and it is not considered possible in 1975 to use existing resources for servicing meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, adoption of the draft resolution would require an additional appropriation of $65,000 under section 4 of the programme budget for 1974-1975. As a consequence of the requirements for temporary assistance, an additional appropriation of $13,000 would be required under section 34 (staff assessment), offset by an increase in the same amount under section 1 (income from staff assessment).