Twenty-ninth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 73 and 35

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIAL 1974-1975

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

Administrative and financial implications of the draft
resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.701

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

1. Under the terms of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.701, adopted by the First Committee at its 2027th meeting on 22 November 1974, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to provide services and to give such assistance as may be necessary to a comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones to be carried out by an ad hoc group of governmental experts under the auspices of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. The study would be the subject of a special report to be transmitted by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

2. In an oral statement (A/C.1/PV.2027), the Secretary of the First Committee said: "As has been the practice in similar circumstances, it is assumed that Governments will provide the services of the experts needed for the preparation of the report at no cost to the United Nations. If, as in similar cases in the past, the services of one consultant should be needed, it is proposed that the related expenses be met from existing resources allocated to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. In view of the proposal to submit the report to the thirtieth session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General proposes that the costs of translating, editing, and reproducing the report should be met, to the extent possible, from the existing appropriations for Assembly documentation. However, as the report was not foreseen in the work programmes of the related Secretariat services, it may become necessary to subcontract all or part of the work involved, in which case the Secretary-General might have to request additional resources in his supplementary estimates for the biennium 1974-1975."
3. The Secretary-General is informed that it is envisaged that the report would consist of approximately 100 pages and would be issued in six languages. As an indication of the order of magnitude, it is estimated that, were all the translation and printing to be subcontracted, the costs involved would total some $16,000, comprising $10,000 for translation, and $6,000 for offset reproduction.

4. In view of the above considerations, the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.701 be adopted, the Secretary-General would endeavour to meet related translating, editing and reproduction costs from within available credits. To the extent that this does not prove to be feasible, any additional funds required would be requested in the supplementary estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975 to be presented to the thirtieth session of the Assembly.