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BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
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Item 10 of the agenda of the Budgetary
and Finance Committee

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BUDGETARY AND FINANCE
COMMITTEE TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Draft report of the Budgetary and Finance Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hans Olsson (Sweden)

Addendum

CHAPTER III. OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

A. United Nations Volunteers

1. For its discussion of this item, the Committee had before it documents DP/1987/46 and DP/1987/46/Add.1 concerning the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, as well as document DP/1987/55, the triennial budget estimates.
2. In introducing the subject, the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Special Activities, informed the Committee that there had been intense discussion on the UNV programme in the plenary, as a result of which there was to be an independent review of the UNV programme, which would be presented to the Council at its thirty-fifth session (1988). It was therefore appropriate to consider a long-term decision on the funding modalities, as proposed in documents DP/1987/46 and DP/1987/55, the triennial budget estimates. In the meantime, the Committee was asked to give consideration to two issues: the continuation and expansion of the bridging arrangement approved as an exceptional measure to strengthen UNV headquarters by the Council at its thirty-third session (1986). Secondly, the Committee was to consider the funding of the review itself from Special Programme Resources up to a maximum of \$100,000. In making this introduction, the Assistant Administrator provided the Committee with a copy of the draft decision to be submitted to the plenary.

Discussion of the Committee

3. While all delegations who spoke supported UNV, a number none the less doubted whether the number of volunteers would increase by 1988 to the level of 1,500 projected by the administration. Several delegations also expressed some doubt as to whether the increase of staff envisaged in the bridging arrangement was warranted. However, delegations generally accepted that the arrangement was an interim one and that a full discussion of UNV staffing would take place at the thirty-fifth session of the Council, in the context of the envisaged report. Delegations also accepted the administration's assurances that the supplementary funding would be utilized only to the extent that it was necessitated by the work-load resulting from the actual number of volunteers. The figure provided for in the exceptional allocation therefore represented a maximum figure which might not be fully utilized.

4. As regards the Special Programme Resources funding for the review itself, all delegations who spoke indicated their agreement to this, provided that the ceiling of \$100,000 was not exceeded.

Recommendation of the Committee

5. The Committee therefore recommends that the Council's approval of an extension and expansion of the bridging arrangement for the administrative costs of UNV be included in the appropriation decision for 1988-1989. The Committee further recommends to the Council that the following text be included in its decision on UNV:

"The cost of the review should not exceed \$100,000 and should be financed from the Special Programme Resources."
