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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Fifty-third session

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 2810 (XXVI), requested the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to report, through the Governing Council of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2659 (XXV).
2. The Secretary-General submits herewith a report on the United Nations Volunteers programme prepared by the Administrator of UNDP in his capacity as Administrator of the United Nations Volunteers.
3. The Administrator of UNDP had earlier submitted to the Governing Council at its thirteenth session in January 1972 a progress report on the experience gained from the operation of the United Nations Volunteers programme, and in particular on the suitability of the administrative structure of the programme with special reference to the future location of the Co-ordinator's Office (DP/L.205 and Add.1). The Governing Council, in taking note of the report and the views expressed by its members, requested the Administrator, not later than the fourteenth session, to effect the establishment of the Co-ordinator's Office at Geneva and of an appropriate liaison office at UNDP headquarters (E/5092, para. 128).
4. The present report reflects the early experience gained in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2659 (XXV), and in particular the more salient questions concerning the operational, financial and recruitment aspects of the programme. Further, it contains information on the status and nature of volunteer assignments and includes in the annex a table reflecting the progress achieved as evidenced by formal requests from Governments and by the number of United Nations volunteers in different countries, both at present and as anticipated during the coming months. The status of the Special Voluntary Fund, created to support the activities of the United Nations Volunteers, is contained in paragraph 23 below.

PROGRAMMING, FINANCIAL AND RECRUITMENT QUESTIONS

5. Under the mandate of the programme, United Nations volunteers can be sent to a country only at the explicit request and with the approval of the recipient country. Hence a major task during this early phase has been to promote a proper understanding among Governments concerning the scope and nature of volunteer assignments under the programme. In this context, with a view to creating wide interest in the programme, it has been necessary to explain and reiterate its raison d'être, namely that the reservoir of skilled and talented young persons in developed and developing countries might be effectively channelled into the mainstream of the development activities of the international community. It has become clear that a proper foundation for the success and growth of the programme requires recognition and acceptance of the fact that the volunteer component constitutes an additional input of multilateral technical assistance analogous to that of the expert component.
6. Accordingly, the programming of United Nations volunteers into the development projects of the United Nations system is undertaken on the understanding that the volunteer component possesses high professional and technical qualifications to meet well-defined and specific manpower requirements within individual projects suited for volunteer assignments. It is emphasized that technically qualified United Nations volunteers working under the supervision of more experienced experts could usefully fill a gap at the intermediate level by helping to carry out a broad range of duties within the field of their competence. Since a frequent source of difficulty in project implementation is a shortage of qualified project personnel at the intermediate level - a shortage which undermines the essential task of international experts - an additional project input of a complementary nature composed of qualified volunteers may be seen to be especially relevant.
7. Among the measures taken to encourage the use of United Nations volunteers, the Administrator has requested that all the agencies in the United Nations system give special consideration to progressive and proper integration of the United Nations volunteer input in the over-all country programming exercise. To this end the UNDP regional bureaux and the resident representatives have been asked to give their full co-operation.

Financial arrangements

8. Under the existing financial arrangements governing the operation of the programme, the over-all costs of volunteer assignments are divided into two categories, namely external costs and local costs. The external costs, broadly comprising pre-selection and basic training, travel to and from the country of assignment and resettlement allowance, will generally be payable by sponsoring organizations. In the case of volunteers from developing countries, however, where there are no available means for sponsorship, the Special Voluntary Fund (see paragraph 24 below) could be used to meet their external costs. Local cost provisions are intended to cover an arrival grant; modest living allowance; simple

living accommodation; insurance for medical care and compensation in case of death or disability; in-country orientation; equipment and supplies necessary for the volunteer's work; and official travel within the country of assignment. Local costs may be met directly by recipient Governments partly in cash or in kind or, with their approval, in case of UNDP-assisted projects, charged against the volunteer component of the project budgets within the indicative planning figure (IPF) of the country and, as appropriate, under the budgets of the specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system for development projects under their regular programmes. These costs are generally adjustable, depending upon the special conditions in individual countries and on other factors, such as the equipment and supplies necessary for a volunteer's work. The monthly living allowances are intended to approximate closely to those received by volunteers under bilateral arrangements. A pro-forma figure, however, of \$3,000 per volunteer per year, exclusive of modest living accommodation, has been estimated as a budgetary guide to cover local costs. Experience so far suggests that the figure may, in some cases, be as low as \$2,400 per volunteer per year.

9. Though financial obligations placed upon the developing countries under the programme would seem to be relatively modest in comparison with other development inputs, they have in the initial phase of the operations tended to restrict a broader and more active participation by countries. While most recipient countries would, in principle, favour volunteers provided under the auspices of the United Nations, the availability of volunteers from bilateral sources in developed countries free of any cost to the recipient Governments tends to act as a constraining factor. In this context, for the effective promotion of the United Nations Volunteers programme, greater emphasis would, with the active assistance of resident representatives and agency project personnel be placed on proper programming (as indicated in paragraph 6 above) that could lead to a clear identification of the manpower inputs required in specific development projects and that would, at the same time, ensure prompt and effective response based on the highest standards of recruitment of young technically qualified personnel. Furthermore, since in certain cases the required expertise can be obtained through the utilization of the United Nations volunteer component at a considerably reduced cost, a beneficial financial effect on the indicative planning figure could be anticipated. These considerations may be seen to be particularly relevant in creating a more receptive climate for the programme in the future.

10. In accordance with the discussions of the Governing Council at its twelfth session on the subject of assisting the least developed countries, the Administrator has agreed to set aside modest amounts in the programme reserve, where necessary, to augment indicative planning figures of relevant countries for the purpose of financing the volunteer component within the project budgets. This authorization carries the proviso that there would be no diminution in the effort to explain to all countries receiving volunteers that their interest would be served if the regular indicative planning figures were used to finance the volunteer component.

Recruitment

11. Under the formal agreements concluded between the United Nations Volunteers and the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service (ISVS) in May 1971 and between the United Nations Volunteers and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) in August 1971, primary responsibility for recruitment and co-ordination of basic training is delegated to these two international volunteer organizations. Under the clearing-house arrangements, the United Nations Volunteers liaison office at Geneva is in direct contact with these organizations on matters pertaining to recruitment and selection. In order to maintain flexibility and to respond to the wishes of certain Governments and organizations that send out volunteers, the United Nations Volunteers programme has also established direct contact with them for recruitment purposes.

12. Volunteer-recruiting organizations have requested a period of approximately four months to enable them to submit nominees in response to specific job descriptions in order to adhere to a high standard of recruitment.

13. Under the recruitment procedures, a list of candidates for each request is submitted to the resident representatives for the approval of recipient Governments.

14. In order to ensure the participation of developing countries as donors, in addition to the efforts of ISVS and CCIVS, the United Nations Volunteers has also been in direct contact with Governments of certain countries able to supply United Nations volunteers. In this way it is hoped in the programme to implement the provision of General Assembly resolution 2659 (XXV) which calls for the utilization of volunteers recruited and serving on as wide a geographical basis as possible, including in particular the developing countries. Several countries have responded positively by making their nationals available for service as United Nations volunteers.

STATUS AND NATURE OF VOLUNTEER REQUESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

15. As of 30 April 1972, the Governments of Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Iran, Jamaica, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Niger, Somalia, Togo and Yemen have either formally submitted requests for United Nations volunteers or have shown a firm willingness in receiving them in their respective countries. Some 20 other countries have further indicated their interest in volunteer assignments and, in this connexion, negotiations between the resident representatives and the respective authorities are in progress, particularly with a view to assessing volunteer needs in the context of over-all country programming exercise.

16. The United Nations Volunteers has now received requests for approximately 190 volunteers from 15 countries. Fifty-three volunteers have already taken up their respective assignments in Chad, Iran, Jamaica, Haiti, Niger, Togo and Yemen,

and a further 80 are expected to be on their way to the field in the coming months, after acceptance of their candidature by recipient Governments. On the basis of the present requests and other negotiations, it would be safe to project a figure of about 200 volunteers in the field by the end of 1972.

17. Most volunteers recruited so far have come from developed countries. However, in the first group, a few volunteers from developing countries are included, primarily from Argentina, Chile, Egypt, India, Iran and the Philippines. It is envisaged that the establishment of proper liaison and contact with government agencies and volunteer organizations of developing countries will ensure growing participation on the part of candidates from these countries in the future.

18. While the field of activity envisaged for volunteers is expected to cover broad participation in different sectors of development the following examples reflect the nature of some volunteer assignments. In one project on town planning, executed by the United Nations, a young architect is assisting an expert in developing types of houses which can be constructed with local materials. On a farm development project implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a team of qualified agriculturists is implementing an extension programme designed to guide local farmers in the utilization of modern production methods and techniques. To achieve this objective, the volunteers will be required to give an effective demonstration of improved methods of farming which would include such aspects as the use of selected seeds, the use and application of fertilizers, the identification, with effective methods of control, of common crop pests and diseases, improved methods of crop harvesting, including preparation for marketing and storage, and soil and water conservation.

19. In yet another area, a young surveyor (draughtsman) with experience is expected to prepare and survey new sites for small dams, designs for wells, irrigation systems and layouts for small municipal water supply systems. Similarly a technician in rural water-supply will, under the general supervision of sanitary engineers of the World Health Organization (WHO), assist and train local staff in the installation, operation and maintenance of centrifugal and borehole pumps, diesel engines and prefabricated steel tanks.

20. A team of volunteers comprising agricultural demonstration technicians, specialists in the preparation of technical teaching material, craftsmen and statisticians, will participate in a work-oriented adult literacy project executed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and intended primarily to provide adults with general and technical knowledge in an attempt to transform society by way of development.

21. A young zoologist is at present assisting in the preparation of an inventory of the animal resources in a particular national park and in carrying out measures to protect those resources and to build up the necessary infrastructure.

22. In yet another project executed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) United Nations volunteers will work in a pre-vocational training programme for boys and girls and assist the experts in introducing modern techniques of pre-vocational training and audio-visual aids.

SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND

23. Contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund established under General Assembly resolution 2659 (XXV) to support the activities of the programme, have now reached a total of \$301,505. The following pledges have been made as of 30 April 1972:

| <u>Contributions from Governments</u> | | <u>Contributions from non-governmental and private sources</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| | (US dollars) | |
| Canada | 20,200 | Friends World Committee for Consulation (Quakers) 3,000 |
| Cyprus | 240 | |
| Denmark | 10,000 | |
| Federal Republic of Germany | 22,050 | New York Interprovincial Council of the Third Order of St. Francis (Caritas) 900 |
| Holy See | 1,500 | |
| India | 10,000 | |
| Iran | 10,000 | Wayland United Nations Committee 100 |
| Iraq | 1,000 | |
| Israel | 1,000 | Contributions from individuals 15 |
| Laos | 1,000 | |
| Lebanon | 1,000 | Commission on Voluntary Service and Action 200 |
| Morocco | 5,000 | |
| Pakistan | 1,100 | |
| Switzerland | 10,000 | |
| Togo | 700 | |
| Turkey | 2,500 | |
| United States of America | 200,000 | |

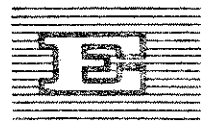
24. While the Fund is established for the broad support of programme activities, it is envisaged that in practice it will help to meet the external costs of candidates from developing countries who would otherwise have no available means of sponsorship. Several important pledges so far have been earmarked for this specific objective.

Annex

STATUS OF VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS AS OF 30 APRIL 1972

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Formal volunteer requests received</u> | <u>Volunteers in service</u> | <u>Volunteers in process of recruit- ment</u> | <u>Volunteer requests under consideration</u> | <u>Anticipated number of United Nations volunteers by end of 1972</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Burundi | 3 | - | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Central African Republic | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| Chad | 4 | 3 | 1 | - | 4 |
| Equatorial Guinea | - | - | - | 9 | 9 |
| Haiti | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Iran | 48 | 17 | 31 | - | 48 |
| Jamaica | 20 | 11 | 9 | - | 20 |
| Lesotho | 11 | - | 11 | 9 | 20 |
| Liberia | 3 | - | 3 | - | 3 |
| Malawi | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| Nepal | - | - | - | 17 | 17 |
| Niger | 6 | 2 | 4 | - | 6 |
| Somalia | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| Togo | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 13 |
| Yemen | 30 | 17 | 13 | 10 | 40 |
| Total | 131 | 53 | 78 | 65 | 196 |

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3. The Administrator of UNDP had earlier submitted to the Governing Council at its thirteenth session in January 1972 a progress report on the experience gained from the operation of the United Nations Volunteers programme, and in particular on the suitability of the administrative structure of the programme with special reference to the future location of the Co-ordinator's Office (DP/L.205 and Add.1). The Governing Council, in taking note of the report and the views expressed by its members, requested the Administrator, not later than the fourteenth session, to effect the establishment of the Co-ordinator's Office at Geneva and of an appropriate liaison office at UNDP headquarters (E/5092, para. 128).
4. The present report reflects the early experience gained in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2659 (XXV), and in particular the more salient questions concerning the operational, financial and recruitment aspects of the programme. Further, it contains information on the status and nature of volunteer assignments and includes in the annex a table reflecting the progress achieved as evidenced by formal requests from Governments and by the number of United Nations volunteers in different countries, both at present and as anticipated during the coming months. The status of the Special Voluntary Fund, created to support the activities of the United Nations Volunteers, is contained in paragraph 23 below.

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19. In yet another area, a young surveyor (draughtsman) with experience is expected to prepare and survey new sites for small dams, designs for wells, irrigation systems and layouts for small municipal water supply systems. Similarly a technician in rural water-supply will, under the general supervision of sanitary engineers of the World Health Organization (WHO), assist and train local staff in the installation, operation and maintenance of centrifugal and borehole pumps, diesel engines and prefabricated steel tanks.

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Contributions from non-governmental and private sources

(US dollars)

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Canada | 20,200 | Friends World Committee for | |
| Cyprus | 240 | Consulation (Quakers) | 3,000 |
| Denmark | 10,000 | | |
| Federal Republic of | | New York Interprovincial | |
| Germany | 22,050 | Council of the Third Order | |
| Holy See | 1,500 | of St. Francis (Caritas) | 900 |
| India | 10,000 | | |
| Iran | 10,000 | Wayland United Nations Committee | 100 |
| Iraq | 1,000 | | |
| Israel | 1,000 | Contributions from individuals | 15 |
| Laos | 1,000 | | |
| Lebanon | 1,000 | Commission on Voluntary Service | |
| Morocco | 5,000 | and Action | 200 |
| Pakistan | 1,100 | | |
| Switzerland | 10,000 | | |
| Togo | 700 | | |
| Turkey | 2,500 | | |
| United States of | | | |
| America | 200,000 | | |

24. While the Fund is established for the broad support of programme activities, it is envisaged that in practice it will help to meet the external costs of candidates from developing countries who would otherwise have no available means of sponsorship. Several important pledges so far have been earmarked for this specific objective.

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|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
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| Central African Republic | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| Chad | 4 | 3 | 1 | - | 4 |
| Equatorial Guinea | - | - | - | 9 | 9 |
| Haiti | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Iran | 48 | 17 | 31 | - | 48 |
| Jamaica | 20 | 11 | 9 | - | 20 |
| Lesotho | 11 | - | 11 | 9 | 20 |
| Liberia | 3 | - | 3 | - | 3 |
| Malawi | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| Nepal | - | - | - | 17 | 17 |
| Niger | 6 | 2 | 4 | - | 6 |
| Somalia | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| Togo | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 13 |
| Yemen | 30 | 17 | 13 | 10 | 40 |
| Total | 131 | 53 | 78 | 65 | 196 |

CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION

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5. [Illegible text]

6. [Illegible text]

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