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INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Report of the Third Committee

Reporteur: Mr. Fuad M. AL-HINAL (Oman)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "International Year for Disabled Persons: Report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976.
2. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1977, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
3. The Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/32/288) prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/123.
4. The Committee considered this item at its 73rd and 75th meetings, on 8 and 9 December 1977. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States and of the specialized agencies on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/32/SR.73 and 75).
5. The Acting Assistant Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs introduced the item at the 73rd meeting, on 8 December 1977.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/32/L.51

6. At the 73rd meeting, on 8 December, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/32/L.51), sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Iraq, Jordan, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda,

the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Bangladesh, Denmark, Ireland, the Lib People's Democratic Republic and Qatar.

7. Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution read as follows:

"2. Authorizes the Secretary-General to undertake the measures required to implement these proposals;"

The sponsors revised the text to add the following phrase at the end of the paragraph:

"including the necessary information activities prior to and during the International Year for Disabled Persons".

8. The Committee had before it a statement of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.3/32/L.68).

9. At the 75th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.51, as revised, without a vote (see para. 10 below).

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### International Year for Disabled Persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976 by which it proclaimed the year 1981 International Year for Disabled Persons and decided to devote that year to the realization of a set of objectives, including:

(a) Helping disabled persons in their physical and psychological adjustment to society;

(b) Promoting all national and international efforts to provide disabled persons with proper assistance, training, care and guidance, to make available to them opportunities for suitable work and to ensure their full integration in society;

(c) Encouraging study and research projects designed to facilitate the practical participation of disabled persons in daily life, for example by improving their access to public buildings and transportation systems;

(d) Educating and informing the public of the rights of disabled persons to participate in and contribute to various aspects of economic, social and political life.

/...

(c) Promoting effective measures for the prevention of disability and for the rehabilitation of disabled persons;

Recalling in particular paragraph 4 of its resolution 31/123, in which it requested the Secretary-General to elaborate, in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies and the organizations concerned, a draft programme for the International Year for Disabled Persons,

Recalling its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976 on the medium-term plan, in paragraph 6 of which it urged organs to refrain from undertaking new activities not programmed in the medium-term plan and the subsequent programme budget unless a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature arises as determined by the General Assembly,

Having considered with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on and the annexed draft programme for the International Year for Disabled Persons, <sup>1/</sup>

1. Approves the proposals of the Secretary-General, contained in his report, for preparatory work for the period 1978-1979.
2. Authorizes the Secretary-General to undertake the measures required to implement these proposals, including the necessary information activities prior to and during the International Year for Disabled Persons;
3. Decides that the International Year for Disabled Persons represents such a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature;
4. Decides to establish an Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons, composed of the representatives of fifteen Member States who shall be appointed, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, by the Chairman of the Third Committee, in concurrence with the regional groups;
5. Decides that the task of the Advisory Committee shall be to consider, and to consult with Member States and specialized agencies on, the programme for the International Year for Disabled Persons, prepared by the Secretary-General.
6. Requests the Secretary-General to convene the Advisory Committee no later than March 1979 at the Headquarters of the United Nations and to submit the report on that meeting to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-fourth session;
7. Appeals to Member States to make in due time generous voluntary contributions for the International Year for Disabled Persons;

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<sup>1/</sup> A/32/288.

8. Encourages Member States and organizations concerned to take specific action in the preparation of the observance of the International Year for Disabled Persons.

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fourth session the item entitled International Year for Disabled Persons .