GENERAL COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF THE CONFERENCE

Note by the Executive Secretary

The purpose of this note is to assist the General Committee in the contemplated review of the progress of the Conference based upon the interim reports of the chairmen of committees.

The existing budget for the Conference will enable it to continue until 14 February but not beyond that date. A decision must be made, therefore, either (a) that 14 February be accepted as a definitive date, or (b) that an application for additional funds be made. In the latter event, it would be necessary for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Administrative Questions to an advance from the Working Capital Fund. This procedure would take time and if it is to be resorted to, a decision should be made at once.

If it is decided that 14 February should be taken as a definitive date, it will be necessary for the General Committee to make proposals which will enable the Conference to complete its business by that date. It is estimated that provided that a number of sub-committee reports can be tabled for discussion in committee during January, it should suffice to set aside two weeks for final committee and plenary discussion. This means that all sub-committee work (including the drafting of reports) would have to be completed by 31 January. Sub-Committees could, therefore, not on the average count for this purpose upon more than three to four meetings following the contemplated review of progress.