

A United Nations Assessment Project Study

January 20, 1984

HOW THE U.N. SPENDS ITS \$1 BILLION FROM U.S. TAXPAYERS

The United Nations now spends more than \$4 billion a year on all its far-flung agencies and operations. Exactly how much the U.N. spends no one seems to know, for there is no consolidated U.N. budget. Indeed, the U.N. budget resembles the budget of no government, for there is no link between the burden of payment and influence on policies. Six nations contribute over 65 percent of the budget, while the ruling majority, the more than 100 nations in the so-called Group of 77, contribute under 9 percent. There is no limit to the spending capability of the U.N.--when a majority approves a program, it is incorporated into the budget--and the U.S. must pay 25 percent of it. By contrast, the Soviet Union contributes but 10.34 percent.

Last year, U.S. contributions to the U.N. system totalled about \$1 billion. Since the U.N.'s founding in 1945, it has received at least \$14 billion from American taxpayers. Despite this enormous outlay, surprisingly little attention has been paid to how the money is spent. How much of the U.S. contribution to the U.N., for example, reaches the villages and urban slums of the Third World where American generosity is most needed? How much pays for the U.N. administration and bureaucracy? And how much goes for the high living at deluxe hotels during conferences in world capitals?

It would take an army of auditors to answer these questions definitively. Yet it is possible to sense how the United Nations spends American taxpayers' money by looking at randomly chosen slices of the U.N. operational pie. Even this limited survey reveals a curious set of priorities at the U.N. At UNESCO, for example, the controversial body from which the U.S. is resigning at the end of 1984, \$2,220,775 of U.S. tax money was spent on helping "national liberation movement" terrorist groups, but only \$110,250 on teaching the importance of human rights. UNESCO's education for handicapped children in Africa received \$12,400 in

U.S. funds; curriculum development in Pakistan received \$1,800; and teacher training in Honduras received \$250. But all of that was dwarfed by the \$439,887 of American taxpayer contributions spent on travel and lodging costs of the UNESCO President and Executive Board.

U.N. political programs seem to do better at garnering funds than do delivery of services. Take, for example, the Southwest Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the mainly terrorist organization that wants to impose its rule on Southwest Africa (also known as Namibia). U.S. taxes funded \$149,550 worth of operations for SWAPO's New York City office, part of the \$514,450 the U.S. provided for the U.N. Council for Namibia (which includes substantial outlays to SWAPO). By contrast, the World Health Organization spent only \$7,850 U.S. contributed funds on the Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases; \$9,250 on road traffic accident prevention; \$150,000 on training traditional birth attendants; and \$265,200 on maternal and child health.

The priorities at the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are among the most puzzling in the U.N. system. It spends \$9,070,675 in U.S. contributions on maintaining its permanent offices, plus \$1,046,675 for conferences, and \$314,050 for consultants, but by comparison a modest \$284,500 on programs to expand and promote world trade and \$875,375 for encouraging economic cooperation among developing countries. At the U.N. Department of Public Information, \$1,627,550 of U.S. taxes go for "public information contacts," \$407,175 for publicity supplies, \$1,014,925 for DPI's office in Geneva, but a puny \$9,100 to train information assistants. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), meanwhile, seems to tilt dramatically toward Africa. It spends \$723,905 of U.S. tax money on child nutrition in Africa; \$2,443,127 for formal education in Africa; and \$952,577 for social welfare services in Africa. By contrast, only \$24,233 of U.S. taxes are spent by UNICEF on social welfare services for children in all of East Asia and Pakistan; \$22,470 on child nutrition in the Americas; \$110,150 on abandoned street children in Latin America and the Caribbean; and \$119,182 on formal education in the Americas.

These and other examples of how the U.N. spends American taxpayers' money are found on the following pages.

United States Contributions to the United Nations in 1982

Assessed contributions:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>U.S. Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
United Nations	\$201,144,200	25.00
International Labor Organization	29,755,800	25.00
Food and Agriculture Organization	47,815,100	25.00
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	69,173,300	25.00
World Health Organization	76,640,700	25.00
International Civil Aviation Organization	5,887,600	29.47
Universal Postal Union	410,800	4.72
International Telecommunication Union	2,666,500	7.00
World Meteorological Organization	4,980,600	24.57
International Maritime Organization	489,900	4.35
World Intellectual Property Organization	632,800	7.97
International Atomic Energy Agency	16,268,100	25.81
United Nations Emergency Force	9,612,700	27.20
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	54,496,800	27.20
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TOTAL	\$519,974,900	

Voluntary Contributions:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>U.S. Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
United Nations Force in Cyprus	\$ 9,000,000	30.51
United Nations Children's Fund	54,675,547	22.03
United Nations Development Program	127,300,000	19.14
United Nations Educational and Training Program for Southern Africa	1,000,000	27.59
United Nations Environment Program	7,839,010	26.13
United Nations Institute for Namibia	490,000	21.56
United Nations Institute for Training and Research	422,000	27.46
United Nations Capital Development Fund	2,000,000	7.45
World Food Program	79,976,600	26.26
Fund for Drug Abuse Control	2,000,000	29.77
United Nations Fund for Population Activities	33,760,000	26.12
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	120,435,254	33.34
United Nations Relief and Works Agency Special Programs	67,000,000	37.57
United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa	16,500,000	49.98
	343,000	16.27
United Nations Volunteers	200,000	13.14
WHO Special Programs	8,000,000	8.08

<u>Agency</u>	<u>U.S. Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
WMO Program	2,241,482	26.14
United Nations Administered Trust Fund	6,661,300	25.00
United Nations Trust Fund	13,848,300	25.00
International Labor Organization	2,800	Voluntary contribut to assessed agenc
Food and Agriculture Organization	8,408,800	"
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	1,252,700	"
World Health Organization	3,222,500	"
World Meteorological Organization	578,600	"
International Atomic Energy Agency	9,888,100	"
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> \$577,045,993	

Total Assessed Contributions: \$519,974,900¹
Total Voluntary Contributions: 577,045,993²

TOTAL 1982 U.S. Contributions
to the United Nations \$1,097,020,893

¹Figures from United Nations 1982 report.

²Figures from Department of State 1982 report.

The following are samples from recent U.N. budgets, with U.S. contributions based on State Department figures. Included are expenditures from:

- U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), p. 6;
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), p. 8;
- U.N. Environment Program (UNEP), p. 9;
- International Labor Organization (ILO), p. 10;
- U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), p. 11;
- World Health Organization (WHO), p. 12;
- U.N. peacekeeping group in Lebanon (UNIFIL), p.14;
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), p. 15;
- U.N. Center for Human Settlements (HABITAT), p. 15;
- U.N. Fund and Council for Namibia, p. 16;
- U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), p. 16;
- U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), p. 17;
- U.N. Department of Public Information (UNDPI), p. 18;
- U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), p.19;
- U.N. spending on human rights, p. 20.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO)
1981-1983

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
<u>Education</u>	
- Respect for Human Rights.	\$110,250
- Aid to Refugees and such "national liberation movements" as the Palestine Liberation Organization, Southwest Africa People's Organization and African National Council.	\$2,220,775
- Regional conference on educational policy and cooperation in Arab states to discuss overhauling primary and adult education.	\$76,850
- Meeting on the less developed countries (LDC) needs and priorities in regard to education to discuss needs and priorities in respect to educational development.	\$14,375
- <u>Prospects</u> , quarterly review of education, including new editions in Arabic and Russian.	\$159,275
- International Education Reporting Service on Educational Innovation.	\$68,775
- Modernization of educational methods in China.	\$84,175
- Beijing (Peking) Foreign Languages Institute.	\$33,100
- Curriculum development and production of teaching aids and equipment in Pakistan.	\$1,800
- Technical education in Lebanon.	\$258,775
- Special educational advisor in Haiti.	\$25,950
- Teacher training in Honduras.	\$250
- Contribution to strategies for the implementation of national literacy and post-literacy programs.	\$588,125
- Conference on Status of Women and Participation of Women in Development.	\$1,144,000
- Family life education in Malaysia.	\$2,750

Regional Office for Education in Africa

- New trends in science and technology education. \$38,743
- Education for handicapped children. \$12,400
- Stationery and office supplies. \$19,550

Regional Office in Latin America and Caribbean

- Teaching human rights. \$7,400
- New trends in science and technology education. \$38,743
- Stationery and office supplies. \$10,225

UNESCO General Conference, Executive Board, and Directorate

- Interpretation services (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish) from the 22nd ordinary conference in addition to language and document services provided by regular staff. \$208,400
- Chauffeur and maintenance of motor vehicles for President of General Conference. \$4,550
- Travel and per diem for Executive Board and President. \$439,887
- Interpretation services for Executive Board. \$383,587
- Medals conferred by Directorate. \$7,700
- Salaries of headquarters staff. \$3,967,350
- Salaries of field staff. \$283,275

Food and Agriculture Organization
(FAO)
1984-1985

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
<u>Technical and Economic Programs</u>	
Genetic resources. To provide secretariat services for the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources and to support the development of a global network on crop genetic resources. The program includes activities in Africa, East Asia, and Latin America.	\$181,000
Crop Improvement and Management Program.	\$939,250
Animal health.	\$932,250
Meat development. Particular emphasis on promoting small-scale village industries based on slaughterhouse products and by-products.	\$271,000
Rural Institutions and Employment. Periodic reviews of rural development policies and programs to alleviate rural poverty, to assess the causes and incidence of landlessness among the rural poor and to aid manpower planning.	\$859,250
World Food Security. New approaches to achieve greater collective self-reliance in basic food-stuffs.	\$936,250
Tree Improvement and Plantation, to increase production of industrial wood, fuelwood, fodder and food, and for soil and water conservation.	\$121,250
Fuelwood Program.	\$267,000
<u>Support Services</u>	
Library.	\$1,228,500
Publications, including technical studies and periodicals on nutrition, food, and agriculture.	\$929,250
Computer service.	\$303,250
Rent and maintenance of premises.	\$754,250
Cleaning and utilities.	\$1,075,000
Furniture, equipment, and vehicles.	\$539,000

United Nations Environment Program
(UNEP)
1982-1983

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
<u>Overall Comprehensive Costs</u>	
Permanent posts and offices.	\$1,580,525
Consultants.	\$82,753
Temporary assistance at meetings.	\$273,920
Travel of representatives.	\$47,948
Rental/maintenance of premises.	\$14,841
Rental/maintenance of equipment.	\$72,144
Hospitality.	\$3,213
Supplies and materials.	\$96,158
<u>Policymaking Organs</u>	
Conference servicing costs.	\$28,743
Supplies and materials.	\$23,830
Travel of representatives and staff.	\$14,162
Hospitality at official functions.	\$3,213
Temporary Assistance.	
31 interpreters for 14 days (\$285 per day/ interpreter of which U.S. pays \$75).	\$79,601
5 revisers for four months to work on documentation before, during, and after the meetings (\$271 per day/reviser of which U.S. pays \$70).	\$28,377
5 typists for four months (\$180 per day/typist of which U.S. pays \$47).	\$18,813
Travel.	\$33,054
15 interpreters for 5 days (\$350 per day/inter- preter which U.S. \$91).	\$6,846
<u>Secretariat of the U.N. Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation</u>	
Permanent offices.	\$92,369

Travel; 11 members are entitled to first-class travel, 9 to economy.	\$38,959
Furniture and equipment.	\$600

Environmental Programs

Environmental Assessment.	\$3,649,106
Human Settlements and Human Health including report on guidelines on hazardous chemicals.	\$446,352
Environment and Development. Includes reports on progress in devising and implementing approaches for incorporation of the environmental objectives into development planning and process in Papua New Guinea (1982) and Cuba (1983).	\$921,108

International Labor Organization
(ILO)
1984-1985

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
Chinese language services.	\$505,000
Printing of Report on Apartheid.	\$12,125
Conference of American States Members of the ILO.	\$98,000
Two Country Studies on the Trade Union Situation in Europe.	\$53,227
Research and technical services for wider awareness and fuller observance of ILO standards on forced labor.	\$46,987
Program on Equality of Rights.	\$237,150
Promoting Awareness of Women Workers' Problems and adoption of appropriate policies.	\$85,488
National and international aspects of employment and development policy as they relate to disarmament.	\$30,692
Rural women's development and employment program.	\$76,385
Policies for the improvement of working conditions and workers' welfare.	\$185,062

Work-related welfare facilities and services. To promote access of workers and their families to such work-related facilities and services, such as canteens, workers' housing, transport, and child-care facilities.	\$106,158
Internal services. Includes drivers, messengers, meeting room staff, cleaning and removal services.	\$806,460
Security services. Includes Security Officer, night watchman, door-keeper, car park attendant, and receptionist, 13 people in all.	\$311,475
Editing, translation, and revision. For 2 publications resulting from sessions of ILO conference and for other ILO publications.	\$1,447,627
General workers' education. To provide workers' educational manual on occupational safety and health; a guide for services provided to youth by trade unions; and a <u>Labour Education Bulletin</u> published 4 times yearly.	\$342,115

United Nations Industrial Development Organization
(UNIDO)
1982-1983

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
<u>General</u>	
Overall language training.	\$49,725
Travel of participants to meetings and official travel of staff.	\$768,500
<u>Programs</u>	
Consultations on Industrial Development, including fertilizers, iron and steel, leather and leather products, vegetable oils and fats, petrochemicals, agricultural machinery, pharmaceuticals, food processing, capital goods, industrial financing, and industrial manpower.	\$1,046,475
Follow-up meetings to the consultation on fertilizer, petrochemical, pharmaceutical, and food processing industries.	\$12,500
Consulting services. To prepare background papers on issues to be considered at Consultation Meetings. These activities will require	

53 consultants for an average of 1.9 man-months each, or \$1,290/month per consultant.	\$135,000
UNIDO representation at General Assembly, and other forums.	\$17,500
Local travel within U.S. to establish liaison with government representatives.	\$8,750
Development and Transfer of Technology. Publications on development of technology policies geared to developing countries; implementation and monitoring of recommendations on transfer of technology.	\$544,725
Consulting services. To undertake global studies of long-term development issues.	\$20,000
Consulting services. To assist in preparation of a report on appropriate technologies and their transfer to developing countries.	\$1,250

World Health Organization
(WHO)
1984-1985

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
Committee on international surveillance of communicable diseases.	\$7,850
Strengthening of national health development centers/networks.	\$77,000
Study on women as providers of health care.	\$90,625
Involvement and training of traditional birth attendants.	\$150,000
World Health Magazine.	\$235,750
Maternal and child health, including family planning.	\$265,200
Human reproduction research.	\$8,011,750
Health of the elderly.	\$93,250
Prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases.	\$32,500
Prevention and control of acute respiratory infections.	\$12,500

Road traffic accident prevention.	\$9,250
Development of accident safety technology.	\$38,500
Alternative approaches to day-care of children.	\$28,750
Programs on alcohol problems in the employment setting.	\$21,200
Prevention and management of alcohol problems in the family setting.	\$14,125
Global promotion and cooperation in water supply and sanitation.	\$32,725
Assessment of health hazards associated with technological development.	\$10,250
Epidemiological study of skin cancer induced by ultraviolet radiation.	\$175,000
Immunization program.	\$76,050
Informal consultation on disinsecting of vessels and aircraft.	\$6,325
Tropical disease research and development examples:	
Malaria	\$2,848,750
Schistosomiasis (river blindness)	\$1,076,750
African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness)	\$1,141,500
Advisory group on the prevention of blindness.	\$11,800
Medium Term Program (1984-1989) on cancer.	\$6,502,350
Research, development, and training on smoking control.	\$8,250

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
(UNIFIL)
January 19 - July 19, 1983

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
Daily allowance to troops (\$1.28 per day of which U.S. pays 35¢ per man per day, payable in local currency).	\$422,144
Rations to troops. Average daily ration cost estimated at \$4.84 of which U.S. pays \$1.32 per man.	\$1,515,040
Rental of four helicopters from Italy.	\$353,328
Tents (\$25.00 per square meter of which U.S. pays \$6.80).	\$40,800
Furnishings and mess equipment, stoves, ovens freezers, meat slicers, potato peelers, food mixers, tables, lamps, chairs, sofas, beds, wardrobes, and other accomodations and dining equipment.	\$57,936
Spare parts and maintenance for motor vehicles.	\$1,751,680
Clothing and uniforms.	\$204,272
Sandbags, 150,000 at approximately 44¢ each.	\$18,224
Barbed wire, 750 rolls.	\$6,800
Flypaper.	\$544
Flags and decals.	\$1,224
Toilet paper.	\$7,480
Paper towels.	\$5,576
Haircutting for military personnel.	\$4,651
U.N. medal sets.	\$3,808
Maps.	\$1,632
Pay for troops. Standard rate of \$950 per man-month for all ranks, plus a supplement of \$280 per man per month for a limited number of specialists.	\$10,813,088

International Civil Aviation Organization
(ICAO)
1983

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
Air Navigation Meetings.	\$68,125
Books and periodicals.	\$9,500
Salaries and wages of professional and general service posts.	\$4,082,500
Travel of headquarters staff and dependents.	\$22,500
Travel on home leave.	\$53,000
Hospitality.	\$800
Stationery.	\$11,250
Public information mailing.	\$99,000

United Nations Center for Human Settlements
(HABITAT)
1982-1983

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
Travel of representatives of policymaking organs.	\$9,150
Travel of executive staff.	\$15,425
Executive staff furniture and equipment.	\$850
Travel of staff to attend meetings related to human settlements activities.	\$11,650
Settlement planning. In relation to population and environmental policies.	\$361,975
Travel of programs staff.	\$23,275

United Nations Council for Namibia
1982-1983

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
U.N. Fund for Namibia.	\$4,025,000
U.N. Council for Namibia. Includes office for SWAPO, the Namibian guerrilla and terrorist group.	\$514,450
Consultants.	\$30,625
Travel of representatives.	\$229,200
Other official travel for staff.	\$186,150
SWAPO Office in New York. Even though Section 14 of P.L. 98-164 restricts U.S. contributions to the U.N. for activities benefitting the PLO and SWAPO, these monies were not withheld this year.	\$149,550

U.N. Conference on Trade and Development
(UNCTAD)
1982-1983

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
<u>Comprehensive Costs</u>	
Executive officers and management.	\$1,126,350
Program for the transfer of technology.	\$1,000,975
Program for economic cooperation among developing countries.	\$875,375
Program support for conferences.	\$1,046,675
Permanent posts.	\$9,070,675
Consultants.	\$314,050
Official travel of staff.	\$378,725
Hospitality.	\$8,025
External financing and international monetary issues.	\$737,050
Interrelationships among trade, development, money and finance, and contribution to the	

International Development Strategy. Including reports on interdependence and global development issues.	\$357,225
Liberalization of government barriers to trade. Includes helping developing countries participate in trade negotiations.	\$369,900
Export development and structural adjustment. Includes an evaluation of world economy changes relevant to developing countries and technical publications on the role of intra-industry trade in bringing about positive structural adjustment in the world economy.	\$523,125
Trade expansion and promotion.	\$284,500

Administrative and Common Services

Hospitality.	\$5,275
Supplies and materials.	\$299,225
Permanent posts.	\$679,425

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees
(UNHCR)
1982-1983

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
Nearly 1,000 posts.	\$4,722,400
Travel of staff.	\$376,125
Hospitality.	\$21,450
Furniture and equipment.	\$55,475
Directing and coordinating the protection of refugees.	\$390,450
Regional coordination at headquarters.	\$1,118,975
Regular field operations. 74 field officers and 8 correspondents promoting liberal asylum policies and an adequate legal status for refugees. They also examine and advise headquarters concerning UNHCR requests for assistance.	\$4,003,675
Contractual services. To finance special events, field projects, news agency services, photographic production costs and television/film production, promotion and distribution costs.	\$18,450

U.N. Department of Public Information
(UNDPI)
1982-1983

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
Permanent posts.	\$8,020,425
Travel.	\$266,400
Editors roundtables.	\$17,675
Training of information assistants.	\$9,100
Public information contracts.	\$1,627,550
Pouch service.	\$202,650
Hospitality.	\$27,075
Public information supplies.	\$407,175
Public information equipment.	\$306,550
Radio and Visual Services Division. Includes television news summaries of U.N. events, 7,000 radio news programs on U.N. events, photo coverage of meetings, in-depth media information, 6,200 radio programs in 18 languages covering the entire range of U.N. activities with a daily quarter-hour program dealing with U.N. efforts against apartheid, and dissemination of information.	\$4,948,050
Press and Publications Division. Includes publishing booklets, pamphlets, and leaflets on the U.N. and its activities, disarmament and international security, racial discrimination, apartheid, decolonization, Namibia, and the New International Economic Order.	\$2,160,125
Information Service, Geneva.	\$1,014,925
Information Centers.	\$4,901,000

U.N. Children's Fund
(UNICEF)
1984-1985

PROGRAM	U.S. SHARE
Abandoned and street children in Latin America and the Caribbean.	\$110,150
Promotion and development of women in Latin America and the Caribbean.	\$209,285
Child health in Africa.	\$3,297,891
Child nutrition in Africa.	\$723,905
Child nutrition in the Americas.	\$22,470
Social welfare services for children in Africa.	\$952,577
Social welfare services for children in East Asia and Pakistan.	\$24,233
Formal education in Africa.	\$2,443,127
Formal education in the Americas.	\$119,182
<u>Administration</u>	
Travel by the Office of the Executive Director.	\$129,536
Fund raising.	\$355,674
Editorial and publications services. Includes publication of: <u>UNICEF News</u> (quarterly), <u>State of the World's Children</u> and press kit (annual), <u>UNICEF Report</u> (annual), <u>Child Reference Bulletin</u> (quarterly), and <u>Facts about UNICEF</u> (annual).	\$840,819
Photo and exhibit services based in New York.	\$203,975
Information services based in Geneva.	\$245,083
Personnel services, New York.	\$1,023,734
Recruitment and placement.	\$448,222

Division on Human Rights

PROGRAM

U.S. SHARE

Overall

Established posts. There are 81 posts. \$1,711,750

Travel of representatives and other official travel of staff. \$210,600

Hospitality. \$375

Policymaking organs

Human rights committee honoraria. Payable to the 18 members of the Committee (\$3,000 per year for 17 members and \$5,000 per year for the Chairman). \$28,000

Travel of representatives and staff to Human Rights Commission. \$105,475

Human Rights Activities

Standard-setting, research, studies, and prevention of discrimination. Work on drafting a declaration on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief; on drafting a convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; on drafting a convention on the rights of the child; and on drafting a declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities. \$577,250

Implementation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Organization of seminars and studies on the subject, including Report to the Sub-Commission on ways and means of ensuring the implementation of U.N. resolutions on apartheid, racism, and racial discrimination. \$432,925

Melanie Merkle
Research Assistant