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**Executive Board  
Third Regular Session**

**Rome, 19 - 22 October 1998**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Agenda item 12

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## **PROPOSAL BY THE BUREAU OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE PROVISION OF PASSIVE RUSSIAN INTERPRETATION**

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1. On 12 May 1998, the Representative of the Russian Federation, in a letter addressed to the Executive Director of WFP (see Annex I), requested that passive Russian interpretation be made available so that members of the delegation could address the Executive Board in Russian and that such interventions be interpreted into the languages of the Board.
  2. The Secretariat referred the matter to the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure for its consideration. At its meeting of 23 June 1998, the Group examined the request and its financial implications (see Annex II). Bearing in mind that Russian is one of the official languages of the United Nations and that special arrangements also exist for Chinese, the Group recommended that the Bureau present a proposal to the Executive Board at its Third Regular Session for a favourable reply to the request of the Russian Federation, with effect from the First Regular Session of 1999.
  3. The Bureau, at its meeting of 29 September 1998, endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group and submits them hereby to the Board for approval.

The Executive Board requests the Secretariat:

- a) **to provide passive Russian interpretation for official meetings of the Board for the term of office of the Russian Federation or any other State whose official language of communication with the United Nations is Russian and which so requests;**
- b) **to allocate the necessary budgetary funds for 1999; and**
- c) **to make the necessary provisions for future budgetary periods.**



**ANNEX I**

The text of the letter from the Representative of the Russian Federation is reproduced hereunder:

Bureau of the Permanent Observer  
of the Russian Federation to FAO

Rome, May 12, 1998

Dear Ms. Bertini,

The delegation of the Russian Federation to the sessions of the Executive Board will be very much obligated if during the above mentioned sessions, there is a possibility for members of the delegation to speak during discussions in Russian, which is a working language of the UN. There is no need to translate speeches into Russian from other languages.

Thank you very much in advance.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

V. Zvezdin

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to FAO



## ANNEX II

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ADDITION OF PASSIVE RUSSIAN INTERPRETATION FOR FOUR 4-DAY SESSIONS OF THE BOARD

In order to provide passive Russian interpretation, some of the local interpreters normally recruited by WFP will have to be replaced by non-local staff, as only one local interpreter with the appropriate combination of languages is available in Rome.

#### COST ESTIMATES FOR PASSIVE RUSSIAN INTERPRETATION (in dollars)

Item	Cost per session	Cost per year	Cost per biennium
Travel*	11 000	44 000	88 000
DSA and salary**	8 200	33 600	67 200
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 200</b>	<b>77 600</b>	<b>155 200</b>

\* Travel costs have been calculated on the basis of standard United Nations travel guidelines, including travel time.

\*\* Additional cost of salary of non-local staff and daily subsistence allowance.

⇒ **Estimated budgetary funds for 1999: 77 600 dollars**

⇒ **Estimated cost for biennium 2000-2001: 155 200 dollars**

