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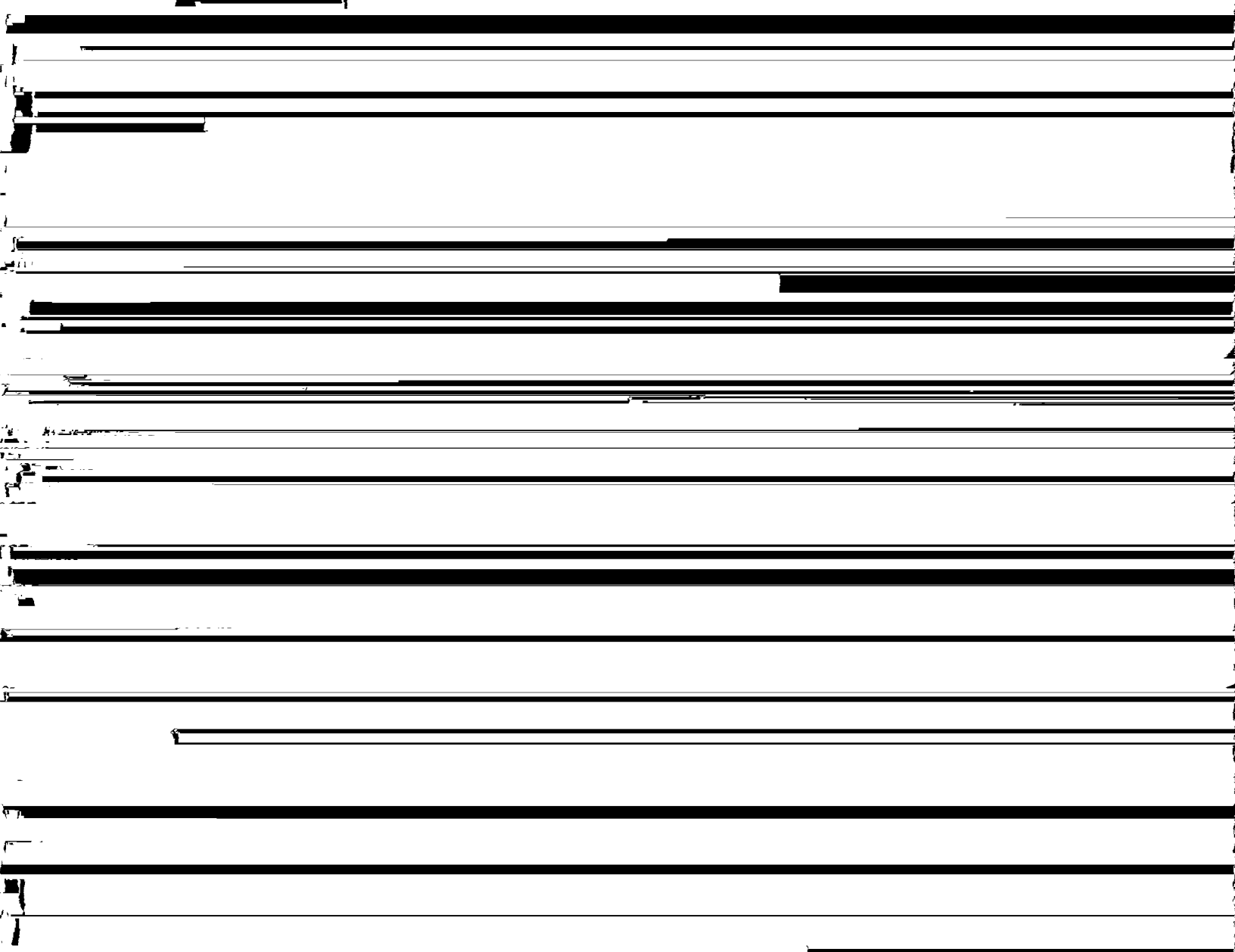
Statement of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political

In section III of its report (A/67/604), the Advisory Committee has made general observations and recommendations on cross-cutting issues pertaining to all missions. The Committee is of the view that the Assembly should request the Secretary-General to further improve the presentation and content of future budget proposals for special political missions, by presenting cross-cutting issues in a format similar to that of the overview report on the financing of peacekeeping operations.

Specific recommendations on resource requirements for the three thematic clusters, as well as UNAMA and UNAMI are provided in section IV of the report of the Advisory Committee.

As for cluster I, the Advisory Committee notes that, compared with the appropriation for 2012, the estimated resources proposed for 2013 reflect an increase of approximately \$4 million, primarily owing to the inclusion of the provision for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen (\$3.7 million, or 91 per cent), as the initial requirements of the Office were funded through the unforeseen and ~~extraordinary~~ ~~mechanism~~ available to the Secretary-General. The Committee



Mr Chairman,

The Advisory Committee is recommending approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) which

include closure of nine provincial offices, accompanied by significant reductions in budgetary requirements and staffing levels. The Committee considers, however, that effort should have been made to present a more transparent and better organized proposal. It reiterates its earlier recommendation that future budget submissions should contain more detail on the resource requirements to meet the mandated objectives, irrespective of whether the proposal is for additional resources or for reductions.

Concerning the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a Joint Operations Centre at UNAMA, the Committee is of the view that a more complete justification should have been presented. It therefore recommends that the Secretary

States for Syria (A/67/604/Add.1)

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, the request for resources for the one-year period ending 31 December 2013 (A/67/346/Add.6), submitted separately from the requirements of the other 32 special political missions, amounts to \$12,261,800 net. The