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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MATHIAS (Portugal)

later: Mrs. KEKEM (Togo)

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- (c) REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 57: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued) (A/SPC/35/L.19)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the representatives of Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe had informed him that if they had been present at the time of the vote on draft resolutions A/SPC/35/L.14, L.15, L.16 and L.17, they would have voted for those draft resolutions. With regard to draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19, he informed the Committee that the delegations of Algeria, India and Mali had joined the sponsors, and that the draft resolution had no financial implications.
2. Mr. BALASUBRAMANIAM (Sri Lanka) said that, if his delegation had been present at the time of the vote on draft resolutions A/SPC/35/L.14, L.15, L.16 and L.17, it would have voted for those draft resolutions.
3. Mr. SHAMMA (Jordan), introducing draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19 commented briefly on the various preambular paragraphs and the operative part, and expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.
4. Mr. RAMIN (Israel) said that draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19, which had been initiated by Syria, was unacceptable because it was based on the false premise that Israel's presence on the Golan Heights was illegal, and because it was designed once again to draw the United Nations into the campaign against the peace process in the Middle East. It was from the Golan Heights that Syria had invaded the fledgling State of Israel in 1948 in an attempt to prevent its establishment. Between 1949 and 1967, Syria had repeatedly used the Golan Heights to launch attacks against Israel by regular and irregular forces, despite the provisions of the Israel-Syrian armistice agreement that had then been in force. On 5 June 1967, Syria had launched an all-out onslaught against Israel from the Golan Heights. Israel had repelled that attack, and its presence in the area thus derived from its lawful exercise of the right of self-defence, in full conformity with the relevant rules of international law.
5. Syria had supported and continued to support the activities of the terrorist Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), whose aim was the annihilation of Israel and in October 1973 it had initiated a third war of aggression. In addition to those obvious motives for Syria's initiation of draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19, there were also the domestic and inter-Arab problems of the Damascus régime, the challenges to its rule, the outbreaks of sectarian violence and the various disputes in which it was embroiled in the region. The draft resolution allowed Syria to display anti-Israel activism and thus divert public attention from its own problems at home and abroad. Israel considered that the right way to solve the conflict with Syria, as well as with other Arab neighbours, was through direct peace negotiations; and his delegation would therefore vote against the draft resolution now before the Committee.

6. Mr. ADHAMI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the arguments put forward by the representative of Israel did not deserve an extensive reply since they were simply an attempt to mislead. They referred to matters extraneous to the question, such as Syria's domestic situation, and their only aim was to waste the Committee's time and distract its attention from the fundamental issue. Israel was pursuing its aggressive practices designed to change the demographic characteristics and legal status of the occupied territories, in spite of the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and contrary to all rules of international law. The General Assembly should change its acquiescent approach, and should not allow Israel to persist in its obstinate attitude.

7. The Syrian Government, which had always had confidence in the United Nations, hoped that the General Assembly would make Israel understand that it would not go on allowing Israel to flout the principles of international law with impunity and to continue its violations of the sovereignty of States and the integrity of their territories. The international community had expressed its concern for the Holy City of Jerusalem; but, for Syria, the Golan Heights were also sacred, as were all the parts of its territory, and Syria was therefore determined to liberate the Golan Heights. Israel's attempt to change the legal status of the area constituted an escalation of its activities which was bound to have repercussions on peace in the region and throughout the world.

8. The annexation of Jerusalem and the decision to make it the capital of Israel would not have occurred if the Security Council had taken appropriate measures in time. During the period from 1949 to 1967, the Armistice Commission had condemned Israel for innumerable cases of repeated and premeditated aggression. The legend that Israel had been the victim in 1967 was false, as was recognized by the Zionist leaders themselves, since the whole 1967 operation had been planned over the preceding 18 years.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that there were no more speakers on his list. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to proceed to a recorded vote on the draft resolution under consideration, as had been requested.

10. It was so decided.

11. Mr. ABDEL MEGUID (Egypt), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that the Security Council in its relevant resolutions had reiterated the principles affirmed in the Charter and had called for the total withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories as a just and lasting solution in the Middle East. Every year, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need to restore the legitimate, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people; but Israel, in defiance of the international community, created obstacles to the implementation of those resolutions, by establishing colonies and settlements. Egypt was opposed to those practices by Israel, and condemned the attempt of certain extremist elements in that country who sought to annex the Golan Heights and halt the peace process. Egypt requested the Government of Israel not to continue along that road; for those reasons, his delegation would vote for draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19.

12. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19.

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Burma, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

13. Draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19 was adopted by 97 votes to 2, with 21 abstentions.

14. Mrs. NOWOTNY (Austria), speaking in explanation of vote, said that her delegation had supported draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19 because Austria would not only categorically reject an act of annexation of the Golan Heights as a very serious violation of international law, but was also equally opposed to any preparatory steps and initiatives which might result in an annexation. However, the Austrian Government had some serious reservations about the draft resolution, and considered that the question of the Golan Heights was a separate problem which should have been dealt with under the item on "The situation in the Middle East" or in the Security Council. There had been no change in Austria's position on the resolutions quoted in the preamble, and her delegation would have preferred a more carefully balanced wording for a resolution of a preventive character.

15. Mr. RANGER (Canada) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19 because, although it strongly opposed any move by Israel to annex the Golan Heights, it felt that the determination of the borders must be decided in negotiations between the parties, in accordance with Security Council resolution 242 (1967), and not by unilateral action. It also had particular reservations regarding the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2.

16. Mr. OWE (Norway) said that, although his delegation shared the concern of the sponsors of the draft resolution, it had abstained in the vote because the draft resolution seemed to imply that the legal status of the Golan Heights had already been changed, and also because of the wording of paragraphs 1 and 2.
17. Mr. VIRGIN (Sweden) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote, because any legislative measures adopted by Israel in connexion with the Golan Heights would constitute a violation of international law and would not have any legal force. He hoped that Israel would desist from enacting such legislation.
18. Mr. MIZUTANI (Japan) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution. However, his Government believed that Israel must withdraw from the Golan Heights in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and it maintained its objection to any measures Israel might take in that regard.
19. Mr. SLOTTE (Finland) said that his Government's unchanged position was that the solution of the Middle East conflict must be based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). His delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19 because it had serious reservations, particularly on paragraphs 1 and 2.
20. Mr. PETREE (United States of America) explained that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution, first because the Israeli Parliament had not enacted any legislation changing the legal status of occupied Syrian Arab territory and the resolution was therefore tendentious and ill-advised, and secondly because the resolution did not contain any specific reference to Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) which set forth the principles on which a peaceful settlement of the question must be based.
21. Mr. NEVES (Portugal) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution because it had serious reservations, particularly on paragraphs 1 and 2. However, it felt that any attempt by Israel to enact legislation changing the legal status of the Golan Heights would be illegal and unacceptable.
22. Mr. MACKAY (New Zealand) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote, because Israel had not taken any action with regard to the Golan Heights, and he expressed the hope that it would not do so.
23. Mr. DIDIER (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the nine member countries of the European Economic Community, said that they had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19, because they had reservations particularly in connexion with certain operative paragraphs and some technical aspects of the preamble. Any unilateral change in the status of the territories Israel had occupied since 1967 would be contrary to international law and to the Fourth Geneva Convention, and would constitute a new source of tension in the area.
24. The CHAIRMAN said that the representatives of Chile and Djibouti had informed him that, had they been present at the time of the voting, they would have voted for draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.19. He declared that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 57.

AGENDA ITEM 59: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (c) REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
- (d) CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THE APPLICATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL INFORMATION AND MASS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (A/35/21, 362 and Add.1, 504 and Corr.1, 603)

25. Mr. KA (Senegal) said that the emergence of communication and information as major aspects of development problems was today an undeniable reality. The dynamics of development in every society depended on that society's capacity to define the objectives and the means for its own development - in other words, to elaborate a model that reflected its own culture, tradition, resources and needs. With the evolution of modern technology, the principal trends in communication penetrated every social stratum and group, and thus greatly increased the possibilities and the risks inherent in the use of communication. Communication was an instrument for conscious participation in the life and progress of society, and the use of modern means of communication should be directed towards the expansion of such participation. Since knowledge transmitted through communication also constituted power, current progress raised questions about the right to be informed and the right to transmit information. Accordingly, whenever any right was exercised in a field involving major technological innovation, there arose the problem of the relationship between ethics and technology.

26. Technical progress had considerably increased the inequalities existing between States, peoples and cultures, and the time had therefore come to consider questions of information and communication from the standpoint of culture. A truly new information and communication order must necessarily be part of a new world cultural order, an order that reflected the cross-fertilization of diverse but complementary cultures. Communication trends should be corrected by stimulating cultures which had hitherto been underprivileged in world exchanges to make their own original contributions. In other words, however essential the development of a national technological communication infrastructure might be, it could not effectively help to change the current trend, unless the content of the message communicated was given equal attention. Accordingly, the objectives of the new communication order should be twofold: at the national level, to heighten the awareness of a country's own cultural identity; and at the international level, to provide cultures which had hitherto been less privileged with the means they needed to express themselves fully. Seen in that context, the twenty-first session of the UNESCO General Conference was a historic milestone, for during that Conference an international programme for the development of communication had been established by consensus and the foundations had been laid for defining the principles of a new world information and communication order.

27. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) said that questions relating to international information and communication could not be considered separately from basic contemporary issues - namely, the struggle to safeguard peace and to promote détente, arms limitation and disarmament, and efforts for the democratization of international relations. The international exchange of information decisively influenced the intellectual climate for the continuation of the process of détente; and to keep that climate clear of any element of cold war was a responsibility incumbent on the mass communication media and on Governments. His delegation emphatically advocated public information and mass communication policies that were based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, in other words, on the strict observance of such fundamental principles as respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, equality and non-discrimination. Guided by those principles, the German Democratic Republic was supporting all efforts made by the United Nations, UNESCO and non-governmental organizations with a view to codifying the relevant norms for mass communication activities. That task was all the more important in view of the dangerous practices of imperialism, which had initiated an unprecedented propaganda campaign in support of its policy of confrontation. The build-up of military forces was accompanied by an intensification of activities in the ideological field. A tremendous propaganda machinery, with highly specialized personnel, sophisticated communication technologies and techniques and subtle methods of manipulating public opinion, was stemming the tide of progress throughout the world. Imperialist campaigns of defamation and interference in the internal affairs of States took many forms and employed various means. The anti-socialist and anti-democratic propaganda war included not only the excesses of defamation and slander in which various radio stations were engaged; it united all the means available into a giant machinery for psychological warfare. Such practices could currently be witnessed at the Madrid meeting, which the Western countries were using as a forum for demagogical and tendentious speeches, apparently having forgotten the obligations undertaken in 1975 at Helsinki by all participants in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Those countries were even trying to distort the Final Act of Helsinki and to use it to conceal their interference in the internal affairs of other States.

28. The forces which misused information in order to create strife and interfere in the internal affairs of other countries pursued an imperialist policy towards developing countries through the transnational corporation empires which controlled most of the international mass media. His country, like the other socialist countries, fully supported the demands of the developing countries for the decolonization of the information sector and the democratization of international information relations, and felt that the establishment of a new world information and communication order was fully in line with that concern. As had been reaffirmed at the recent session of the General Conference of UNESCO in Belgrade, the responsible dissemination of factual and comprehensive information should be regarded as an essential criterion for the establishment of that order. The thesis that "not less, but more information" should be disseminated was designed only to divert attention from the core of the problem: the responsibility of the communications media for the contents of information.

(Mr. Schlegel, German Democratic Republic)

29. His country had always supported the activities of developing countries designed to create national information systems and for that purpose had co-operated in the training of young specialists and the exchange of radio and television programmes and had provided assistance for the establishment of news agencies, radio and television stations and national publishing houses. However, his delegation shared the view that the transfer of technology and financial aid alone would not solve the problems of those countries in the communication sector. It was necessary to formulate a communication policy which took into account the main national development objectives and the interests, requirements and potential of each country.

30. He felt that the work accomplished at the twenty-first session of the UNESCO General Conference in Belgrade and the decisions adopted there were an expression of the desire for the democratization of international relations in the information sector and marked an important step forward in that area. It was imperative to improve the co-ordination of the activities undertaken by the United Nations and UNESCO in that field.

31. The tasks and responsibilities of the Department of Public Information were based mainly on the need to disseminate general and objective information on the activities of the Organization and the decisions of its bodies. The activities dealing with the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Council for Namibia and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, as well as activities related to the establishment of a new international economic order, were of special importance. The fact that the programmes and activities of the Department of Public Information were becoming increasingly numerous and diverse necessitated a more effective utilization of resources in that Department. Accordingly, it was necessary to eliminate programmes and services of marginal use, focus attention on priority projects and improve the co-ordination of information activities throughout the United Nations system.

32. As a member of the Committee on Information, the German Democratic Republic would continue to participate actively and constructively in the discussion of the steps to be taken in order to create a new international information order in the interest of international peace and would always advocate that information and communication activities should be based on the purposes and principles of the Charter.

33. Mrs. Kekeh (Togo) took the Chair.

34. Mr. KILIC (Turkey) said that the Committee on Information had given new impetus to the activities of the Department of Public Information and the work of the United Nations system in the field of information. The avoidance of confrontation between the different concepts of information and freedom of information and the attainment of a general consensus on the fundamental need to establish a new international information and communication order had been remarkable achievements. The mandate of the Committee on Information reflected the desire of the international community to improve the dialogue between developed



(Mr. Kilic, Turkey)

and developing countries. The public information functions of the Organization would certainly play an important role in that regard and the General Assembly would surely continue to play an essential role in the establishment of the guidelines and orientation of the new world information and communication order.

35. With respect to certain aspects of the United Nations activities in that area, he said that his delegation attached great importance to the creation of new centres and the effective functioning of existing centres; it was particularly in favour of establishing a centre in Zimbabwe. His delegation fully supported the efforts of the Department of Public Information in training journalists and broadcasting personnel and urged closer co-operation in that field between the Department and other agencies in the United Nations system which were already providing training programmes. With respect to co-ordination in general, although the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination was the main body responsible for co-ordination within the system, its subsidiary body, the Joint United Nations Information Committee, had an increasingly important role to play, especially in conceiving and undertaking more joint projects and programmes, a task which was essential to efforts to establish a new world information order.

36. The United Nations should expand its short-wave broadcasts gearing them to contemporary needs and using its own equipment. However, the feasibility of starting frequency modulation broadcasting in the Headquarters area was a more complicated and controversial matter; further in-depth studies of the legal, technical, public relations and financial aspects of the matter and a clarification of the potential target audiences were required before any decision was taken in that regard.

37. With respect to the question of the availability of funds, it should be kept in mind that, while delegations continued to request more and more services and the new world information order continued to require an increase in the number of activities, the amount of funds allocated had remained essentially the same. Of course, savings could be made, but the Department of Public Information could not be expected to continue indefinitely to undertake new mandates without additional resources.

38. The establishment of an international programme for the development of communication within the framework of UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Council were important steps in the process of establishing a new world information order. The adoption by consensus, at the twenty-first session of the General Conference of UNESCO, of the resolution concerning the conclusions of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems (the "MacBride Commission") was of equal importance. Although his delegation felt that some of the recommendations of the Commission were not acceptable or applicable, the resolution should be considered as a positive step towards the establishment of a new order. The discussions which had taken place in the Special Political Committee, the Committee on Information and UNESCO had provided ample proof that consensus was essential in that regard; but the efforts to achieve a consensus should not force delegations to accept compromise solutions or to make concessions with regard to basic principles

(Mr. Kilic, Turkey)

concerning freedom of information and freedom of opinion. His Government adhered strictly to those principles, which had been enunciated by Atatürk and which would become cornerstones of its new Constitution, and was anxious to ensure that those freedoms would in no way be threatened in the process of correcting existing imbalances.

39. Mr. BURNETT (Barbados) said that over the past three years the subject of information had engaged the attention of the international community, and that the growth and development of that community as a whole depended on a constant flow of accurate, well-balanced, adequate and timely information. Moreover, the international community had agreed on the need for a new and more effective world information order as an essential condition for significant communication and understanding among the peoples of the world.

40. That need was felt particularly in the Caribbean region, which was entirely made up of third-world countries, mainly developing island countries that had recently achieved independence or were on the point of doing so. In that region radio was the most important mass medium, in some cases the only one. His delegation was therefore gratified that the report of the Committee on Information (A/35/21) contained recommendations on the strengthening and updating of the regional structure of the Radio Service of the Department of Public Information. In such a reorganization there must be due regard for the needs of the Caribbean region, where French and Dutch were spoken, as well as English. In particular, his delegation endorsed the appeal made to the Committee by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago for the establishment of a Caribbean radio service unit separate from the present North American unit.

41. The establishment of a new world information and communication order was inextricably linked to the new international economic order, and in that area the main responsibility lay with the United Nations. His delegation had noted with interest the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group, and fully supported the recommendations in the report of the Committee on Information (annex, para. 77). Barbados, though encouraged by the action taken by the Secretary-General concerning the programme of fellowships and scholarships for the training of journalists and broadcasting personnel, was rather disappointed at the small number of persons who would benefit initially from those programmes; nevertheless, it was an auspicious beginning.

42. Mr. SERAFINI (Italy) reiterated his country's firm commitment to freedom of information, as already indicated by the representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the members of the European Economic Community. Of course there could be no freedom without responsibility but, as the MacBride Commission had stated in its report, values such as truthfulness, accuracy, and respect for human rights could not be imposed by decree, but were best guaranteed through diversity and choice in the content of communication. Free access to unofficial, as well as official, news sources was a necessary requirement for accurate and balanced reporting. His delegation was pleased to note that the fundamental principles of freedom of information were embodied in the Mass Media Declaration, adopted by the General

(Mr. Serafini, Italy)

Conference of UNESCO at its twentieth session, and more recently in the resolution on the conclusions of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems (MacBride Commission) adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-first session.

43. Under its new expanded mandate the Committee on Information had achieved significant progress. Its Ad Hoc Working Group had produced a series of recommendations (A/35/21, annex), some of which could be implemented promptly, while others, particularly those with financial implications, would require further study. Many of the goals sought could be achieved through a more effective use of the resources available to the Department of Public Information, and United Nations agencies should co-operate by merging scarce resources for the attainment of common objectives. He praised the efforts of the Joint United Nations Committee on Information (JUNIC) to ensure system-wide co-ordination and co-operation, but considered that much remained to be done. Such far-reaching and expensive programmes as undertaking short-wave broadcasts or frequency-modulation broadcasts in the Headquarters area could not be approved without a careful study of the technical and financial problems and of the real impact on the public. His delegation believed that it was more effective and productive to decentralize the dissemination of information, and it stressed the need to improve the functioning of the United Nations information centres.

44. With respect to training programmes for broadcasters and journalists, he said that the main task of the Department of Public Information should be to produce well-informed staff so as to improve the coverage of United Nations events and programmes. Other United Nations bodies, such as UNESCO and UNDP, would continue and possibly broaden their training programmes for journalists and broadcasters from the developing countries, in order to bridge the existing gap between them and the developed countries. The central role of UNESCO in that area was fully recognized, and the two resolutions (A/35/362/Add.1, annexes) adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-first session underlined UNESCO's unique role as the forum, initiator and catalyst for the world debate on communication. The success of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), established by virtue of one of those resolutions, would depend not only on its financial resources but also on the degree of co-operation and co-ordination it would be able to promote among the interested public bodies and organizations. Broader co-operation between UNESCO, the United Nations, and the various specialized agencies was vital to the satisfactory implementation of the Programme. In conclusion, he said that his delegation supported the proposals made at the preceding meeting by the French delegation.

45. Miss SALIH (Sudan) said that her delegation was attaching increasing importance to information questions, which had an undeniable effect on the strengthening of international peace and security. She welcomed the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on the extension of the mandate of the Committee on Information, which had enabled the Sudan to become a member of the Committee, and fully supported its activities, and those of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

(Miss Salih, Sudan)

46. Consideration of information questions in the United Nations was bound up with the function that the communication media could perform in the dissemination of knowledge and information, and with promoting understanding among the peoples of the world and the awareness of the international community of United Nations activities throughout the world, especially in the developing countries. The existing information system was biased in favour of the flow of information from the developed countries to the developing countries, and consequently it was necessary to improve the balance in order to change the dependence of the developing countries on the developed countries and reduce the gap separating them.

47. In the report of the Committee on Information (A/35/21) a new concept of information policy was formulated, and her delegation recommended approval of the recommendations it contained. In particular it endorsed those concerning the use of information to promote decolonization, the fight against discrimination, disarmament, human rights and the establishment of a new international economic order; the securing of a geographical and linguistic balance at all levels of information management; and the distribution of information in all possible languages, with due regard for geographical distribution in the appointment of officials at the decision-making level, which would guarantee a greater participation by the developing countries and in particular would permit an increase in the Arabic staff of the Department so that it could fully perform its role in providing services for the Arab world. There should also be a full development of the information centres so that the developing countries could benefit from knowledge of United Nations activities.

48. The establishment of a new, more just and more efficient world information and communication order was the responsibility of all countries, but especially of the developed countries, and the aim should be to defend international peace and promote international understanding on the basis of a free flow of information on the broadest scale and in the most balanced form. The new world information order should complement the new international economic order. In conclusion, she paid a tribute to the constructive work done in formulating the new world information and communication order at the twenty-first session of the General Conference of UNESCO, held in Belgrade.

49. Mr. Mathias (Portugal) resumed the Chair.

50. Mr. KEITA (Mali) said that the international community had recognized above all the need to place information at the service of development, understanding and co-operation among peoples, and peace. For those reasons, the United Nations had established the Committee on Information to re-examine its policies and activities in that field.

51. His delegation agreed with the recommendations of that Committee for intensifying the activities of the Department of Public Information and national information services, and for democratizing information in order to establish a North-South information balance - in other words, to establish a new world information order. He hoped that the Department would do everything possible to eliminate the imbalance in the geographical distribution of staff and in the use of the working languages of the Organization.

(Mr. Keita, Mali)

52. In order to establish a new information order it was essential to increase co-operation between all members of the international community, as was pointed out in the report of the Committee on Information (A/35/21). Such co-operation should be effected both horizontally, between countries sharing the same development concerns or between international organizations involved in strengthening and developing the information systems of the third world - such as the Pan-African News Agency and the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies - and also vertically, through North-South exchanges and the provision of aid by developed countries and international organizations to the developing countries, in order to correct the present imbalance in the circulation of information.

53. Mr. STARČEVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that truthful, complete and objective information was a factor of integration contributing to rapprochement and better understanding among countries and peoples. On the other hand, information not meeting those criteria could have a very negative impact on international relations. In modern times, four fifths of all the news in the world was distributed by five major news agencies. As a result, even the existing information media in developing countries often became mere transmitters of information coming from developed countries, which was frequently irrelevant to the situation, aspirations, requirements and interests of developing countries. Decolonization in the field of information meant, therefore, the creation of conditions for a two-way flow of information and the development of information media in developing countries.

54. The need to change the existing situation was fully perceived by the non-aligned countries. Their endeavours to free themselves of dependence in that respect were an integral part of their struggle to establish a new international political and economic order based on independence, equality and free development of all countries and peoples, in accordance with the principles of the Charter. Aware of that need, the non-aligned countries had initiated an action aimed at changing the existing inequitable relations in the world information and communication system. The question of co-operation in the field of information had been examined for the first time at the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Algiers in 1973. On the initiative of the Yugoslav news agency TANJUG, a pool of news agencies of non-aligned countries had been set up in 1974. At various subsequent conferences and meetings of the non-aligned countries held at Lima in 1975, at Tunis and New Delhi in 1976, at Colombo in the same year, at Sarajevo in 1977 and at Lomé in 1979, and most recently at the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Havana in 1979, resolutions and recommendations had been adopted in which special attention had been devoted to co-operation in the field of information and mass communications.

55. Yugoslavia had taken an active part in all those actions of the non-aligned countries, convinced that the domination of large world information systems could be overcome only through concerted efforts and by assuring at the same time the full affirmation of national information systems. The non-aligned countries were aware that the new world information and communication order could be established

(Mr. Starčević, Yugoslavia)

only by an action of the entire international community, and that the promotion of equitable co-operation required a dialogue between developed and developing countries. Therefore, the non-aligned countries supported the action undertaken in that respect within the framework of the United Nations system; and they believed that co-operation between the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies, UNESCO and the Department of Public Information should be developed.

56. The future work of the Committee on Information should be directed towards the further elaboration and concrete expression of the concept of a world information and communication order. It was encouraging that the Ad Hoc Working Group had succeeded in reaching agreement on a number of useful recommendations, which had subsequently been approved by the Committee. In the resolution to be adopted at the current session, the General Assembly should endorse those recommendations so as to open the way for their implementation.

57. His delegation expressed its support for the work of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC), which was entrusted with the important role of ensuring co-ordination and co-operation in the fields of information and mass communications within the United Nations system. The programme of fellowships and scholarships for the training of journalists and broadcasting personnel from the developing countries in the Organization's Radio and Visual Services Division deserved special attention, as did the initiative taken by 16 major newspapers in issuing a joint quarterly world press supplement.

58. Yugoslavia had recently hosted the twenty-first session of the UNESCO General Conference. The Government of Yugoslavia was satisfied with the results of that session, which had adopted by consensus a number of important resolutions on information and mass communications. Special mention should be made of the resolution which, at the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Conference for Co-operation on Activities, Needs and Programmes for Communication Development held in Paris in April 1980, had established an international programme for the development of communication. The resolution concerning the findings of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems was also significant since it contained a number of recommendations regarding the activities of the United Nations system and the establishment of a new world information and communication order. All that showed that UNESCO had once again achieved valuable results, which should certainly be supported by the United Nations. His delegation, like many others, considered it necessary to ensure continued co-operation between the United Nations and UNESCO in that field.

59. The CHAIRMAN said he hoped that a draft resolution on agenda item 59 would be submitted at the afternoon meeting on Monday 24 November 1980. If no draft resolution had been submitted by Wednesday, 26 November, he would propose that one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee should chair a working group of interested delegations in order to ensure progress in the work on the presentation of the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 6.00 p.m.