



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 48th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 67: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION (continued) (A/SPC/36/L.25, L.26 and L.30)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolutions A/SPC/36/L.25 and L.26 and to the statement of the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25 (A/SPC/36/L.30).
2. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus), introducing draft resolutions A/SPC/36/L.25 and L.26, said that the open-ended Working Group on "Questions relating to information", which he had chaired, he prepared the two draft resolutions on the basis of texts originally proposed by the Group of 77. Views had differed widely both on substance and on approach, but a spirit of accommodation had prevailed. The delegations of the industrially developed countries belonging both to the Group of Eastern European States and to the Group of Western European and other States had co-operated in the work of the Group and had made their own substantive contribution, so that the two draft resolutions were the outcome of common endeavours of delegations belonging to all regional groups in the United Nations.
3. The drafts had been intended to command the widest possible consensus and had of necessity to accommodate a wide range of positions and viewpoints. They contained essential and pragmatic provisions which - if adhered to - would meaningfully contribute to the attainment of common goals in the field of information and communication. They promoted the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries while at the same time taking into account the viewpoint of the industrially developed world. With those considerations in mind, he hoped that the draft resolutions could be adopted without a vote.
4. Mr. TADLAOUI (Algeria), speaking as Chairman of the Group of 77, said that the two draft resolutions before the Committee on questions relating to information were the result of joint efforts by the different regional groups.
5. The principal features of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.26 were its recognition of the central role of UNESCO in the field of communication and information; its reference to resolution No. 1 adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) as an important step in the implementation of that Programme; its appeal to Member States, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations to lend their support to the expansion of the Programme's resources; and its invitation to the Director-General of UNESCO to present to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme and on UNESCO's efforts for the establishment of a new world information and communication order. The establishment of a new world information order, which was intended inter alia to guarantee a free and more balanced flow of information, was the question to which the developing countries attached by far the greatest importance.

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(Mr. Tadlaoui, Algeria)

6. Draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25, which reaffirmed in its preamble that the establishment of a new world information order was linked to the new international economic order, was also a compromise text which, in his delegation's view, did justice to the concerns of virtually all the States which had participated in the work of the Working Group. It was not perfect; but it had the merit of being comprehensive and should therefore be assured of a consensus. Its principal features were the requests addressed to the Secretary-General in operative paragraphs 11, 13 (a), 16 and 21.

7. The Group of 77 noted with satisfaction the approval of the recommendations of the Committee on Information contained in draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25; and it welcomed the renewal of the Committee's mandate. The draft resolution would facilitate efforts to improve the policies and activities of the United Nations in the field of information and would strengthen international co-operation in that area. If new tasks were to be entrusted to the Department of Information, it would have to be provided with the resources necessary to carry out those tasks. As Chairman of the Group of 77, he hoped that the two draft resolutions would be adopted by the Committee by consensus, as resolution 35/201 had been at the previous session.

8. Mr. WARD (New Zealand) said that, as representative of a Government obliged by economic circumstances to subscribe to a policy of "more for less", he was taken aback by the statement of the financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25 contained in document A/SPC/36/L.30.

9. In paragraph 23 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General was requested as far as possible within existing resources to implement fully the recommendations of the Committee on Information. The statement of financial implications seemed to have ignored not only that provision but also the general policy of the Secretary-General with regard to a zero-growth budget.

10. Paragraph 3 of document A/SPC/36/L.30 referred to paragraph 12 (a) of the draft resolution, in which the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that DPI should make a more strenuous effort to ensure balance in the use of official languages in the publications and programmes of the Department. It seemed illogical that, after that comment, the paragraph referred only to one language.

11. In paragraph 10 of document A/SPC/36/L.30, it was stated that the cost of implementing the first stage of expansion of United Nations short-wave broadcasts was estimated at \$1,385,300; should that figure not appear also in paragraph 22 of the document?

12. Paragraph 17 referred to recommendation 3 of the Committee on Information to the effect that all the activities of DPI should be guided by and carried out in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the aspirations for a new world information and communication order. That recommendation was unobjectionable; but did it really request that a representative of the Department should attend all the UNESCO meetings listed in paragraph 17? He noted that the Secretary-General hoped that such costs could be met from existing resources; but hopes were perhaps not enough.

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(Mr. Ward, New Zealand)

13. Document A/SPC/36/L.30 seemed to provide for the creation of about 10 new posts, and perhaps another 9 if the posts mentioned in paragraph 10 were taken into account. If that was to be the outcome of the negotiations of the Committee on Information and of the Working Group on the draft resolution, then his Government would wish to insist that the Committee's recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session should be formulated more carefully to ensure that activities were conducted within the Department's existing resources. The concern felt by his and other delegations should be taken into account before a vote was taken.

14. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) said that, while his delegation appreciated the need for economy and budgetary restraint, the need for more intensive measures to attain the objectives of the United Nations through the use of its own media facilities should not be overlooked.

15. With regard to paragraph 6 of document A/SPC/36/L.30, which referred to the expansion of the African Unit, he observed that there were several Portuguese-speaking African countries and that the time had come for the Portuguese language unit to be strengthened. Also, it appeared that there was only one African staff member in the African Unit for the whole of English-speaking Africa. At least one additional Professional staff member for English language production was needed. The capacity of the African Unit to cope with the demands of African radio stations for direct radio-telephone dispatches from Headquarters was limited. Unless the African Unit was given adequate manpower and other resources, it could not help African broadcasting stations which could not afford to maintain their own correspondents in New York. There was also a tendency to make provision for additional Professional staff, without making adequate provision for supporting General Service staff. The expansion of the African Unit should therefore include provision for more than one secretary.

16. Short-wave broadcasts, which were mentioned in paragraph 10 of document A/SPC/36/L.30, had for far too long been organized on an ad hoc basis. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to retain an audience if United Nations broadcasts were made only five days a week for three months of the year, while United Nations activities continued all the year round. The schedule of broadcasts should be maintained throughout the year; and the United Nations should be broadcasting 24 hours a day, if only to bring home to the international community the Organization's preoccupation with the problems of the world. The financial implications of implementing the first stage of the expansion of short-wave broadcasts should therefore be approved.

17. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) observed that paragraph 7 of document A/SPC/36/L.30 referred to the establishment of a separate Caribbean Unit and stated that one post, that of writer/producer, was to be redeployed from the North American Unit and three others established. In paragraph 11, on the other hand, it was stated that in view of the redeployments that would need to be made to implement the establishment of a separate Caribbean Unit, further redeployments on the scale required to give effect to that proposal were no longer feasible and the advice of the General Assembly was requested in determining the priority of

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(Mrs. Dorset, Trinidad and Tobago)

that item. Her delegation did not understand why paragraph 11 referred to "redeployment", while paragraph 7 mentioned only one redeployment. Also, which was the "item" whose priority was to be determined by the General Assembly? Was it establishment of a Caribbean Unit?

18. Mr. AKASHI (Under-Secretary-General for Public Information), replying to questions raised on the financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25, said that, while the statement of financial implications would be considered in the Fifth Committee, members of the Special Political Committee must be aware of the serious difficulties faced by the Secretariat in trying to give effect to the draft resolution within the very limited resources available to it. The statement of financial implications in document A/SPC/36/L.30 was the result of an attempt to interpret the wishes of the Committee in the context of budgetary stringency. While the requests for additional resources might seem over-ambitious to some and over-modest to others, the Committee would appreciate that they resulted from honest efforts by DPI and the Office Financial Services to reconcile conflicting requirements.

19. The representative of New Zealand, referring to paragraph 3 of document A/SPC/36/L.30, had asked why only Russian was mentioned. The fact was that the Monthly Chronicle was already available in three other languages and appeared 12 months a year. It was now proposed, in the interests of better linguistic balance, to include a fourth official language and to issue the Chronicle four times a year. That was a modest and realistic request.

20. With regard to paragraph 10 concerning short-wave broadcasts, the figures given were notional figures of the budget required for the expansion of short-wave broadcasts to a schedule of five days a week throughout the year. At the present stage, the estimated costs had not been included in the final total since it was hoped that the General Assembly itself would decide on the timing of the implementation of that proposal, for which a significant amount of money was required. Perhaps an opportunity might be given for the gradual implementation of the proposal over the next two to three years in consultation with the Committee on Information. At present, no specific funds would be requested unless the General Assembly determined that the proposal should be implemented immediately.

21. On the question of travel in conjunction with various UNESCO meetings, a great majority of representatives had stressed the need for close co-operation between the United Nations and UNESCO. The resolution adopted at the previous session, and recalled in draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25, reaffirmed that need and called for continuous support to IPDC. The figures given for travel expenses represented the very minimum required. No specific additional resources had been requested, and every effort would be made to absorb the costs within existing appropriations.

22. With reference to the question of the expansion of the African Unit, which had been raised by the representative of Sierra Leone, he said that the present

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(Under-Secretary-General for  
Public Information)

proposal represented some degree of progress over the existing situation. The matter would be kept under review with a view to including the languages of more African countries, including the Portuguese language.

23. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago had raised a question with regard to paragraph 11 of document A/SPC/36/L.30. There was perhaps a lack of precision in the wording employed; the "item" referred to was the item mentioned in the preceding paragraph, i.e. the expansion of United Nations short-wave broadcasts, and not the establishment of a Caribbean Unit. The advice of the General Assembly was being asked in determining the priority of the implementation of the short-wave broadcasting programme described in paragraph 10.

24. Mr. WARD (New Zealand) observed that, if the General Assembly were to decide that the expansion of United Nations short-wave broadcasts should be embarked on immediately, the figure of \$1,385,300 given in paragraph 10 of document A/SPC/36/L.30 the estimated cost of the first stage of such an expansion would surely have to be added to the figure of \$912,600 given in paragraph 22.

25. Mr. AKASHI (Under-Secretary-General for Public Information) explained that document A/SPC/36/L.30 was a statement of the financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25 alone, and that the total financial implications of that draft resolution were as given in paragraph 22 of document A/SPC/36/L.30.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25 without a vote.

27. Draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25 was adopted without a vote.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.26 without a vote.

29. Draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.26 was adopted without a vote.

30. Mr. PRENDERGAST (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the ten member States of the European Community, said that the two draft resolutions just adopted were the product of long negotiations conducted in a laudable spirit of compromise and co-operation. Nevertheless, the negotiations would have been easier if attempts had not been made to reopen discussion on matters on which agreement had been reached in the Committee on Information earlier in the year.

31. The Ten recognized that links existed between economic development and access to sources of information; and they were ready to consider further practical steps to correct the imbalance in international communication resources. At the same time, however, they insisted on freedom of thought, opinion and expression as well as the free circulation of information and ideas as fundamental human rights; and they interpreted accordingly all references in the draft resolutions just adopted to a new world information and communication order. In view of the considerable financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25, the Ten

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(Mr. Prendergast, United Kingdom)

reiterated their position that a particular effort would be needed to identify activities which were obsolete, redundant, ineffective or of marginal usefulness, in order to achieve the objectives of that resolution within existing resources.

32. Lastly, the Ten believed that personnel questions should be handled in the Fifth Committee.

33. Mr. KIMURA (Japan) said that although his delegation had joined in the consensus on the two draft resolutions in a spirit of conciliation and co-operation, it was not in full agreement with certain paragraphs in the resolutions. Draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.26 could have been incorporated into draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25. Moreover, the latter could have been formulated in a way that would allow for the endorsement, without further elaboration, of the recommendations of the Committee on Information. There were also considerable differences of view on the possible content of a new world information and communication order. That problem was closely related to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of speech, and to activities which were carried out largely by the private sector of a society.

34. Japan firmly believed that the universal and time-honoured principles of freedom of the press and speech must be guaranteed in the establishment of a new world and communication order.

35. Mr. WEIGERT (German Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the socialist group of countries, said that those countries regarded the adoption of draft resolutions A/SPC/36/L.25 and 26 as a major political decision. The socialist countries had been able to agree to the drafts produced by the Group of 77 because they represented important progress towards the establishment of a new world information and communication order. The significance of a democratic, anti-colonialist new world information and communication order lay in its contribution to the strengthening of peace. The fact that the draft resolutions had been adopted by consensus was clear evidence that those who had attempted to discredit United Nations activities in the field of information had been warned away from such an attitude.

36. In the course of the general debate on the item, constructive ideas had been put forward for promoting the democratic and anti-colonial content of information activities in the United Nations. The socialist countries had joined in a compromise solution, although they were fully aware that the political content of the draft resolutions could have been more precise and consistent. While they were sensitive to the needs of the developing countries in the field of information, they believed however that the objective limits of the United Nations budget must be observed.

37. The socialist countries supported the legitimate demands of the developing countries for a change in the geographical distribution of the staff of DPI. In fact, they shared an interest in such a change, since the existing geographical distribution worked to their disadvantage also.

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(Mr. Weigert, German Democratic Republic)

38. Paragraphs 14 and 15 of document A/SPC/36/L.30 required clarification. DPI should not allocate a further \$93,000 for United Nations Information Centres until studies had been conducted to determine where that expenditure was really needed.

39. The socialist countries wished to express their appreciation to the Chairman of the Working Group and they looked forward to the next session of the Committee on Information at which -- they hoped -- there would be a fruitful exchange of views that would contribute to the establishment of a new world information and communication order.

40. Mr. RANGER (Canada) expressed his appreciation of the spirit of compromise that had prevailed in the drafting of the two resolutions; and he also congratulated the Chairman of the Working Group on the leadership and perseverance he had displayed.

41. With regard to the reference in the second preambular paragraph of resolution A/SPC/36/L.25 to article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, his delegation believed that any efforts towards the establishment of a new world information and communication order must respect the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, freedom of the press and of the mass media from censorship and freedom of access to all sources of information. For that reason, it also endorsed the balanced interpretation of the basic objectives of the world information and communication order given in the ninth preambular paragraph. Finally, it supported the call in operative paragraph 11 for measures to correct the existing imbalance in the staff of DPI, provided that the continuing requirement for qualified personnel was always borne in mind.

42. His delegation was deeply concerned at the statement of financial implications contained in document A/SPC/36/L.30. Any plans to expand existing information programmes or add new ones should be undertaken with due regard to the current United Nations policy of fiscal restraint.

43. His delegation supported resolution A/SPC/36/L.26 and believed that the International Programme for the Development of Communications (IPDC), if properly channelled, would meet some of the pressing needs of the developing countries. It hoped that the resolution would consolidate the foundations of that Programme, which required an imaginative effort on the part of all States and agencies involved. The Programme must be pragmatic in order to succeed. As a member of the Intergovernmental Council of IPDC, Canada would strive to avoid ideological confrontations that might compromise its progress.

44. Mr. LICHENSTEIN (United States of America) paid a tribute to the efforts of the Chairman of the Working Group and to the spirit that had prevailed during the hard-fought but fair negotiations which had led to the adoption of two resolutions by consensus. Those negotiations had been guided by two considerations: how best to enhance the free flow of information among all peoples and nations of the world, and how best to guard against any restrictions that would inhibit

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(Mr. Lichenstein, United States)

that free trade in ideas. Those were matters of fundamental and lasting concern to the United States; and the resolutions just adopted met those concerns in every substantial way.

45. His delegation understood the resolutions as in no way limiting the freedom of information media to report on events in their own countries, or in and to the world at large. Nor did the resolutions subscribe to the unwarranted licensing of journalists or to the imposition of inappropriate codes of conduct on them. More explicitly, the resolutions in no way affirmed those wholly inappropriate concepts that were sometimes referred to under the rubric of a new world information order. Journalists were responsible solely for observing the highest standards of professionalism. Such standards did not always guarantee excellence; but, in their absence, neither freedom nor excellence was possible.

46. His delegation wholly supported the emphasis placed in resolution A/SPC/36/L.25 on impartiality and efficiency in DPI. With regard to operative paragraph 18 of that resolution, his delegation understood that enhanced DPI co-operation with national news agencies in the developing countries would extend to private as well as public sector organizations. With regard to the paragraphs calling for effective DPI use of new technologies and programmes, his delegation insisted that funding for such activities must be derived from existing resources, through redeployment and especially through the elimination of obsolete and marginally useful programmes. DPI's budget for 1982-1983 was adequate to cover all the activities called for in the resolution. His delegation was therefore thoroughly shocked by the statement of financial implications just issued in document A/SPC/36/L.30, which bore no relation to the spirit of financial restraint that had characterized the negotiations. His delegation trusted that the statement would be reformulated for presentation to the Fifth Committee, and that the figures given would be drastically scaled down and absorbed into the Secretary-General's request for section 27 of the budget.

47. With regard to draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.26, his delegation understood operative paragraph 5 not to mean open-ended approval for increasing the budgets of United Nations organizations and agencies. Any additional resources must come from within existing budgets:

48. It was on the above understandings that his delegation had joined in the consensus; and it hoped that, depending on the results of deliberations in the Fifth Committee, it would be able to join in the final consensus when the resolutions were put to the vote in the plenary.

49. Mr. FUENTES (Spain) welcomed the fact that the draft resolutions had been adopted by consensus. That showed that the various points of view expressed in the Committee had been reflected in the texts, and that all Member States had striven to reconcile their views. He was also pleased to note that draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25 reflected both the kind of information system that his own country advocated and also the aspirations of other groups of countries that were not directly involved in the preparation and dissemination of news.

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(Mr. Fuentes, Spain)

50. With regard to paragraphs 11 and 12 of resolution A/SPC/36/L.25, he said that if the use of Spanish was expanded in DPI, the 20 Spanish-speaking countries and the United Nations as a whole would be far better informed about matters affecting those countries. It should be recalled that the Spanish linguistic and cultural group had formed the nucleus of the States which had signed the Charter at San Francisco, and that without them the United Nations might never have come into existence. With regard to paragraph 12 (b), he wished to point out that since the unit in question already produced Spanish press dispatches, all that was required was to expand the unit so that it could produce more such dispatches in Spanish.

51. The measures proposed in paragraphs 5 and 6 of document A/SPC/36/L.30 were therefore essential. However, paragraph 5 provided for the creation of only one Spanish-speaking P-3 level post, and no secretary post. While he agreed with the representative of the United Kingdom that such decisions were the responsibility of the Fifth Committee, he wished to suggest that the bilingual typist mentioned in paragraph 13 might be able to work with the proposed Spanish information officer. Spain was the tenth largest contributor to the United Nations, and did not believe that the estimate of increased costs exceeded what was appropriate.

52. Finally, he wished to commend the Chairman of the Working Group and the Under-Secretary-General and staff of DPI for their invaluable efforts and assistance.

53. Mr. ELMER (Sweden) expressed his appreciation of the excellent work done by the Chairman of the Working Group. Although his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolutions, it wished to recall that it had expressed a reservation with regard to article 20, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. He therefore wished to reiterate that reservation with regard to the third preambular paragraph of resolution A/SPC/36/L.25 which referred to that article.

54. His delegation believed firmly that, in view of the need for budgetary restraint, public information activities must be carried out within existing resources.

55. With regard to operative paragraph 11 of resolution A/SPC/36/L.25, his delegation believed that the principle of equitable geographical distribution was applicable to the Secretariat as a whole and not merely to individual departments.

56. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Asian group of countries, expressed his appreciation of the efforts made by the Chairman of the Working Group, and also of the spirit of co-operation shown by all delegations and the assistance given by the Under-Secretary-General and staff of DPI.

57. Mr. CAMARA (Guinea), speaking on behalf of the African group of countries, expressed his satisfaction with the results achieved by the Working Group, and

(Mr. Camara, Guinea)

also his appreciation of the efforts of its Chairman. He was grateful to the Committee on Information and its Chairman for producing the documents that had provided the basis for the Working Group's proposals. The resolutions just adopted reaffirmed the provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/201, and stressed the need for the establishment of a new world information and communication order as soon as possible. The appeal to DPI to regionalize public information activities, to ensure a linguistic balance in United Nations information programmes and to improve regional co-ordination, particularly with regard to developing countries, gave the African countries reason to hope that United Nations efforts to promote understanding and social progress would be successful. Resolution A/SPC/36/L.26 for its part responded to the profound desire of developing countries for a more balanced world information order.

58. While the results reflected in the resolutions were not ideal, the African countries had joined in the consensus out of a spirit of co-operation.

59. Mr. NEVREKAR (India) expressed his satisfaction at the successful outcome of the Committee's work on item 67. The resolutions just adopted reflected the sincere desire of all delegations to solve problems in a spirit of understanding and conciliation, a spirit that had also prevailed in the Committee on Information. He particularly welcomed the progress made in presenting resolutions in the name of all the regional groups. Much of the credit for that achievement was due to the Chairman of the Working Group.

60. Mr. CHAMORO MORA (Nicaragua), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American States, expressed his satisfaction at the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25. It was also gratifying to note the constructive manner in which the important topic of information had been approached. The adoption of that draft resolution would contribute to the strengthening of peace by promoting international co-operation for the establishment of a new international information order on the basis of the free circulation and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information. The co-operation displayed in matters relating to communication would contribute to efforts to improve international relations in general. He hoped that document A/SPC/36/L.30 on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/36/L.25 would receive favourable consideration in the Fifth Committee. Lastly, he reiterated the support of the Group of Latin American States for the International Programme for the Development of Communication, and for all efforts undertaken by UNESCO in the field of communication.

61. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) expressed his satisfaction at the adoption of the two draft resolutions by consensus. The draft resolutions and the recommendation contained in the report of the Committee on Information were a positive contribution to the exercise of fundamental freedoms, and to efforts to establish a new world information and communication order.

62. Mr. DIENE (Director, UNESCO Office of Liaison with the United Nations) said that the adoption of the two draft resolutions was proof of concrete co-operation between developed and developing countries in the field of information and

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(Director, UNESCO Office of Liaison  
with the United Nations)

communication. The draft resolutions demonstrated the recognition of the central role of UNESCO in the field of information and communication and the firm support of the General Assembly for the efforts of UNESCO to establish a new world information and communication order. He was gratified to note that resolution A/SPC/36/L.26 called upon Member States, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system as well as other governmental organizations and concerned public and private enterprises to lend their support to the expansion of the resources of the International Programme for the Development of Communication, and endorsed the appeal of the Director-General of UNESCO addressed to Member States, international organizations and agencies of the United Nations system as well as other governmental and non-governmental organizations, professional groups or other available sources to make contributions to the Programme as soon as possible.

63. He hoped that the unanimous agreement on those points would lead to the strengthening of the Programme by providing it with the necessary resources. The Inter-Governmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication would be apprised of the adoption of those recommendations at its next session in January 1982.

64. Mr. AKASHI (Under-Secretary-General for Public Information) expressed his profound satisfaction at the adoption of the two draft resolutions. The hard work and intensive consultations which had led to the production of those two documents was proof of the seriousness with which Member States viewed the question of information, and also of the importance which they attached to the work of the Department of Public Information in achieving the objectives of the Organization. The Secretariat was firmly resolved to carry out the requests and recommendations contained in draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.25, and looked forward to close co-operation with the Committee on Information in that regard.

65. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the adoption by consensus of the two draft resolutions.

66. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 67.

AGENDA ITEM 60: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/SPC/36/L.14, L.31)

67. Mr. LICHENSTEIN (United States of America) reiterated his Government's firm commitment to the work of UNRWA. That commitment had been consistently demonstrated over the years by the voluntary contributions of the United States, which constituted fully one-half of all voluntary funding provided to UNRWA. Draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.14 would have the almost certain effect of destroying UNRWA instead of solving its impending fiscal crisis. Document A/SPC/36/L.31 on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution in question constituted a substantive supplement to that draft resolution, because it introduced considerations which were not touched upon in the draft resolution.

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(Mr. Lichenstein, United States)

Furthermore, the budget deficit was merely an estimate based on the supposition that certain major premises would remain constant. One such premise was that the pledges made in November would remain in force.

68. If the draft resolution was adopted, the United States Government, which had based its initial pledge on the fundamental understanding that UNRWA was a voluntarily-funded organization, would have to reconsider its pledge and its over-all relationship to the Agency. Furthermore, there were probably other Governments which would feel compelled to take similar action.

69. The estimated budget deficit amounted to approximately 10 per cent of the current programme budget and would presumably have to be covered by assessments levied on Member States. That constituted a fundamental change in the structure of UNRWA and called into question the entire funding pattern of the major donor nations. For those reasons, his delegation proposed that the conclusion of the consideration of item 60 should be deferred for approximately 24 hours to permit the continuation of consultations that were now being held with a view to finding feasible alternatives to the draft resolution.

70. Mr. AL HASSANI (Kuwait), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.14, said that, without agreeing with the statement made by the representative of the United States, the sponsors would support a request to defer a decision on the draft resolution.

71. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he took it that the Committee wished him to request the President of the General Assembly to grant an extension of the time-limit for the conclusion of consideration of agenda item 60 until the afternoon meeting on Friday, 4 December 1981.

72. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.