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Twenty-eighth session

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1974

Review and reappraisal of United Nations information  
policies and activities

Letter dated 17 January 1973 from the Secretary-General to the  
Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics to the United Nations

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22 December 1972 (A/8997) concerning press release GA/4715 of 18 December 1972.

As you are aware, press releases are intended for the use of information media and do not constitute an official record. The release in question was prepared at the suggestion of a number of correspondents who desired a quick reference guide to the major decisions of the Assembly in reasonably compact form. It was not the purpose of the release to evaluate the basic orientation of the session, or to indicate the relative importance of Assembly decisions.

At the same time, I recognize that more space might have been devoted to the items concerning the non-use of force in international relations and permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, in view of their obvious importance.

However, I cannot agree with charges that the Office of Public Information has engaged in intentional misrepresentation, or has been motivated by bias.

I wish to assure you that no effort will be spared to observe the strictest objectivity and balance of presentation in all output of the Office of Public Information. I also wish to assure you that it is my intention to convene the Consultative Panel on Public Information at the earliest practicable date in 1973.

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Since you have requested the publication of your letter as a document of the General Assembly, I am arranging for this reply to be circulated in a similar manner.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM  
Secretary-General

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