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ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGENCY OR A DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
FOR UNDERTAKING, CO-ORDINATING AND DISSEMINATING THE RESULTS OF  
RESEARCH INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA

Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the 101st plenary meeting of its thirty-second session, on 13 December 1977 in connexion with its consideration of item 123, entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena", the General Assembly adopted decision 32/424, which reads as follows:

"1. The General Assembly has taken note of the statements made in the Special Political Committee by the Prime Minister of Grenada on 28 November 1977 and by the Minister of Education of Grenada on 28 and 30 November and 6 December 1977.

"2. The General Assembly has also studied the text of the draft resolution submitted by Grenada.

"3. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the draft resolution, together with the above-mentioned statements, to Member States and to interested specialized agencies, so that they may communicate their views to the Secretary-General.

"4. The General Assembly also requests the Secretary-General to bring their replies to the attention of all Member States and interested specialized agencies."

2. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, by a note verbale dated 13 March 1978 (see annex I), forwarded to Member States the relevant records of the Special Political Committee (A/SPC/32/PV.35, 37, and 40) and the draft resolution submitted by Grenada (A/SPC/32/L.20). By a letter dated 17 March, the Secretary-General forwarded the same documents to the executive heads of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (see annex II).

3. In a letter dated 7 July (A/33/141), the Deputy Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena". In addition, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Grenada requested the Secretary-General to circulate to Member States and the interested specialized agencies his Government's request for the inclusion of the item and to urge them to transmit any information on the subject which they might wish to submit, so that it might serve as documentation for the discussion of the item at the thirty-third session.

4. In accordance with the request of the Deputy Permanent Representative of Grenada, the Secretary-General, by a note verbale dated 18 July, informed Member States of the requests contained in the letter of 7 July (see annex III). By a letter dated 18 July, the Secretary-General similarly informed the specialized agencies concerned of the requests made in the letter of 7 July (see annex IV).
5. As at 5 October, three States and two specialized agencies had replied to the Secretary-General's communications. The substantive parts of the replies are reproduced in sections II and III below.

## II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

### INDIA

/Original: English/  
/23 May 1978/

1. While there is curiosity and interest in a fairly large number of persons in various countries on the question of unidentified flying objects, there is no clear scientific evidence of the attributes of this reported phenomenon.
2. Views have been expressed in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the search for extra-terrestrial life should be discussed. However, the time does not seem to be ripe for the Committee to consider a scientific programme in this area.
3. The maximum involvement of the United Nations system in this subject could be to have a discussion on the question of unidentified flying objects under the broader subject of "Search for extra-terrestrial life/intelligence" in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. No separate United Nations agency or committee is called for to study this question.
4. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space may, however, consider setting up a panel of scientists to study and analyse such data on the question of unidentified flying objects as might be available and make recommendations for further action.

### LUXEMBOURG

/Original: French/  
/24 August 1978/

The Government of Luxembourg is not in a position to transmit any information or views that might contribute to the study of the item entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

/...

SEYCHELLES

/Original: English/  
/8 May 1978/

Seychelles supports the draft resolution on the establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena, submitted by Grenada.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

/Original: English/  
/3 April 1978/

Please be advised that this organization has no comments to offer in this regard.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

/Original: English/  
/11 May 1978/

The scientific programmes of UNESCO do not deal with any of the subjects mentioned in your letter. Therefore, we have no comments to offer.

ANNEX I

Note verbale dated 13 March 1978 from the Secretary-General  
to States Members of the United Nations

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of ... to the United Nations and has the honour to draw attention to the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 101st plenary meeting on 13 December 1977 in connexion with item 123 of the agenda of the thirty-second session entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

This decision, adopted on the recommendation of the Special Political Committee, reads as follows:

"1. The General Assembly has taken note of the statements made in the Special Political Committee by the Prime Minister of Grenada on 28 November 1977 and by the Minister of Education of Grenada on 28 and 30 November and 6 December 1977.

"2. The General Assembly has also studied the text of the draft resolution submitted by Grenada.

"3. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the draft resolution, together with the above-mentioned statements, to Member States of the United Nations and to interested specialized agencies, so that they may communicate their views to the Secretary-General.

"4. The General Assembly also requests the Secretary-General to bring their replies to the attention of all Member States and interested specialized agencies."

In accordance with this decision of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has the honour to forward herewith the relevant records of the Special Political Committee (A/SPC/32/PV.35, 37 and 40) and the draft resolution submitted by Grenada (A/SPC/32/L.20).

/...

ANNEX II

Letter dated 17 March 1978 from the Secretary-General to the  
executive heads of interested specialized agencies

Upon the instructions of the Secretary-General, I wish to draw your attention to the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 101st plenary meeting, on 13 December 1977, in connexion with item 123 of the agenda of the thirty-second session entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

This decision, adopted on the recommendation of the Special Political Committee, reads as follows:

"1. The General Assembly has taken note of the statements made in the Special Political Committee by the Prime Minister of Grenada on 28 November 1977 and by the Minister of Education of Grenada on 28 and 30 November and 6 December 1977.

"2. The General Assembly has also studied the text of the draft resolution submitted by Grenada.

"3. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the draft resolution, together with the above-mentioned statements, to Member States of the United Nations and to interested specialized agencies, so that they may communicate their views to the Secretary-General.

"4. The General Assembly also requests the Secretary-General to bring their replies to the attention of all Member States and interested specialized agencies."

In accordance with this decision of the General Assembly, I forward herewith the relevant records of the Special Political Committee (A/SPC/32/PV.35, 37 and 40) and the draft resolution submitted by Grenada (A/SPC/32/L.20).

ANNEX III

Note verbale dated 18 July 1978 from the Secretary-General  
to States Members of the United Nations

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of ... to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his note of 13 March 1978 concerning decision 32/424 taken by the General Assembly on 13 December 1977 at its thirty-second session regarding the item entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

The Secretary-General wishes to inform Member States that he has received a letter dated 7 July 1978 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations (A/33/141) in which the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena" is requested. In the context of the request for the inclusion of the item on the agenda, the Government of Grenada also requested the Secretary-General to urge Member States and interested specialized agencies to transmit to the Secretary-General any information which they might wish to submit so that at the appropriate time it may serve as documentation for the discussion of the item at the thirty-third session.

The Secretary-General wishes to draw attention to document A/33/141 containing the above-mentioned letter from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Grenada, a copy of which is attached.

ANNEX IV

Letter dated 18 July 1978 from the Secretary-General to the  
executive heads of interested specialized agencies

Upon the instructions of the Secretary-General, I have the honour to refer to his note of 13 March 1978 concerning decision 32/424 taken by the General Assembly on 13 December 1977 at its thirty-second session regarding the item entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

The Secretary-General wishes to inform you that he has received a letter dated 7 July 1978 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations (A/33/141) in which the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena" is requested. In the context of the request for the inclusion of the item on the agenda, the Government of Grenada also requested the Secretary-General to urge Member States and interested specialized agencies to transmit to the Secretary-General any information which they might wish to submit so that at the appropriate time it might serve as documentation for the discussion of the item at the thirty-third session.

The Secretary-General wishes to draw attention to document A/33/141 containing the above-mentioned letter from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Grenada, a copy of which is attached.

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