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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/C.5/1507). It has also considered the note by the Secretary-General and the attached fifth report of the Joint Inspection Unit on its activities during the period 1 July 1972-30 June 1973 (A/C.5/1515).

Report of the Secretary-General

2. The Secretary-General's report was prepared in response to the request in paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2924 B (XXVII) of 24 November 1972, which called for a succinct report on major recommendations by the Joint Inspection Unit which had not been implemented, together with a statement of the reasons for non-implementation.

3. In the report at hand a full analysis is given of the action taken as a result of the surveys prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit. The document provides an insight into the volume and complexity of the work accomplished by the Joint Inspection Unit during the past five years.

4. But the report does not conform to the request of the General Assembly. The departure from the pattern envisaged by the General Assembly was no doubt occasioned by the desire of the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive account of his response to the Joint Inspection Unit reports since the inception of the Unit. While on this occasion the report performs a useful function in that respect, the material it contains is somewhat diffused and the Advisory Committee suggests that in future reports, as requested by the General Assembly, attention should be focused on those major recommendations which have not been implemented. Were this done, it would be possible to indicate more succinctly and distinctly the reasons for

non-implementation of the inspectors' recommendations and to distinguish more clearly between those recommendations rejected by the legislative organs and those not implemented for other reasons. Those reasons could also be more clearly defined.

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

5. With regard to the annual reports on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Advisory Committee believes that they should provide a more complete picture of the work accomplished during the period under review, including details of travel undertaken and units visited by the inspectors, the duration of such visits, the time spent in preparing individual reports etc. By contrast, the summaries of individual reports and recommendations now incorporated in section D of the annual report could be made more succinct, as the General Assembly, for which the report is intended, already has access to the full texts of the Joint Inspection Unit surveys and to the comments made by the Secretary-General on the Unit's findings and recommendations.

6. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee would suggest that the Joint Inspection Unit give consideration to the inclusion in future annual reports of a brief section on follow-up measures which, in addition to commenting, as necessary, on slow implementation or non-implementation of recommendations, could review the outcome and assess the results of past recommendations which have been put into effect. That section would complement the Secretary-General's report on implementation and would highlight the benefits derived from these inspections in concrete terms of savings and of general improvement in the performance and effectiveness of the system.

7. Such a periodic assessment of the effects of its endeavours would also be conducive to improving and refining the Joint Inspection Unit techniques and methods of conducting its operations with positive results for the United Nations system as a whole.
