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ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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International Telecommunication Union

1. The development, improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds requires international co-operation and hence all countries, both developing and developed, participate in the work of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The work of Administrative Conferences, the International Consultative Committees, the International Frequency Registration Board and the General Secretariat of the Union is designed to harmonize the action of nations in the interests of telecommunication development.
2. The expansion of economic co-operation among developing countries is dependent on the strengthening of their telecommunication infrastructure and in particular on the links between these countries. The planning of such links and the development of regional telecommunication facilities is a prime function of the Regional Plan Committees of the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee. Such Committees exist for Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe and the Mediterranean Basin and provide an effective forum for the co-operation of developing countries for telecommunications planning. In addition to their participation in the Regional Plan Committees, the developing countries are concerned with the development of the global telecommunication network and the integration of their national systems in this network. This type of planning is assured by the World Plan Committee.
3. Within ITU, the developing countries co-operate in defining and providing telecommunication facilities for such essential services as meteorology, civil aviation and shipping. The meetings of ITU thus provide a forum for collaboration

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between these countries and such specialized agencies as the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization.

4. The Union is vitally concerned with the development of telecommunication mass media, such as sound and television broadcasting. Co-operation among developing countries is essential in the logical development and exploitation of these services, particularly in the utilization of the radio frequency spectrum allocated for these purposes. The developing countries of Africa, Asia and Europe and the Mediterranean Basin are currently engaged in the preparation of frequency allocation plans for the low-frequency and medium-frequency bands. Such plans will be completed during the Regional Administrative Broadcasting Conference, which will take place at Geneva in October 1975.

5. Preparations are already in hand for a satellite broadcasting conference, which is scheduled to be held in 1977. The importance for the developing countries of direct broadcasting from satellite is well appreciated and their mutual co-operation in the development of such services is an essential requirement for the success of this conference.

6. The direct technical assistance activities of the Union, designed to promote economic co-operation among developing countries, have been reported in detail to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (see DP/117/Add.1).
