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REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Views of the executive heads of organizations transmitted in
response to paragraph 13 of Economic and Social Council
resolution 1768 (LIV)

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"... In its resolution 1768 (LIV), the Economic and Social Council quite rightly mentions the considerable changes which have come about in world economic cooperation within the United Nations system since the present agreements were signed. It seems that it wishes to examine these agreements mainly in the light of the capacity of the system to fulfil the objectives of the International Development Strategy in an effective and coordinated manner. We can assume that the organizations specifically concerned are those operating in the economic and social sector, especially those which, through their own programmes, play a part in the International Development Strategy.

"The UPU has no technical assistance programme of its own. Apart from the fact that it has a very modest special fund from which it can grant a few postal training fellowships and supply a little equipment, it acts solely as an organization for the implementation of UNDP projects.

"It should be said that neither the UPU nor the United Nations - in so far as we know - encounter the slightest difficulty in their mutual relations owing to the provisions of the current agreement between the two organizations being in any way insufficient or outdated. Of course, as the UPU is, owing to its technical nature, highly specialized, it has none of the problems of overlapping of activities that other organizations may have to face. In so far as we are concerned, the formal agreements play a somewhat secondary role when it comes to efficient collaboration between the organizations and the coordination of their activities. In other words, our agreement with the United Nations has stood

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the test of time by providing a very flexible framework which, while in no way hindering, has allowed for the desired development of the practical side of our relations.

"We can therefore conclude that a recasting of this agreement - which, in principle, could not be undertaken without the approval of the five-yearly UPU Congress - is in no way necessary. In my opinion, this agreement, as it stands at present, will in no way prevent a continuation of the evolution towards an ever more harmonious system which would nonetheless - and this is essential - allow for complete discretion in so far as the technical activity proper to our institution is concerned, as indeed has been the case in the past.

"A revision of the United Nations-UPU agreement does not therefore seem to be called for by the major preoccupations of the Economic and Social Council as they would appear from resolution 1768 (LIV).

"Taking a more general view of all the organizations, considering the coordination work done by the ACC which reports annually to the Economic and Social Council and holds joint meetings with the CPC, considering also the fact that the activities of the specialized agencies and of the IAEA are examined in detail by the Council and that a system of prior consultations on programmes has been brought into effect between the agencies of the United Nations family, it does not, at first sight, seem that the coherence of the system - imperfect though it may be - is at stake. The underlying causes of obstacles to the attainment of the aims of the International Development Strategy should be sought elsewhere. It is true that the structures of the system need perfecting so that optimum use can be made of available resources, but the crux of the problem is still that some means must be found to swell the potentials of the technical assistance funds provided by the international organizations."

A. H. RIDGE
Director-General
