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### QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

#### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 45/76 B of 11 December 1990, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session and to the Committee on Information at its thirteenth session, on the implementation of recommendations contained in the resolution.
2. The following documents related to the topics covered by the resolution were submitted to the Committee on Information at its thirteenth session, held from 4 to 19 April 1991:
  - (a) Public information activities of the United Nations pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine (A/AC.198/1991/4);
  - (b) Technical assistance to radio stations that are broadcasting on or willing to broadcast to South Africa (A/AC.198/1991/5);
  - (c) Review of Yearbook of the the United Nations (A/AC.198/1991/6);
  - (d) Report on the activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (A/AC.198/1991/3).
3. The Under-Secretary-General for Public Information provided additional information in several statements to the Committee on Information.
4. The deliberations of the Committee on Information on those topics and others on its agenda are reflected in the Committee's report to the General

Assembly. 1/ As in the past, the present report attempts to avoid, to the extent possible, repetition of the contents of the reports submitted to the Committee on Information. It deals mainly with items not considered by the Committee or updates the information contained in the reports submitted to the Committee.

5. The present report focuses essentially on special activities and products of the Department. It avoids reference to topics and events covered in regular publications and radio and television programmes such as UN Chronicle, Perspective, UN in Action, World Chronicle, Notes for Speakers and DPI/NGO briefing summaries, which disseminate information on a continuing basis on the whole range of issues dealt with by the United Nations.

## II. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

6. In paragraph 1 (b) (i) of the resolution 45/76 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information cooperate more regularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), especially at the working level, with a view to maximizing the contribution of the Department to the efforts of that organization. Paragraph 1 (c) (vii) of the resolution also called on the Department to provide, on the basis of its activities, information to UNESCO about new forms of cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, for the training of media professionals and for the improvement of the information and communication infrastructure of developing countries.

7. The Department and UNESCO, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a five-day seminar at Windhoek, Namibia, held from 29 April to 3 May 1991. The Seminar's objective was to give to a professionally and geographically diverse group of news media professionals an opportunity to consider possible ways of developing an independent and pluralistic press in Africa, and to identify actions the implementation of which would foster the progressive emergence of such a press in all African countries. The seminar was attended by 63 participants from 38 African countries. In addition, attending as observers were representatives of 23 other Member States of the United Nations and UNESCO, 3 specialized agencies, 3 intergovernmental and 22 non-governmental organizations.

8. The Seminar adopted a declaration, The Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press. The Declaration proposed that the international community, specifically international organizations, development agencies and professional associations, should, as a matter of priority, direct funding towards the development and establishment of non-governmental newspapers, magazines and periodicals in Africa that reflect the society as a whole and the different points of view within the communities they serve. The participants considered that all funding should aim to encourage pluralism, as well as independence of the media. Accordingly, they

suggested that the public media should be funded only where the authorities guaranteed constitutional and effective freedom of information and expression and the independence of the press. Among the priority concerns emphasized in the Declaration with respect to the preservation of press freedom in African countries were: the establishment of independent and representative associations, trade unions of journalists and associations of editors and publishers; the drafting of national media and labour relations laws to ensure that those associations could fulfil their tasks in defence of press freedom and the elimination of State monopolies in respect of information. The Declaration also proposed that an item dealing with censorship as a grave violation of human rights be included in the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Finally, the United Nations, UNESCO and others were called upon to initiate research on: identification of economic barriers to the establishment of news media outlets and of legal barriers to the effective operation of press trade unions and associations; training of journalists and managers; preparation of a register of available funding from development and other agencies; and the state of press freedom in Africa, country by country.

9. Recognizing the importance of the freedom of the press in the democratization process at the political and cultural level, the Department has continued to expand and strengthen its collaboration with UNESCO. In this context, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department addressed the International Forum on Culture and Democracy, jointly organized by the Government of the Czech and Slovak Republic and UNESCO (held at Prague from 4 to 6 September 1991) and attended the workshop on Media and Democracy. The Forum was designed to help give new impetus to thinking on the nature of democracy, in the light of not only the remarkable progress but also the difficulties that it is experiencing in a great many parts of the world. The event was attended by a number of prominent public figures in the field of politics, academia, law and journalism.

10. Further cooperation between the Department and UNESCO was the joint participation in a one-day seminar on the objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development - Responding to the Challenge. Attended by representatives of 200 non-governmental organizations, the seminar was organized in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development and held on 30 May 1991 at United Nations Headquarters.

### III. COOPERATION WITH THE POOL OF NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES

11. In paragraph 1 (b) (ii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was requested to enhance its cooperation with news agencies of developing countries, in particular with the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, the Eco-Pool of the News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries and the Broadcasting Organization of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with other news agencies and intergovernmental and regional organizations.

12. The Department continued to cooperate with the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries by sending daily news dispatches through TANJUG to more than 90 news agencies members of the Pool. News dispatches were also sent

directly to several agencies of the Pool on subjects of interest to them, such as human rights and environment, as well as social and economic problems affecting developing countries.

#### IV. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

13. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was urged to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to international peace and security. In paragraph 1 (b) (vi), the Department was requested to continue to disseminate information about activities of the United Nations directed at a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of international conflicts by exclusively peaceful means.

14. In November 1990, in response to public demand, the Department produced a reference paper entitled "United Nations Security Council resolutions relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait", containing the first 10 Security Council resolutions adopted in connection with this situation. Since then, the paper was updated in May 1991 to include five additional resolutions and reissued in Arabic (3,000 copies), English (5,000 copies), French and Spanish (3,000 copies each).

15. In May 1991, the Department issued a fact sheet on the role and composition of the Security Council. The fact sheet, which provided a brief description of the Council activities with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security, was also distributed to research institutes and educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations information centres and services.

16. In addition, following the adoption of resolution 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, whereby the Council approved the Secretary-General's plan for setting up the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the Department issued an information note describing the functions of the Mission and giving details concerning its composition.

17. In August 1991, another information note was issued on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II). The note contained a historical background of the Mission and its predecessor UNAVEM I and gave details of the new mandate as well as of UNAVEM's current composition and method of operation.

18. The Department, while continuing to provide the usual support to the Secretary-General in his relations with the press, responded to the growing demand for information about the Secretary-General's efforts related to the elimination of the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, the return of stolen property to Kuwait, the establishment of a compensation fund and an array of other tasks outlined by the Security Council. Immediately following the adoption of the resolution, the Department set up a flexible communication network with all the United Nations agencies and bodies involved in implementing the Security Council decisions. This has enabled it to become a focal point of information on the latest developments on these issues.

19. Major statements and documents on these questions issued by the Secretary-General's emissaries and United Nations bodies in Geneva, Vienna or in the Middle East were promptly made available to the press corps in New York. The Department also worked in close cooperation with the Special Commission established in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, to oversee the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and issued regular updates on its meetings and on the activities of United Nations inspection teams in Iraq.

20. Reflecting the Secretary-General's special concern for the humanitarian situation in the region, the Department paid particular attention to the United Nations Humanitarian Programme in the Middle East/Persian Gulf area by maintaining close contacts with the Office of the Secretary-General's Executive Delegate in Geneva, and the Delegate's representatives in the field. The Department also helped organize press briefings at Headquarters for the Executive Delegate and other special representatives of the Secretary-General and for heads of various United Nations agencies and bodies involved in this effort. Further, the Department organized a briefing on the United Nations relief operations for Gulf War victims. It was attended by some 400 representatives of non-governmental organizations.

21. The Department continued to provide assistance to the Secretary-General during his extensive travels. The Secretary-General's appeals regarding the emergency in the Horn of Africa, as well as the launching of the Western Sahara operation, have substantially increased the volume of press queries handled by the Spokesman's Office.

22. Following the success of its previous round tables that brought together top United Nations officials and senior media representatives from different regions of the world, the Department is now working on a round table for the European press, which is tentatively scheduled for early November 1991.

23. As part of the information programme for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), in late July 1991, the Department produced a brochure that was made available at Headquarters and distributed worldwide in Arabic (5,000 copies), English (6,000 copies), French and Spanish (3,000 copies each). In September 1991, the Department produced a press kit containing a short summary of the Mission's parameters, the text of the Security Council resolution on the establishment of the Mission, the statement and the reports of the Secretary-General on this issue, as well as other relevant facts. It was distributed at Headquarters and worldwide in Arabic and English (2,000 copies each) and in French and Spanish (1,000 copies each).

24. The Department also developed an information programme for the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), for implementation primarily through the media in El Salvador. This programme is intended to publicize the role and work of the human rights verification mission as well as to inform the general public in that country about relevant issues in this regard. The first stage of the information programme at the time of the establishment of the mission included television and radio spots, a press kit and a poster.

The press kit, in English and Spanish, was also distributed to media in other countries through the United Nations information centres and services and UNDP offices. In addition, more than 58,000 copies of selected publications of the Department on human rights, as well as 10,000 copies of the Department's poster containing the text of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights have been made available for use by ONUSAL. The second stage of the information programme, to begin in October 1991, will include wide dissemination in El Salvador of the San José Agreement Human Rights, a weekly half-hour television programme aimed at the general public and other activities.

25. Two important non-governmental organizations briefings were organized by the Department during the reporting period in connection with international peace and security. The briefing entitled "The United Nations and the Electoral Process: The Experience of Namibia, Nicaragua and Haiti" was attended by some 200 non-governmental organizations, while a briefing entitled "Classical Aspects of United Nations Peace-keeping Operations" and the video programme "Changing Role of the United Nations in Peace-keeping" was attended by some 600 representatives of non-governmental organizations.

26. In September 1991, the Department will publish the final report of the Singapore Symposium on "The Changing Role of the United Nations in Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping". The Symposium was held in Singapore in March 1991 and co-sponsored by the Department, the Institute of Policy Studies of Singapore and the Governments of Singapore and Japan. The purpose of the Symposium was to provide for an exchange of ideas among experts on the subject of conflict resolution, peace-keeping and regional security efforts, and to generate a better understanding of the evolving role of the United Nations in these areas. The report will be distributed worldwide through the network of United Nations information centres and services.

27. "Peace, Justice and Development: Ingredients for an Emerging World Order" was the theme of this year's annual conference of non-governmental organizations sponsored by the Department in September 1991. The Conference, which attracted some 1,000 representatives of non-governmental organizations from nearly 60 Member States, examined how recent geopolitical events presented new opportunities for enhancing the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development. Conference sessions also focused on the role of media and the opportunities for action by non-governmental organizations. Discussions at strategy sessions examined a broad range of issues including education and democratization, the environment and development, world trade within the context of peace, justice and development. The Conference brought together representatives of professional and business associations, trade unions, religious, youth and women's organizations and many voluntary groups. The final report of the Conference will be issued before the end of 1991 and will contain a summary of the speeches and of the discussions held during the strategy sessions.

## V. WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

28. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was further urged to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to disarmament.

29. In accordance with the above recommendation, the Department has continued to publicize United Nations activities in the field of disarmament and to promote further the goals of the World Disarmament Campaign.

30. The Department's press releases disseminated during the reporting period at Headquarters in New York, Geneva and around the world through United Nations information centres and services gave wide coverage to the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament. Several United Nations Information Centres arranged interviews, lectures and round-table discussions on disarmament, some of which were covered by local radio and television. In addition, the Department also issued press releases on a variety of disarmament issues, including statements by the Secretary-General on disarmament; the work of the Disarmament Commission; the Fourth Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference; the Partial Test-Ban Treaty Amendment Conference; the Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign, a number of regional meetings on the subject of disarmament; and public lectures sponsored by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

31. In cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the NGO Committee on Disarmament, the Department of Public Information held (at Headquarters) three briefings for non-governmental organizations on issues relating to disarmament. The briefing entitled "Prospects for the Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East" was attended by some 400 representatives of non-governmental organizations. The Department also continued to highlight United Nations efforts in the field of disarmament through the guided tours at Headquarters, of which the permanent Disarmament Exhibit is a prominent feature. During the reporting period, this tour was taken by almost 330,000 visitors.

32. United Nations radio and television continued to devote coverage to disarmament and related issues and to disseminate their coverage through broadcasting organizations worldwide in various languages. These issues were regularly featured by DPI radio in its news programmes, regional magazines, documentaries and special-feature radio programmes. United Nations radio and television also covered the work of the General Assembly relating to disarmament, as well as the meetings of the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament.

## VI. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

33. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was further requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities on human rights. In this connection, the Department has continued to focus its multi-media activities on highlighting ongoing United Nations efforts to protect and promote human rights.

34. During the past year, the Department, particularly through the United Nations information service at Geneva, continued to cover through print, radio and audio-visual programmes, the proceedings of all United Nations intergovernmental bodies dealing with human rights. As part of the Graduate Study Programme organized by the United Nations information service at Geneva in July 1991, the activities for the protection and promotion of human rights were prominently featured. The Department has also continued to produce information material pertaining to human rights and related issues as part of its weekly radio and television programmes in both official and other languages.

35. The network of 67 United Nations information centres and services undertook special information activities in observance of Human Rights Day and other human rights events. These included mounting photographic and poster exhibitions; showing films for various audiences; producing background material, fact sheets, information kits and newsletters; re-disseminating relevant information materials from Headquarters such as press kits, background notes, press releases and official documents and translating them into local languages; organizing or assisting in meetings, public gatherings and briefings; participating in seminars, panels and lectures for educational and other institutions; and giving interviews to local press.

36. The Department continued its efforts to ensure comprehensive documentation and reference services on human rights for users at the libraries of information centres and services. Earlier this year, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, the Department finalized a basic list of reference and information material on human rights that will enable the Centre for Human Rights to provide basic documentation to United Nations information centres that lack certain documentation on this issue.

37. In keeping with its mandate, four of the Department's feature articles issued during 1991 under the title United Nations Focus, (in English, French and Spanish) dealt with human rights issues: "Searching for the pernicious roots of racism" (DPI/1150); "Human Rights Covenants" (DPI/1153); "Specialists who monitor human rights" (DPI/1155); and "The trade of shame: the sale of children" (DPI/1156).

38. The Department's biannual publication Objective: Justice in its recent issues focused on the international covenants on human rights and the work of specialists who monitor human rights, racism and protection of the rights of migrant workers.



39. Among the new publications that the Department is completing in 1991 are an illustrated publication on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (DPI/1101) and a publication on the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (DPI/1055), both in all the official languages.
40. In 1991, the Department completed 14 reprints and/or new official language productions of seven human rights instruments. These include: "Principles of medical ethics" (DPI/801), in Arabic and Russian; "Declaration of the Right of Peoples to Peace" (DPI/844), in Chinese; "Declaration of the Human Rights of Individuals Who are not Nationals of the Country in which They Live" (DPI/894), in Russian; "Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally" (DPI/914), in all the official languages except English; and "Human rights: questions and answers" (DPI/919), in Spanish; the poster "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (DPI/936), in Spanish; and "Human rights and social and economic development: a selection of publications" (DPI/1028), in French and Spanish.
41. Production of local language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights continued. In 1990-1991, 20 local language versions will be printed with the assistance of the United Nations information centres and services. So far, the Haitian Creole, Indonesian and Mikmaq (spoken along Canada's Atlantic coast) versions have been published. Several United Nations information centres have also reported the printing of local language versions of other human rights instruments and documents.
42. The animated short film entitled "Brushstrokes", released by the Department in 1990, has received two international animation awards from the Association Internationale d'Animation. This film on prejudice is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.
43. As part of the About the United Nations educational video series, the Department will complete a video and an accompanying teaching guide on the rights of the child. This video kit will be available to non-governmental organizations and educational institutions worldwide.
44. A Department of Public Information International Journalists Round Table on Human Rights and the United Nations will be held in New York from 14 to 16 October 1991. The main speakers will be senior United Nations officials, diplomats, journalists and experts from non-governmental organizations. Some 70 journalists from all regions are expected to attend. Among the participants will be the 16 journalists who will also attend the Department of Public Information Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Countries.
45. In keeping with its role as coordinator of the activities of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, the Department submitted a proposal to the thirty-fifth session of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC), held at New York in June 1991, regarding the establishment

of an inter-agency working group on human rights. Emphasis will be placed on the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in 1993, and on the International Year for the World's Indigenous People to be observed the same year.

46. In preparation for the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, scheduled for September 1991, the Department has presented a proposal for a public information programme and information coverage requirements for the World Conference.

## VII. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO WOMEN AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY

47. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was further requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the advancement of the status of women and their role in society. As part of its efforts to develop a more effective information programme aimed at the public, the Department has produced a series of United Nations Focus articles and fact sheets on a variety of issues, such as literacy as a tool for empowering women, women and AIDS, refugee women, the quest for women's rights and the interdependence of women and the environment, especially in developing countries. An issue was dedicated to the presentation of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

48. To commemorate International Women's Day and to initiate its annual two-day orientation and training course for some 90 newly-accredited representatives of non-governmental organizations, the Department sponsored a panel discussion on the theme "Making women count in the nineties", attended by some 600 non-governmental representatives of organizations at United Nations Headquarters.

49. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/14 of 24 May 1990, which requested a world-wide information campaign to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, the Department is publishing a book entitled Women: challenges to the year 2000 (DPI/1134) in English, French and Spanish. Using the cover design and selected contents of this book, public service announcements, a poster and a wall chart will be designed for use in connection with International Women's Day 1992.

50. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Department supplied information materials to United Nations information centres and services, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) field offices and inter-agency focal points for women.

51. On 21 June 1991, the Department coordinated the inauguration of the publication The World's Women 1970-1990, in cooperation with the book's co-sponsors - the United Nations Statistical Office, the United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. This event was widely publicized by both print and audio-visual media in many countries. The second phase of publicity for this book will coincide with United Nations Day 1991, when United Nations information centres and services will be encouraged to publicize the book during their United Nations Day activities.

52. On United Nations Day 1991, a panel discussion will be held within the context of the annual Department of Public Information Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Countries. It will focus on sex stereotyping in the media in different regions and cultures of the world and propose ways and means of sensitizing journalists and broadcasters to the in-built biases and the use of sexist terminology.

53. The Department continues its production of the special radio feature documentary programme Women, which is received on a regular basis by more than 300 radio organizations worldwide, in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. In the period under consideration, a number of programmes were prepared, including "Women refugees", "The girl child", "Women in the informal sector", "Prostitution", "Women and the environment" and "Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children".

#### VIII. ACTIVITIES ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

54. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was requested to continue to disseminate, in coordination with the information services of other relevant agencies, information about United Nations activities pertaining to the problems of economic and social development, as well as international cooperation aimed at resolving external debt problems.

55. In pursuance of this mandate, the Department widely publicized the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. It also produced a summary of the Strategy in English, French and Spanish (DPI/1107) and arranged a briefing by a senior United Nations official for the representatives of international non-governmental organizations.

56. The World Economic Survey 1991 was well publicized and widely reported in the international media. The Department also produced a press summary in English, French and Spanish (DPI/1148), organized a press conference by senior United Nations officials in both New York and Geneva, arranged separate press interviews and alerted prominent economic journalists in advance of the report's official release.

57. The work of the Committee for Development Planning was also widely publicized by the Department. An article entitled "Assessing the impact on developing countries of economic reforms in Eastern Europe: views of the Committee for Development Planning" (DPI/1139) was produced in English, French

and Spanish and distributed worldwide through the network of the United Nations information centres and services. The Department gave wide coverage to the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council, held at Geneva on 4 and 5 July 1991, to discuss the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation. It produced special information kits in English and French (DPI/1152) for Geneva-based journalists.

58. A number of economic development issues were aired in the Department's television and radio programmes, including the role of women in agriculture and in meeting other development challenges, the use of nuclear techniques and geothermal power for economic development, coping with external debt in developing countries and economic development in Eastern Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

59. On the subject of youth, the Department produced and distributed in English, French and Spanish, a leaflet entitled: "The United Nations youth: participation, development, peace" (DPI/1129). This leaflet contained a summary of activities and programmes provided by the United Nations agencies and programmes for youth and youth organizations.

60. The Department has continued the production of the biannual pamphlet, "The United Nations social agenda", highlighting issues of ageing, family and the implementation of United Nations strategies and plans of action in the social area.

61. Social issues have continued to be a focus of work of the United Nations radio and television. The radio programmes Scope (devoted to problems of social development) and Perspective produced, among others, "A look at UNDP projects for indigenous people", "A new global agenda for human development", and "United Nations humanitarian assistance in the Persian Gulf". The television series United Nations In Action broadcast on Cable News Network worldwide, which featured programmes such as "AIDS campaign in Thailand", "Egypt's farm prison", and "Adolescent mothers in Panama", among others, served as a channel for the exchange of valuable experience and knowledge on United Nations cooperation with different countries in dealing with pressing problems of human development.

62. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, to be observed in 1992, the Department is working closely with the non-governmental organization community, including the NGO Committee on Ageing, on ways and means to promote awareness of challenges and opportunities presented by the phenomenon of ageing. A briefing for non-governmental organizations entitled "Humanity comes of age" will be held in New York on 3 October 1991 in connection with the International Day for the Elderly.

63. Work is continuing on the preparation of a system-wide publication on activities concerning disabled persons, which is scheduled for completion in

1992. The objective is to present to the public, media and policy makers a system-wide record of United Nations accomplishments during the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992) and to generate greater awareness of the United Nations role in improving the situation facing persons with disabilities worldwide.

64. Ten radio programmes in three languages and two United Nations in Action television feature programmes on disability-related themes were produced by the Department during the reporting period.

65. The Department's film on disability "Breaking barriers" received the Blue Ribbon First Prize at the American Film Festival held at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a Silver Medal in the category of human concerns at the International Film and Television Festival held in New York, the First Prize at "Superfest" held at Burbank, California, and an award from the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries at the Second Pyongyang Film Festival held at Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

66. Extensive coverage by the Department of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Havana from 27 August to 7 September 1990, continued to generate wide interest from the academic community, non-governmental organizations, students and the general public for the United Nations crime prevention programme. The booklet "United Nations and crime prevention and criminal justice" (DPI/1143), produced by the Department in English, French and Spanish, highlights the history, structure and increased activity of the Global Crime and Criminal Justice Information Network. In response to various requests, the booklet also contains a compilation of the United Nations instruments on the subject of crime prevention, including measures against terrorism.

#### IX. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH AFRICAN RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

67. In paragraph 1 (b) (iv) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was urged to do its utmost to publicize and to disseminate widely the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and the tremendous efforts of the African countries towards recovery and development, as well as the response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa. As this fall the General Assembly will undertake a final review of the Programme of Action, the Department has prepared and distributed a special media kit containing the Secretary-General's report for the final review and extensive analyses of Africa's economy in the period 1986-1990, from the perspectives of various United Nations agencies involved in economic recovery efforts in Africa.

68. Earlier this year, the third in the series of Africa Recovery Briefing Papers, entitled "Africa's population crisis: formulating effective policies" was published in English and French.

69. For the Economic Commission for Africa, the Department prepared a popular version of the report entitled "African alternative framework to structural adjustment programmes for socio-economic recovery and transformation", issued in English and French. The purpose of this popular version of the report was to disseminate more widely African concerns about the shortcomings of orthodox structural adjustment programmes.

70. The Department was also responsible for ensuring international media attendance for the Conference on African Security and Stability, held at Kampala, Uganda, from 19 to 22 May 1991. The media represented at the Conference included: Financial Times, Associated Press, Reuter, BBC, de Volkskrant (Netherlands), Los Angeles Times, The Economist, New African, Voice of America and The Times (London).

71. In addition, the Department continued to present the United Nations perspective on the continuing African economic crisis through articles written for the print media and through interviews with the broadcast media.

#### X. ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

72. The Department was requested in paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 45/76 B to continue to disseminate, in coordination with the information services of other relevant agencies, information about United Nations activities pertaining to the environment and development.

73. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held in Brazil in June 1992, the Department has undertaken a programme of activities in support of the Conference. Among those are the finalized proposals for an inter-agency programme to be carried out by all agencies of the United Nations system. The programme was presented to JUNIC at its June 1991 meeting for consideration of financing and agency participation.

74. During the reporting period, United Nations information centres and services were requested to start preparations for local programming in support of UNCED. The Department also devised guidelines for activities to be carried out by all United Nations information centres and services from within existing resources.

75. As part of its pre-conference publicity, the Department has produced and distributed a brochure (DPI/1118) in all official languages and in Portuguese. To date, the brochure has been distributed in the following numbers of copies: Arabic 4,200, Chinese 4,100, English 60,000, French 17,500, Portuguese 4,500, Russian 3,800, and Spanish 13,000. Three feature articles in the Earth Summit in Focus series have been issued. Also, starting with its May/June 1991 edition, each issue of the Development Forum has carried a full page on the Conference.

76. The Department has produced stories for radio features, magazine and news programmes on environment and development, prepared various contributions for special documentary programmes and searched for suitable free-lance producers for these programmes that are financed from extrabudgetary sources. Television publicity has also been pursued by the Department through the work produced by United Nations Television, in the United Nations in Action series. Further, the Department has prepared a series of video news backgrounders to facilitate local coverage of the Conference worldwide. Moreover, an educational video and accompanying teaching guide on environment and development, to be produced in the About the United Nations series, is also in preparation.

77. The Department has also organized international press and television coverage of the UNCED preparatory meetings, held both at the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

78. The Department continued to arrange group briefings on the subject of the environment, one of the most commonly requested topics for briefings. Environment and Development was also chosen as the central theme of the 1991 Department of Public Information Headquarters Programme for Graduate Students. Forty-one students from 27 countries took part in the work programme and were briefed on this issue by officials of the United Nations system, delegations, prominent professionals and academics.

79. In connection with World Environment Day 1991, the Inaugural Earth Prize Awards sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Earth were held on 5 June 1991 for an invited audience assembled in the General Assembly Hall. The Department coordinated this event with the sponsors, providing television coverage of the awarding of the first Earth Prize to eminent persons, including the Executive Director of UNICEF and the head of Turner Broadcasting System. In observance of World Environment Day, the Department also organized a symposium in cooperation with the non-governmental organization Committee on UNIFEM. Its theme, "The human dimension in environment and development", attracted more than 250 participating non-governmental organizations.

80. As part of the Department's publicity efforts for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Department produced a poster entitled "Natural disasters: are you prepared?" (DPI/1084) and a brochure on the Decade (DPI/O178), both in English, French and Spanish, and distributed them worldwide. A 30-minute documentary video on aspects of the Decade, filmed in Bangladesh, Colombia, Japan and the United States of America, has been completed by the Department in cooperation with a Japanese production company.

81. The Department has also produced a video entitled "Up against nature". It stresses disaster-prone areas and the importance of scientific and technical knowledge and public information in reducing the effects of natural disasters. The video has been produced in English and will be produced in other languages.

82. The UN Chronicle, the Department's quarterly magazine, in its June 1991 issue, devoted its cover section to "Coping with disaster - International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction". Copies were distributed to all the national committees and focal points.

#### XI. CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS AND DRUG ABUSE

83. The Department of Public Information was urged, in paragraph 1 (b) (iii), to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

84. During the reporting period, a public service announcement carrying the message "The United Nations fights drug abuse worldwide" was placed in various international news magazine editions. During the last six months of 1990, this announcement ran in at least 26 different weekly editions of Time, covering virtually every country in Western and Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America, as well as the United States, Canada and several South-East Asian countries. From January to June 1991, the announcement appeared in at least 22 different weekly editions of Time.

85. The 1990 Report of the International Narcotics Control Board was made available to journalists, and a press release summarizing its contents was produced and distributed by the Department. Major newspapers and wire services carried stories concerning the report.

86. In cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the Department prepared feature stories in English, French and Spanish on detecting drug crops from space and destroying them without harming the environment. These were distributed to news correspondents, non-governmental organizations and all United Nations Information Centres and Services.

87. The Department's new video on the international drug situation entitled "High hopes" was completed in English and shown at the 1991 observances of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held at Headquarters and United Nations information centres worldwide on 26 June 1991. The 27-minute video, which will also be available in Arabic, French and Spanish, illustrates several constructive approaches to the problem.

88. As part of the observance of the International Day at Headquarters, the Executive Director of UNDCP addressed a meeting of non-governmental organizations and held a press conference organized by the Department. The observance also included the screening of the video and a concert with singers from a drug treatment centre. The special messages of the Secretary-General and of the Executive Director of UNDCP were distributed to news media and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Away from Headquarters,



the observances of the International Day included, inter alia, statements and messages by high government officials, panel discussions by experts in drug abuse control, poster and essay competitions, poetry readings, a model national congress on drug control for young people and video screenings.

89. A major project currently in process is the photo-video exhibition entitled "Picture a drug-free world" being developed by the Department in cooperation with UNDCP and the International Photographic Council. Expected to open at Headquarters in 1992, the exhibit is being funded from extrabudgetary sources and is expected to include an innovative "video wall". Depending on the extent of funding available, plans call for publication of an exhibition booklet and various media promotion activities, including television interviews and photo essays. Organizations of the United Nations system involved in drug control-related programmes are being invited to submit photographs for the exhibition.

90. During the period under review, the Department produced 62 radio programmes addressing various drug control questions in 11 languages. Three United Nations in Action television programmes on drug abuse control were also produced and distributed to television networks around the world.

## XII. ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF APARTHEID

91. In paragraph 1 (b) (v) of resolution 45/76 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department enhance the effectiveness of its activities and the dissemination of information on United Nations activities against the policies and practices of apartheid, giving due attention to the unilateral measures and official censorship imposed on the local and international media with regard to all aspects of that issue.

92. The Department continued to promote the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989. This was primarily carried out through the promotion campaign built around the photo exhibit jointly produced by the Centre Against Apartheid and the Department under the title "Apartheid South Africa Travelling Exhibit". In light of the rapidly changing situation in South Africa, the photo exhibit has been going through a constant process of updating to reflect new developments. The photo exhibit and its different language versions (English, French and Spanish) was shown in Argentina, Cuba, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Mexico and Switzerland. Promotional activities, including seminars, dissemination of brochures and other information material and press conferences, were carried out through United Nations information centres and services to reinforce the message conveyed through the exhibit and embodied in the Declaration.

93. The Department widely distributed the seven-language versions of the poster "For a United, Non-Racial and Democratic South Africa" which it had produced on the occasion of 21 March, the International Day for the

Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The postcard version of the poster, also produced in seven languages, was widely distributed.

### XIII. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

94. In paragraph 1 (b) (vii) of resolution 45/76 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department continues to cover all United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine in particular, and current developments in the region.

95. In addition to activities reported to the Committee on Information in document A/AC.198/1991/4, the Department continued information projects within the framework of its special programme on the question of Palestine mandated under General Assembly resolutions 44/41 C of 6 December 1989, and 45/67 C of 6 December 1990. In those resolutions, the General Assembly requested the Department, *inter alia*, to organize regional and national encounters for journalists on the question of Palestine, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America.

96. Accordingly, the Department co-sponsored two national encounters for journalists on the question of Palestine that were held at Brussels on 22 May 1991 and at Bonn on 24 May 1991. The event in Brussels was hosted in cooperation with the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab cooperation and the Commission of the European Communities, while the event held at Bonn was organized in cooperation with the German Association for the United Nations. The theme of the two encounters was the protection of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation. Participating in the events were eminent Palestinian and Israeli panelists. The two encounters were moderated by a senior official of the Department.

97. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Department sponsored a regional encounter for European journalists on the question of Palestine. It was held at Helsinki from 3 to 5 June 1991. The nine-member panel, which explored the prospects for an international peace conference on the Middle East, was moderated by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs. Altogether, 64 media participants, including columnists, senior editors and editorial writers representing major news organizations around the world, participated in the encounter. All three encounters generated international media coverage worldwide, and in Europe in particular.

#### XIV. YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS

98. In paragraph 1 (d), of resolution 45/76 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make further efforts regarding the timely appearance of the Yearbook of the United Nations. At its thirteenth session, in April 1991, the Committee on Information endorsed the assessment of the Secretary-General with regard to the future of the Yearbook, as contained in document A/AC.198/1991/6. Furthermore, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations contained in document A/AC.198/1991/6, particularly as regards paragraphs 66 and 67.

99. The Secretary-General's recommendations in paragraphs 66 and 67 were as follows:

"66. In order to put an end to the accumulation of the backlog and restore the production of the Yearbook of the United Nations to the normal cycle of an annual publication, it is imperative for the Department:

(a) To treat its backlog-tackling efforts separately from the book's current conditions of production;

(b) To undertake the simultaneous production of the four backlog editions (41:1987 to 44:1990), issuing them no later than, and coinciding with the release of volume 45:1991 in, July 1993.

"67. To this end, immediate consideration should be given to the proposed offer made by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers ... involving the funding of temporary personnel required to eliminate the four backlog editions in a period of two years. Furthermore, the Department should decide upon accepting the offer as soon as all its details are formally presented. It is suggested that, in coordination with the Department's Publications Service, four teams be established (each formed by three editors/writers with recognized experience in the public information activities of the United Nations) and assigned to work simultaneously on all the backlog editions. The four editions should be prepared in accordance with the specifications drawn by the Department's Information Products Division, including mechanisms to issue them in abbreviated form. The external publisher's offer to take over responsibility for typesetting and proofreading the texts of the four editions, as well as his suggestion to establish a more realistic print run for each backlog edition, should also be considered."

100. Since the submission of the Secretary-General's report to the Committee on Information, the Department has made considerable progress in the production of volume 41:1987, one of the four backlog editions. Camera-ready films for the volume are expected to be completed and delivered to the printers by 31 December 1991, with publication date set for February 1992. The necessary contractual agreements have already been executed.

101. As a result of progress in the production of volume 41:1987, arrangements with the external publishers for elimination of the backlog will be limited to three editions, namely, 42:1988, 43:1989 and 44:1990. The production rates of these three editions will vary from 14 to 16 months, depending upon the availability of necessary materials and the additional period required to conduct research, prepare outlines and solicit contributions from various agencies and departments.

102. The proposed arrangements negotiated by the Department with Martinus Nijhoff provide for the external publisher to hire and make available for direct supervision by the Department, 12 experienced editors/writers on a temporary basis to work on eliminating the backlog editions. The first five editors/writers are due on board by the first week of October, with the remaining seven to be hired by 31 December 1991. In return, the United Nations would accept suspension of the payment of royalties by the external publisher in respect of the backlog editions.

103. On the basis of the latest information available, it is now projected that the production period for volume 42:1988 would run from January 1992 to the end of February 1993, while the production schedule for the remaining two backlog editions (volumes 43:1989 and 44:1990) would run concurrently from June 1992 to the end of November 1993.

104. With regard to the preparation of volume 45:1991, the Department is already collecting the relevant materials and requesting contributions from various agencies and departments. Production is scheduled for completion by the end of November 1992.

105. In accordance with the recommendations contained in document A/AC.198/1991/6, and taking into account the views expressed by members of the Committee on Information, the Yearbook is undergoing fundamental restructuring with respect to its nature, scope and contents, as well as the production process involved. In this regard, the Department has established new research and editorial guidelines as the basis for the production of the backlog and current editions. The Yearbook's substantive sections will thereby be reduced from 67 to 60 chapters and its standard size will not exceed 1,200 pages.

106. The primary objective of the Department's efforts as described above is to restore the regular and timely production of the Yearbook, while at the same time maintaining the high standards of quality and accuracy that have distinguished the Yearbook as the most authoritative reference publication on the work of the Organization.

**XV. STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES AND SERVICES**

107. In paragraph 1 (g) of resolution 45/76 B, the General Assembly requested that the United Nations information centres intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local media, information and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. The Department was also requested to continue to cooperate closely with other field offices of the United Nations system, particularly those of UNDP, in order to avoid duplication of work, taking into account the functional autonomy that the United Nations information centres should have. The Department was also urged to pursue the process of linking the remaining United Nations information centres that have not been linked with electronic mail.

108. United Nations information centres have been strengthening their cooperation with non-governmental organizations, in particular with national United Nations associations, and with educational institutions, in promoting a wider public awareness and understanding of the United Nations. Stimulating and sustaining the interest of the academic and intellectual communities has been, and continues to be, highlighted. United Nations information centres continue to make efforts in order to ensure that study of the United Nations becomes part of the regular national curricula, and Directors of all centres are encouraged to participate widely in lectures and other public speaking activities.

109. The relationship between the information centres and UNDP field offices has merited special attention. An initial understanding reached in 1990 was tested in the field and finalized at the end of the year. A significant aspect of the closer partnership is that UNDP Resident Representatives serve concurrently as Directors/Acting Directors of information centres. Further, in a complementary measure, and with the active support of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, those UNDP Resident Representatives who are Resident Coordinators in developing countries receive intensive public information briefings before taking up their functions. This is of particular significance in countries where there are no information centres.

110. Directives to information centres to work closely in the field with UNDP Resident Representatives and other members of the United Nations family have produced visible impact not only in portraying a unified image of the United Nations, but also in pooling resources. Examples include sharing common office premises wherever practical and, in some instances, sharing common reference library services.

111. Representatives of UNDP and the agencies are also invited to participate in annual regional meetings of Centre Directors organized by the Department. In addition, the Department distributes a variety of printed information to UNDP offices and audio-visual material directly to broadcasting organizations in countries where there are no United Nations information centres, in order to ensure timely receipt and extensive usage of material produced by the

Department. This cooperation, including the financial aspects, continues to be pursued further directly with each member of the United Nations family and through JUNIC.

112. The Department continues the process of linking all United Nations information centres with electronic mail. Directors of centres that do not have this service are checking regularly if access to public international data networks is possible and if local telecommunications conditions make such connections feasible. In recent months, electronic mail has been installed at Dakar, Moscow and Panama City, and the Department expects to add Cairo, Harare, Islamabad, New Delhi, Port of Spain and Prague to the network before the end of 1991.

113. The availability of personal computers is another major factor in establishing electronic mail links. The Department is making every effort to provide computers to as many centres as is financially possible during the current biennium. Since the beginning of 1991, the Department has computerized an additional 25 centres - 15 in Africa (Accra, Addis Ababa, Brazzaville, Cairo, Dakar, Dar-es-Salaam, Harare, Khartoum, Lagos, Lusaka, Maseru, Ouagadougou, Rabat, Tunis and Yaounde), three in Latin America and the Caribbean (Managua, Panama and Port of Spain), three in the Asia and Pacific region (Colombo, Dhaka, Islamabad) and four in Europe (Anara, Bucharest, Moscow and Prague).

114. Electronic equipment for information centres has been and continues to be modernized. Besides provision of computers and electronic mail linkage, 44 centres/services have fully operational facsimile machines.

#### XVI. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION TO EDUCATORS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

115. The Department was urged in paragraph 1 (c) (viii) of resolution 45/76 B to cooperate with educational institutions of Member States, educators, and education policy makers, informing them about United Nations activities.

116. In this regard, the Department is in ongoing daily contact with educators and educational institutions, primarily (but not exclusively) those in North America. The activities in this regard include arranging briefing programmes for educators at Headquarters or sending Secretariat officials to address groups on various issues; scheduling group visits to Headquarters where, through the guided tour, educators are informed about the history and full range of United Nations activities; and preparation of information packets for schools/teachers along with responding to their requests for information on the United Nations.

117. Beyond the regular contact with educators/educational institutions, the Department also arranges special events and activities to heighten interest in the Organization. One of these was an information fair held at Headquarters in 1990, where 14 United Nations programmes and specialized agencies

participated. Representatives of participating organizations were able to meet one-on-one with teachers and students, providing them with relevant information materials and giving them the opportunity to learn more about the entire United Nations system. The fair was deemed a success by visitors and participants alike and is to be repeated and possibly even expanded in the future.

#### XVII. ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR BROADCASTERS AND JOURNALISTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

118. In paragraph 1 (c) (vi) of resolution 45/76 B, the Department was urged to continue its briefing assistance and orientation programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries.

119. In this connection, the Department's 1991 six-week training programme, to be held in September, will bring together 16 broadcasters and journalists from Argentina, Bhutan, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Cyprus, Egypt (in place of the United Arab Emirates, which was unable to send any nomination), Fiji, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. During the programme, the participants will receive in-service training, undertake work assignments and receive briefings from United Nations officials. They will also serve as temporary United Nations correspondents, covering the General Assembly on behalf of their home media organizations.

#### XVIII. COORDINATION OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

120. In paragraph 1 (h) of resolution 45/76 B, in recognition of the need for coordinating information activities of the United Nations system, the Department was encouraged to continue its active participation in the work of the Joint United Nations Information Committee.

121. As the secretariat of the Committee, the Department organized the seventeenth session of the Committee, convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Richard Lydiker (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and held from 24 to 26 June 1991 at United Nations Headquarters. The report of the Committee is to be submitted to the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

#### Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/46/21).