



ST/IC/78/22
4 April 1978

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

To: Members of the staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for General Services

Subject: INCREASED COST OF TELEPHONE SERVICES

1. The New York State Public Service Commission approved rate increases for the New York Telephone Company effective 6 January 1978. The increased charges relate to the newly-introduced timing of local calls, the installation of new telephones, the move of telephone sets and the change of line treatment (e.g. the extension of direct-dialing capability).
2. The attention of the staff is drawn to a significant increase in the charge for local calls. Previously, a local call from the United Nations cost only one message unit for an unlimited period. Such calls are now automatically timed by the Telephone Company computers and charged according to a schedule termed "timed message service". Under that schedule, each local call is allowed a message unit of five minutes, and an additional charge is made for each minute beyond the first five minutes.
3. Since a recent study has shown that many local calls are of long duration, staff members are requested to try to keep such calls within the initial message unit of five minutes. Similarly, long distance calls, which are periodically affected by rate increases, should be made only when clearly necessary for the efficient functioning of the Secretariat. The United Nations receives from the Telephone Company data relating to all its local and long distance calls. This information will be reviewed to ensure that the usage has not been excessive.
4. In view of the substantial increases in telephone costs, staff members are urged to exercise utmost care in the use of telephone services.
