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### QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

#### Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mpumeliso J. HLOPHE (Swaziland)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

"Questions relating to information:

"(a) Report of the Committee on Information;

"(b) Report of the Secretary-General;

"(c) Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization"

was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 41/68 A of 3 December 1986.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.

3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 20th, 22nd, 24th to 28th, 30th and 34th meetings, held between 11 and 19 November and on 25 November 1987 (see A/SPC/42/SR.20, 22, 24-28, 30 and 34).

4. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Information; 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/42/494);

(c) Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (A/42/571).

5. The Committee also had before it three letters dated 6 and 24 July and 23 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/411, A/42/431 and Corr.1 and A/42/681).

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group on questions relating to information, traditionally chaired by one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Special Political Committee, and at the current session by the Vice-Chairman from Chile. At its 16th meeting, on 5 November, the Chairman stated that Mr. Raimundo Gonzalez of Chile, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, had informed him that the delegation of Chile had proposed that Mrs. Noelia Miranda, a member of the Chilean delegation, should chair that working group. The Committee concurred with this request, on the understanding that it did not constitute a precedent.

7. At its 20th meeting, on 11 November, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information of the Secretariat, the Chairman of the Committee on Information, and the Acting Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Liaison Office.

8. At the 34th meeting, on 25 November, the representative of Chile, in her capacity as Chairman of the Working Group on Questions relating to Information, made a statement.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

### A. Draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.20 and Corr.1

9. At the 34th meeting, on 25 November, the representative of Guatemala introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/42/L.20 and Corr.1) on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

10. At the same meeting, the Chairman conveyed to the Committee information concerning the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.20 and Corr.1 provided by the Programme Planning and Budget Division (see A/SPC/42/SR.34, para. 62).

11. Also at the same meeting, before the vote on the draft resolution, the representative of Poland made a statement in explanation of vote.

12. The Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.20 and Corr.1 by a recorded vote of 109 to 1, with 15 abstentions (see para. 17, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

B. Draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.21 and Corr.1

13. At the 34th meeting, the representative of Guatemala introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/42/L.21 and Corr.1) on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

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2/ The delegation of Côte d'Ivoire subsequently stated that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.21 and Corr.1 by a recorded vote of 111 to 1, with 11 abstentions (see para. 17, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows: 3/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Ben'in, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

15. Following the vote on the draft resolutions, the representatives of the Netherlands, Japan, Denmark, the United States of America, Norway, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Federal Republic of Germany made statements in explanation of vote.

16. Subsequently, the representative of Guatemala, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77, and the representatives of Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay made statements in connection with the resolutions just adopted.

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3/ The delegations of Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire and Morocco subsequently indicated that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

17. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Questions relating to information

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on questions relating to information,

Recalling the recommendations of the Committee on Information as adopted by the General Assembly in paragraph 1 of its resolution 41/68 A of 3 December 1986, as well as the provisions of that resolution, taking into account the views expressed by delegations at the forty-first session of the Assembly on 3 December 1986, 4/

Reaffirming the mandate given to the Committee on Information by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/182 of 18 December 1979,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information, 5/

Encouraging the Secretary-General to continue necessary action in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Public Information, with particular emphasis on securing a co-ordinated approach to priority issues before the Organization,

1. Takes note of the comprehensive report of the Committee on Information 6/ which served as an important basis and stimulated further deliberations, and urges the full implementation of the following recommendations as adopted at its substantive session:

(1) All countries, the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned should co-operate in the establishment of a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process, and based, inter alia, on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information, guaranteeing diversity of

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4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Plenary Meetings, 95th meeting.

5/ A/42/494.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/42/21).

sources of information and free access to information and, in particular, the urgent need to change the dependent status of the developing countries in the field of information and communication, as the principle of sovereign equality among nations extends also to this field, and intended also to strengthen peace and international understanding, enabling all persons to participate effectively in political, economic, social and cultural life and promoting human rights, understanding and friendship among all nations. The ongoing efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which retains the central role in this field, to eliminate gradually the existing imbalances in the field of information and communication and to encourage a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information in accordance with the relevant resolutions of that organization, adopted by consensus, should be reaffirmed;

(2) Fully aware of the important role that the media worldwide can freely play, particularly under the present situation, it is recommended that:

(a) The mass media should be encouraged to give wider coverage to the efforts of the international community towards global development and, in particular, the efforts of the developing countries to achieve economic, social and cultural progress;

(b) The United Nations system as a whole should co-operate in a concerted manner, through its information services, in promoting a more comprehensive and realistic image of the activities and potential of the United Nations system in all its endeavours, in accordance with the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, with particular emphasis on the creation of a climate of confidence, the strengthening of multilateralism and the promotion of the development activities in the United Nations system;

(c) All countries should be urged to extend assistance to journalists for the free and effective performance of their professional tasks;

(3) Aware of the existing imbalances in the international distribution of news, particularly that affecting the developing countries, it is recommended that urgent attention should be given to the elimination of existing inequalities in and all other obstacles, both internal and external, to the free flow and wider and better balanced dissemination of information, ideas and knowledge by, inter alia, diversifying the sources of information and respecting the interests, aspirations and socio-cultural values of all peoples, as a step towards the attainment of a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information;

(4) The United Nations system as a whole, as well as the developed countries, should be urged to co-operate in a concerted manner with the developing countries towards strengthening the information and

communication infrastructures in the latter countries, in accordance with the priorities attached to such areas by the developing countries, with a view to enabling them to develop their own information and communications policies freely and independently and in the light of their history, social values and cultural traditions, taking into account the principle of freedom of the press and information. In this regard, full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which constitutes an important step in the development of these infrastructures, should always be emphasized;

(5) It is recommended that the need be stressed to promote the access of the developing countries to communications technology, including communication satellites, modern electronic information systems, informatics and other advanced information and communication facilities with a view to improving their own information and communication systems in accordance with the specific conditions prevailing in each country;

(6) It is recommended that the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, should explore further ways and means of strengthening co-operation and co-ordination with the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, with the Eco-Pool of the News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with the regional news agencies of developing countries, as this constitutes a concrete step towards the elimination of existing imbalances. It is also recommended that the Department of Public Information should establish adequate co-operation with the developing countries in the audio-visual field, especially with the Broadcasting Organization of the Non-Aligned Countries;

(7) Reaffirming the primary role that the General Assembly is to play in elaborating, co-ordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information and emphasizing the central role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communication, it is recommended that the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned should be urged to give that organization adequate support and assistance in the field of information and communication. The Department of Public Information, in particular, should co-operate more regularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, especially at the working level, with a view to maximizing the contributions of the Department to the efforts of that organization in further promoting the attainment of a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information;

(8) Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 7/ which provides that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, and article 29, which stipulates that these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, should be recalled;

(9) The Department of Public Information should be requested to disseminate information about the United Nations activities in the field of human rights. The Department of Public Information should be requested to make broad use of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which will be observed in 1988, for the dissemination of information on human rights;

(10) The United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, should aim at providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already taken within the United Nations system, including, in particular:

(a) Development of human resources as indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries, and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(b) Creation of conditions that will gradually enable the developing countries to produce, by using their own resources, the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, specifically for radio and television broadcasting;

(c) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(11) The Secretary-General should be requested to ensure that the activities of the Department of Public Information, as the focal point of the public information tasks of the United Nations, are strengthened and improved, keeping in view the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the priority areas such as those stated in section III, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 35/201 of 16 December 1980 and other pertinent resolutions of the Assembly and the



recommendations of the Committee on Information, so as to ensure an objective and more coherent coverage of, as well as a better knowledge about, the United Nations and its work. It is recommended further that no new public information units independent of the Department should be created in the Secretariat of the United Nations;

(12) The Secretary-General should be requested to provide the Committee on Information at its substantive session of 1988 with a feasibility study on the consolidation and co-ordination of all public information activities within the United Nations with specific reference to the financial implications as well as to the effectiveness of the Department of Public Information as the focal point for public information activities;

(13) The Department of Public Information should be requested to continue its co-operation with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations, and should monitor, as appropriate, important meetings of that Movement, as well as of intergovernmental and regional organizations, with a view to promoting a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information;

(14) In the light of the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa, the Secretary-General should be requested to ensure that the Department of Public Information continues to do its utmost in bringing to the attention of the international community the real dimensions of the plight of the African people and the tremendous efforts of the African countries towards recovery and development, as well as the positive response by the international community, with a view to increasing its contribution to alleviating this human tragedy. In this regard, the Secretary-General should be requested to ensure that the Department of Public Information continues to do its utmost to disseminate widely and to publicize the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. B/ In this respect, the efforts of the Department of Public Information should be commended;

(15) The Department of Public Information should be urged to give the widest possible dissemination of information pertaining to acute world economic problems in general and, in particular, to the severe economic difficulties of the least developed countries and the need for strengthening the international economic co-operation aimed at resolving external debt problems of developing countries;

(16) The relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 59 (I) of 14 December 1946, in which the Assembly stated, inter alia, that freedom of information is a fundamental human right, must be reiterated;

(17) The relevant provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and those of the Concluding Document of the meeting of representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Madrid from 11 November 1980 to 9 September 1983, should be recalled;

(18) The relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace 9/ should also be recalled;

(19) The final documents of the Conferences of the Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 26 to 30 January 1984, 10/ and at Harare from 10 to 12 June 1987, 11/ should be recalled;

(20) The Conference of Ministers of Information of States members of the Organization of African Unity, held at Addis Ababa in March 1985, which expressed its conviction of the importance of a new world information and communication order, should be noted;

(21) The relevant resolutions on the question relating to information of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference, held at Casablanca in January 1984, 12/ and the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference, held at Kuwait in January 1987, 13/ should be recalled;

(22) The relevant section of the Political Declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, 14/ should be recalled;

(23) The Department of Public Information should continue to maintain consistent editorial independence and accuracy in reporting for all material produced by the Department and should promote, to the greatest possible extent, an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations system among the peoples of the world, inter alia,

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- 9/ Resolution 33/73.  
10/ A/39/139-S/16430, annex.  
11/ P.42/431, annex.  
12/ A/39/131-S/16414 and Corr.1, annex II, resolution 12/4-P(IS).  
13/ A/42/178-S/18753, annex IV, resolution 1/5-C(IS).  
14/ A/41/697-S/18292, annex, sect. I, paras. 294-312.

the cultural, humanitarian, economic and social programmes of its specialized agencies, taking necessary measures to ensure that its output contains objective and equitable information about issues before the Organization, reflecting divergent opinions where they occur;

(24) The Department of Public Information should, in the context of the review of its role, performance and method of work, consider the feasibility of applying modern technologies for the collection, production, storage, dissemination and distribution of information materials, including the use of satellite facilities, having in mind the possibility of owning one in the future. The Secretary-General should be requested to submit such a feasibility study, including its financial implications, to the Committee by its next organizational session, at the latest;

(25) In this regard, attention is drawn to the success attained by the ARABSAT, BRASILSAT, INSAT-1B, MORELOS and PALAPA satellite systems and the CONDOR project, designed to promote national and regional integration, and the improvement of communication infrastructures;

(26) In the light of the present financial difficulties of the Department of Public Information, it is recommended that the Department consider expanding the programme of telephone news bulletins that are paid for by its users. The Committee on Information notes with appreciation the positive response of those countries that are assisting the United Nations in resuming the short-wave broadcasts through their respective national networks free of charge. In the light of this successful co-operation, the Department of Public Information is requested to continue its contacts with interested countries and broadcasting organizations, in both the developed and developing countries, especially those with recognized capabilities, to solicit this type of co-operation and to report to the Committee at its substantive session in 1988 on the outcome of those contacts. The Department of Public Information should be requested to ensure that these radio programmes are objective and professional;

(27) The Committee on Information takes note with appreciation of regional efforts, especially among the developing countries, as well as co-operation between developed and developing countries to develop further their media infrastructure, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information, with a view to encouraging a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information;

(28) The Department of Public Information should continue its annual training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries. The Committee on Information notes that the workshop for the familiarization of news agencies of developing countries with modern

technologies, as recommended by the Committee 15/ and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/68 A of 3 December 1986, has not been organized owing to financial constraints. The Department of Public Information is once again requested, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, to ensure the continuation and expansion of this kind of activity. In this connection, the Department should continue to examine the possibility of allocating a week of the programme for a visit by journalists and broadcasters from developing countries to one of the developing countries that expresses readiness to receive them for the purpose of acquainting them with the ways in which information on the United Nations is received and utilized;

(29) In order to enhance awareness and understanding of the lofty objectives of the United Nations, the Department of Public Information should provide assistance, in an objective and equitable way, to educational institutions of Member States for teaching about the structure of the United Nations, as well as the principles and purposes enunciated in its Charter. In order to implement this recommendation, the Department should continue to organize seminars for educators and education policy makers;

(30) Within the World Disarmament Campaign, the Department of Public Information should encourage coverage aimed at the promotion of a climate of understanding, confidence and co-operation, peace and development, and the enhancement of human rights;

(31) The Department of Public Information should be requested to continue to cover adequately and accurately all United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, and to report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session of 1988;

(32) The Department of Public Information should continue its activities and dissemination of information on 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 this issue;

(33) The Secretary-General should be requested to intensify his efforts in order to alert world public opinion to the illegal occupation of Namibia and to continue to disseminate adequately and accurately, with the full assistance of the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Department of Public Information and the United Nations system as a whole, information relating to the struggle of the oppressed people of

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15/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/41/21), para. 69.

Namibia for self-determination, national independence and freedom as well as to the need for the full and speedy implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia;

(34) The Department of Public Information should further cover adequately and with impartiality the activities of all United Nations peace-keeping operations, in view of the paramount importance of such operations for the maintenance of international peace and security;

(35) The Secretary-General should be requested to ensure the continuation and improvement of United Nations radio and television programmes and, inter alia, to strengthen the Middle East/Arabic Unit as the producer of Arabic television and radio programmes. The Department of Public Information should implement the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/82 B of 15 December 1983 on the Caribbean Unit. In view of the importance of United Nations radio programmes in the Asian and European regions, the functions of the Asian and European Units should not only be maintained, they should also be expanded;

(36) The unique function of the United Nations information centres as one of the most important means of disseminating information about the United Nations among the peoples of the world is recognized. In this regard, United Nations information centres should continue to assist press and information media in their respective countries in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly and should intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local information and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations in a mutually beneficial way. Every effort should be made to establish close co-ordination with other field offices of the United Nations system, particularly those of the United Nations Development Programme, in order to avoid duplication of work. Co-ordination with other United Nations offices should take into account the functional autonomy of the United Nations information centres. The Department should ensure open and unhindered access by all people to all United Nations information centres and to all materials distributed through the centres;

(37) The Department of Public Information should disseminate information concerning the decisions of the United Nations dealing with acts of terrorism in all its forms, taking into account particularly General Assembly resolution 40/61 of 9 December 1985, as well as the relevant statements of the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General;

(38) The Secretary-General should continue to strengthen and accelerate his efforts to develop a system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the activities of the Department of Public Information, particularly in the priority areas determined by the General Assembly, taking into account the need to improve data collection procedures, analysis of feedback data and end-use of the Department's materials, and maximizing the efficiency of the operations in all their aspects;

(39) Future reports of the Department of Public Information to the Committee on Information and to the General Assembly, in particular on new programmes or on the expansion of existing programmes, should contain:

(a) More adequate information on the output of the Department in respect of each topic included in its work programme, which forms the basis of its programme budget;

(b) The costs of the activities undertaken in respect of each topic;

(c) More adequate information on target audiences, end-use of the Department's products, and analysis of feedback data received by the Department;

(d) A statement detailing the priority level that the Secretary-General has attached to current or future activities of the Department in documents dealing with such activities;

(e) The Department's evaluation of the effectiveness of its different programmes and activities, with particular reference to the need constantly to review internal programme elements and activities;

(40) The steps taken by the Department of Public Information in redressing the imbalance in its staff should be noted. The Department should continue its efforts to that end. The Secretary-General should take appropriate steps to increase the representation of underrepresented developing countries and of other underrepresented groups of countries, especially at the senior levels, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and to submit a report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1988;

(41) Member States should be called upon once again to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information;

(42) Note is taken of the report on the curtailment of radio programmes and the improvement in the distribution of taped radio programmes produced by the Department of Public Information, 16/ and the Department is requested to take steps to improve their distribution, to examine its current effectiveness and to report to the Committee at its substantive session in 1988. In this connection, the Department of Public Information should explore adequate measures to resume radio programmes that have been curtailed, bearing in mind the need to ensure effective utilization, timeliness and maximum audience impact;

(43) Note is taken of the report on the programme and activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee, 17/ and the Secretary-General is urged to continue his efforts to secure a sound and stable financial basis for Development Forum, the only inter-agency publication of the United Nations system that concentrates on development issues. The Secretary-General should continue to ensure that Development Forum retains its editorial policy of intellectual independence, thus enabling this publication to continue to serve as a world-wide forum in which diverse opinions on issues relating to economic and social development can be freely expressed;

(44) In order to ensure a better image of the United Nations and to promote a more accurate understanding of its activities, the Department of Public Information should guarantee daily coverage of all United Nations meetings through issuance of the daily press releases and the weekly news digest in all working languages. The Department of Public Information should continue to co-operate closely with and provide assistance to the members of the United Nations Correspondents Association, taking into account their needs and requirements, especially in the area of press releases, which provide them with the necessary raw material for adequate reporting. The Department of Public Information should be requested anew to use the official languages of the General Assembly adequately in its documents and audio-visual documentation in order to inform the public better about the activities of the United Nations. The Department of Public Information should again be requested to make balanced use of the two working languages of the Secretariat, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946 in its written and audio-visual documents and to provide the two press sections with the means of producing and distributing press releases and, accordingly, to arrange appropriate staffing. The Department of Public Information should co-operate with delegations when they request that their views be reflected with accuracy and objectivity, by issuing addenda or corrigenda in the language of the press releases;

(45) The Department of Public Information should improve the timely distribution of its materials to subscribers and United Nations information centres, particularly the UN Chronicle, a major source of information on the United Nations to its recipients, and should reassess the effectiveness of this publication and report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1988;

(46) The Secretary-General should be encouraged to continue and intensify his efforts to explore all possibilities of securing adequate resources for the continuation of the World Newspaper Supplement project. The Supplement should be properly labelled to identify its sources;

(47) It is recognized that free distribution of materials is necessary in the public information activities of the United Nations, but, as demands increase and whenever it is desirable and possible, the Department of Public Information should actively encourage the sale of its materials;

(48) It is requested that the recommendations relating to the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat be implemented within existing resources;

2. Requests that the recommendations relating to the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat be implemented within existing resources;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information, at its substantive session in 1988, on the implementation of the above recommendations;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. Requests the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Questions relating to Information".

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 34/181 and 34/182 of 18 December 1979, 35/201 of 16 December 1980, 36/149 A of 16 December 1981, 37/94 A and B of 10 December 1982, 38/82 A of 15 December 1983, 39/98 A and B of 14 December 1984, 40/164 A and B of 16 December 1985 and 41/68 A and B of 3 December 1986,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the final documents of the Second Conference of the Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 10 to 12 June 1987, 11/ the Declarations of the Seventh and Eighth Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at New Delhi in 1983, 18/ and at Harare in 1986, 14/ as well as the final documents of the Conference of the Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta in 1984 10/ and the relevant provisions of the

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18/ See A/38/132-S/15675 and Corr.1 and 2, annex, sect. I, para. 173.



Final Political Declaration adopted by the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Luanda in 1985, 19/

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its eighteenth ordinary session, held at Nairobi in 1981, 20/ and the Conference of Ministers of Information of States members of the Organization of African Unity at its third ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa in 1985, and at its first extraordinary session, held at Cairo in November 1985, especially those encouraging regional co-operation in the field of information,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and those of the Concluding Document of the meeting of representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Madrid from 11 November 1980 to 9 September 1983,

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 7/ which provides that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, and article 29, which stipulates that these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, 9/

Conscious that, in order progressively to remedy existing imbalances, it is essential to strengthen and intensify the development of infrastructure, networks and resources in the communications field and thus encourage a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information,

Emphasizing its full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which constitutes an essential instrument for the development of human and material resources and communication infrastructures in the developing countries,

Recognizing the central role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communications within its mandate, as well as the progress accomplished by that organization in that field,

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19/ See A/40/854-S/17610 and Corr.1, annex I, sect. XXXIV.

20/ See A/36/534, annex II.

1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; 21/

2. Recalls the Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, Apartheid and Incitement to War, 22/ adopted on 28 November 1978 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

3. Considers that the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization represents a significant step towards the gradual elimination of existing imbalances in the field of information and communications, and welcomes the decisions adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the Programme at its eighth session, held in Paris in January 1987;

4. Expresses its appreciation to all Member States that have made or pledged a contribution towards the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication;

5. Again calls upon Member States and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as other international governmental and non-governmental organizations and concerned public and private enterprises to respond to the appeals of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to contribute to the International Programme for the Development of Communication by making financial resources available as well as staff, equipment, technologies and training resources;

6. Recalls resolution 4/22 of 27 October 1980 23/ concerning the reduction of telecommunication tariffs for news exchanges, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session, and takes note of the efforts made by Member States in this respect;

7. Reaffirms its support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, its Constitution and the ideals reflected in it;

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21/ A/42/571.

22/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Records of the General Conference, Twentieth Session, vol. I, Resolutions, pp. 100-104.

23/ Ibid., Twenty-first Session, vol. I, Resolutions, sect. III.

8. Invites the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue his efforts in the information and communication field and to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-third session, a detailed report on the application of the International Programme for the Development of Communication as well as on the social, economic and cultural effects of the accelerated development of communication technologies;

9. Reaffirms the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which retains the central role in the field of information, gradually to eliminate existing imbalances, particularly with respect to the development of infrastructures and production capacities, and to encourage a free flow and wider and better balanced dissemination of information with a view to the establishment of a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization consensus resolutions.

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