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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Letter dated 26 August 1980 from the Permanent Representative
of the United States of America to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement issued by the United States Department of State on 20 August 1980.

"We deplore the fact that the Soviet Union has resumed jamming Voice of America broadcasts to the Soviet Union as well as other Western radio broadcasts, for the first time since 1973. This act by the Soviet Union is in clear disregard of the provision of the Helsinki Final Act concerning the dissemination of information.

"We do not know why the Soviets have taken this unfortunate step backwards, or whether this action will be temporary or long-lived. Voice of America broadcasting policy has not changed significantly over the past seven years, and one can only assume that Soviet authorities recently became concerned over the wide gap between the heavily-censored news as reported to the Soviet people by Soviet news media and the news as carried by the Voice of America."

I request that the above statement be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 59 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Donald F. McHENRY

* A/35/150.