



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1990/19
2 February 1990

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-sixth session
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Development of public information activities in the
field of human rights

Note by the Secretary-General

Introduction

1. In resolution 1989/53 entitled "Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights", the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its forty-sixth session a report on public information activities with special emphasis on the current and proposed aims and activities of the World Campaign, including details of the costs incurred in 1989, the budget envisaged for future activities and a first assessment of the impact of the World Campaign activities undertaken by the United Nations in the field of human rights. It should be recalled that the Secretary-General has already submitted a comprehensive report on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights to the General Assembly (A/44/660 and Add.1). This report has been made available to the Commission on Human Rights.

2. The present note deals therefore with the additional information requested in paragraph 18 of resolution 1989/53, namely, the proposed aims and activities of the World Campaign, details of the costs incurred in 1989, the budget envisaged for future activities and a first assessment of the impact of the World Campaign activities.

I. PROPOSED AIMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD CAMPAIGN

A. Background

3. Since 1979, the Commission on Human Rights has adopted each year resolutions on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights: resolutions 23 (XXXV) of 1979, 24 (XXXVI) of 1980, 24 (XXXVII) of 1981, 1982/42, 1983/50, 1984/58, 1985/49, 1986/54, 1987/39, 1988/74 and 1989/53.

4. These resolutions indicate the Commission's primary concern with teaching, education and information activities, as well as the need to stimulate public interest in the promotion and encouragement of universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; they have recommended, inter alia:

(a) Wider distribution of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in "personalized" versions and local languages;

(b) Wider distribution of the text of other major human rights instruments in regional languages;

(c) Provision of basic reference and information materials to United Nations information centres;

(d) Greater use of audio-visual techniques and co-productions;

(e) The production of United Nations material in a simplified, attractive and accessible form;

(f) That the priority audience for United Nations material should be children, young people and the disadvantaged, including those in isolated areas;

- (g) That adequate funding be provided for public information activities on human rights;
- (h) Use of the mass media, especially radio and television;
- (i) Utilization of the whole United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, in the dissemination of material on human rights;
- (j) Harmonizing United Nations activities with other organizations.

A more complete list of themes recommended is found in paragraphs 17-18 of the report of the Secretary-General to the forty-third session of the General Assembly (A/43/711).

5. For the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1988, major efforts were made by the international community in the areas of information, education and public awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The momentum created by those activities culminated in the unanimous launching by the United Nations General Assembly of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights on 10 December 1988 (General Assembly resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988).

6. The fortieth anniversary also coincided with a new phase of United Nations activities and efforts in the field of human rights. Indeed, while the legislative process was not yet completed, it was evident that main achievements in standard-setting had already been made. Now, the implementation of the body of norms available in the field of human rights clearly constitute a major United Nations priority. The attainment of that objective on a global scale necessitated information leading to awareness and knowledge of basic rights and freedoms, of the machinery available for the promotion and protection of those rights and of the role that the United Nations plays in this field. Hence, information and education in the field of human rights represent an essential element towards the universal implementation of the body of law available in this field.

B. World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights

7. The main objective of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights is to increase understanding and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as to educate on the international human rights machinery and efforts of the United Nations to promote and protect human rights. Thus, the World Campaign aims at building a universal culture of human rights, one that clearly recognizes that human rights and fundamental freedoms are inherent to the human person without any distinction as to his or her race, colour, sex, language or religion.

8. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/44/660 and Add.1), activities within the World Public Information Campaign have been grouped into five major areas: preparation and dissemination of printed information and reference materials; workshops, seminars and training courses; fellowships and internships; special human rights observances; and coverage and promotion activities.

9. The Centre has continued to implement the programme of production of information and reference material started in 1988 in connection with the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which includes the issuance of Fact Sheets, the Human Rights Newsletter, the Bulletin of Human Rights, etc. It should be noted, in particular, that some 100 language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are now available and that the Centre plans to reach 200 by the end of 1990. Since the issue of the last report of the Secretary-General (A/44/660 and Add.1), Fact Sheet No. 8 has been published in Chinese, French and Spanish. In connection with reference material, it should also be noted that the Russian version of Human Rights - A Compilation of International Instruments has been issued and that the booklet ABC-Teaching Human Rights is now available in Chinese. More details about the printed public information and reference material published by the Centre are found in the last report of the Secretary-General (A/44/660, paras. 7-24).

10. Since January 1989, the Centre has organized a number of workshops, training courses and seminars on various human rights issues. They were held in all parts of the world, namely in Geneva, Conakry, Banjul, Quito, Baguio City, Castelgandolfo, Athens, Lima, Buenos Aires, Guatemala City and Moscow. These meetings were organized within the framework of the advisory services and technical assistance programme and have also served - despite their very technical nature - to spread information and increase awareness of the objectives of the World Campaign on Human Rights. Throughout 1989, the Centre also co-operated in the organization of or actively participated in some 80 workshops, seminars and meetings on human rights issues, organized by academic and research institutions and non-governmental organizations in all parts of the world. For more details concerning these activities, see the last report of the Secretary-General (A/44/660, paras. 25-41).

11. Human Rights exhibits and round tables have also been organized - for instance on Human Rights Day (10 December) and on United Nations Day (24 October). The round table for United Nations day focused, in particular, on racism; it was attended, among others, by senior government officials, representatives of the diplomatic community and of NGOs. It also coincided with the "Open-Door" Day of the Palais des Nations, which over 10,000 visitors attended (see paras. 95-101 of document A/44/660).

12. In keeping with its mandate to co-ordinate the substantive activities of the World Campaign, the Centre for Human Rights called a meeting of all specialized agencies and other United Nations organs in April to review and discuss, inter alia, ongoing activities in the areas of information, education and training in the field of human rights. The meeting was well attended and identified co-operative endeavours with several members of the United Nations family. Details concerning these possibilities for co-operation are given in paragraphs 42-92 of document A/44/660.

13. In this connection, it should be mentioned that the Global Consultation on AIDS and Human Rights (Geneva, 26-28 July 1989) was entirely financed by the World Health Organization (A/44/660, paras. 30 and 63-65). Additionally, the Centre for Human Rights, in co-operation with UNICEF, organized a media seminar in Geneva on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 19 November 1989. Some 60 journalists participated in the event, which was entirely financed by UNICEF.

14. Outside the United Nations system as well, the Centre for Human Rights has increased its co-operation with regional institutions such as the OAU Commission on Human and People's Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Council of Europe. In addition, the Centre has actively supported the establishment of two new regional human rights institutes - one in Banjul for Africa and one in Tunis for the Arab region - and has increased its co-operation with well-known human rights institutions in San José (Costa Rica), Strasbourg (France), San Remo (Italy), etc. (A/44/660, paras. 66-85).
15. In co-operation with the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA), the Centre organized a human rights seminar in Tokyo from 5 to 7 December 1989 for some 250 members of the legal profession and scholars. The meeting was officially opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights. It should be noted that this activity was entirely financed by the JFBA.
16. From 4 to 7 December 1989, the Centre also actively participated in a seminar on human rights organized by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the Brazilian Ministry for Foreign Relations held in Brasilia (Brazil). The meeting was attended, inter alia, by officials from 13 Latin American countries; the issues discussed related to the work of Foreign Affairs departments in their relations with international bodies dealing with the promotion and protection of human rights.
17. Furthermore, in co-operation with the Information Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the support of the Italian Government, and within the framework of the World Campaign on Human Rights, a concert by the Solisti Veneti was held in the Assembly Hall of the Palais des Nations on 17 December 1989. Over 2,200 people attended the concert, which was also addressed by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights.
18. In connection with non-governmental organizations, three one-day consultations have been held in Geneva in January, February and August 1989 on activities within the framework of the World Campaign. In October, one consultation was held in New York with over 200 participants representing many human rights organizations (A/44/660, paras. 86-91).
19. With the assistance of the Department of Public Information or of the United Nations information centres worldwide, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and the Centre's staff have given radio and television interviews, as well as briefings and press conferences on special human rights commemorations, as well as at United Nations seminars and workshops, focusing, inter alia, on the aims and objectives of the World Campaign.
20. In 1989, the Department of Public Information provided to the fullest extent possible, within its existing resources, coverage and publicity to human rights and related activities of the United Nations in general, and of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights in particular.
21. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/44/660 and Add.1), a co-ordinated multi-media approach to public information was used by the Department of Public Information, in co-operation with the Centre for Human Rights, other organizations of the United Nations system engaged in human

rights and related activities, and non-governmental organizations concerned, to ensure the effective coverage of human rights activities and the world-wide distribution of relevant information materials to specific audiences both at Headquarters and, through the United Nations information centres and services, in the field.

22. In addition to the activities spelt out in part two of the report of the Secretary-General (A/44/660/Add.1), two major activities were undertaken at Headquarters by the Department of Public Information within the framework of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights: one in observance of Human Rights Day (10 December); the other in connection with the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1989, which coincided with the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

23. On 11 December 1989, in observance of Human Rights Day and to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Department of Public Information co-sponsored with the Centre for Human Rights and the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Women, a seminar on women and human rights. The seminar was covered by United Nations radio and other media. For this anniversary, the Department produced a comprehensive information kit on discrimination against women which contained features, background notes, press releases and graphics on the global situation of women as well as information about the Convention and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. This kit, issued in English, French and Spanish, has been distributed worldwide to media and interested non-governmental organizations.

24. The Department also organized, in the public lobby of the General Assembly building, an exhibit of lithographs depicting the various articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has been donated to the United Nations by King Juan Carlos of Spain. Films on human rights were also shown.

25. Also on 11 December, the Department assisted the United Nations Sales Section in launching a children's book on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Present at the launch were the book's Brazilian author Ruth Rocha and artist Otavio Roth. The United Nations Staff Committee organized a special event to publicize the plight of detained and imprisoned United Nations staff.

26. The twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development was also marked on 11 December 1989. On this occasion, the General Assembly held a commemorative session at which the Department distributed language versions of the Declaration accompanied by a special commemorative stamp collection and cover produced by the United Nations Postal Administration. The Department ensured that these materials were available at the United Nations Office at Vienna for their observance of the anniversary. A special "United Nations in Action" television magazine item featuring the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration was produced and distributed by the Department worldwide for broadcast on or around the anniversary day.

27. On 20 November, to mark the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Department assisted the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in organizing a special children's event at the United Nations which was attended by more than 500 children and teenagers. The event, also co-sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights, attracted extensive media attention and featured the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the Under-Secretaries-General for Human Rights and Public Information, the Executive Director of UNICEF, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Audrey Hepburn, the Chairman of the Working Group on the Rights of the Child, the host of the children's television show "Sesame Street", as well as Mickey and Minnie Mouse, jugglers, clowns and musicians.

28. Two major International Days of Solidarity were observed at Headquarters and in the field during the last quarter of 1989: the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October) and the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November). On 11 October, at Headquarters, the Centre against Apartheid held a solemn meeting in commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, to which the Department of Public Information gave full press and television coverage. On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Department produced and distributed a special information kit to the press and to officials attending the ceremony organized at Headquarters by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Department also assisted in setting up a special exhibit in the General Assembly lobby. Updated information material, including brochures, booklets and posters, were sent to United Nations information centres and services worldwide to assist in observances marking the Day. The Department also provided radio, press, television and photo coverage of the solemn meeting of the Committee.

29. During the reporting period, close to 2,300 public inquiries on human rights and related issues were handled by the Department at Headquarters alone. Arrangements were made at Headquarters for 17 in-house briefings on human rights and related issues, addressed to non-governmental organizations and student audiences that totalled over 750 people. A meeting on questions relating to the status and rights of women was also arranged by the Department at New York, for an audience of 100 members of the Professional and Business Women's Association.

C. Activities of United Nations information centres and services

1. United Nations Information Service at Geneva

30. In observance of Human Rights Day (10 December), a press conference was convened on 8 December by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, in co-operation with the Information Service at Geneva. On 11 December, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights gave a lecture at the Palais des Nations on new perspectives in the field of human rights for the Cercle des amitiés internationales de Genève/Rencontres du Lundi.

31. Another major human rights related event pertained to the adoption by the General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which coincided with the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. On 16 November 1989, the Information Service assisted in the organization of a media seminar on the draft convention on the rights of the child sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Centre for Human Rights. On 17 November, the Information Service organized a seminar for non-governmental organizations on the same subject. On 20 November, some 450 children from various Geneva schools visited the Palais des Nations to participate in the celebration of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

32. In observance of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October) and the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November), the Information Service organized two meetings attended by representatives of permanent missions, the media and non-governmental organizations, as well as officials from the United Nations Office at Geneva. The solemn meeting of 11 October was followed by a screening of a new film entitled "Global Action against Apartheid", co-produced by the the United Nations Centre against Apartheid and the Department of Public Information. The special meeting of 29 November, opened by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, was followed by the screening of a film entitled "Voices from Gaza"; on this occasion, the most recent exhibition from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was displayed.

33. During the reporting period, the Information Service also continued to cover and promote, through print and radio and audio-visual programmes, the proceedings of all United Nations intergovernmental bodies dealing with human rights which met in Geneva. The thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Committee (23 October - 10 November) and the third session of the Committee against Torture (13-24 November) which were held at the Palais des Nations, were covered by the Information Service.

2. United Nations information centres and services worldwide

34. The following were among activities which United Nations information centres and services undertook in observance of Human Rights Day and other related events: mounting document, photographic and poster exhibitions; showing films for various audiences; producing background materials, fact sheets, information kits and newsletters containing articles on human rights and related issues; disseminating relevant information materials from Headquarters such as information and press kits, background notes, press releases, official documents and translating them into local languages; organizing or assisting in events, solemn meetings, public gatherings and briefings; participating in seminars, panels and lectures for educational and other institutions; and granting interviews to local media.

35. The information centre at Athens, for example, assisted 33 secondary schools in organizing a series of special events on human rights, with the participation of some 14,000 students. As part of a special project organized by the information centre at Bogota with the Ministry of Justice, the Director of the centre spoke on the rights of the child to some 200 students, children of prisoners and guards of La Picota prison. The centre at Brazzaville

organized a lecture on human rights in Africa by the President of the International Committee for the Observance of Human Rights in Africa. The booklet Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/876) was produced in Bengal by the centre at Dhaka and 15,000 copies were disseminated throughout Bangladesh. The information centre at Manila has launched a campaign of "Know your rights", which features reading sessions and television programmes on the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

II. COSTS INCURRED IN 1989

36. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/44/660, para. 104), the General Assembly, in launching the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, also decided that it should be carried out within existing resources.

37. In keeping with the budget available for its publications programme for 1989, the Centre for Human Rights spent its allotment of \$US 100,000 for its printed human rights information and reference materials. Additionally, the holding of meetings other than those organized within the framework of the advisory services and technical assistance programme (see para. 10 above) - where the attention of participants was also drawn to the aim and objectives of the World Campaign - were fully financed by the co-sponsoring agencies or institutions (e.g. WHO, UNICEF, etc.). The participation of staff of the Centre for Human Rights in workshops and seminars organized by governments, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations, etc. worldwide, was financed from the travel allocation for the staff in the regular budget of the Centre, although on several occasions, participation was at no cost to the Organization, i.e., the co-sponsoring organizations were able to provide both air-tickets and accomodation.

38. Human rights information activities, which have always constituted a major part of the work programme of the Department of Public Information, have been given further emphasis with the establishment, within the Department, of a section of the Communications and Project Management Service dealing with information on human rights and related issues. Resources allocated to human rights and related activities are conservatively estimated at 30 per cent of the regular budget of the Department, i.e., roughly \$US 23 million out of a total budget of \$US 77 million for the biennium 1988-1989, or an average of \$US 11.5 million per year.

III. BUDGET ENVISAGED FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A. Centre for Human Rights: Budget envisaged for 1990

39. The Centre for Human Rights, in line with its publications programme for 1990, will continue to publish information and reference materials. The budget available for those activities in 1990 is \$US 107,000. As indicated in its publications programme, this budget will cover expenditures for, inter alia: (a) Human Rights Fact Sheets (6) in all official languages; (b) Human Rights Newsletters (4) in English and French; (c) Bulletin of Human Rights (3) in English and French; (d) Ad hoc publications (3); (e) Human rights studies (3); (f) Human Rights Yearbooks; (g) Official Records of the Human Rights Committee; (h) Status of International Instruments (in additional official United Nations languages); (i) United Nations Action in the Field of

Human Rights (in additional official United Nations languages); and (j) Selected decisions of the Human Rights Committee. The budget will also be used to finance the issuance of the additional versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in local languages.

40. In addition, as indicated in the budget for 1990-1991 of the Centre for Human Rights, subprogramme 3.3: World Human Rights Campaign and External Relations, approved by the General Assembly, the following activities were foreseen in connection with the World Campaign:

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of six meetings including specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to plan and co-ordinate the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights;

(b) Organization of four workshops and education programmes on specific target sectors in co-operation with regional and national organizations and non-governmental organizations (\$US 60,000);

(c) Organization of a commemoration event for Human Rights Day (\$US 5,000).

41. In connection with activity (b), the Centre considers of the highest priority the organization of a meeting, co-sponsored by UNESCO and with the participation of academic and research specialists, in order to develop a model curriculum for human rights education at the university level. The Centre would endeavour to develop standard training and education programmes on international human rights for university audiences and is in contact with several academic institutions around the world for that purpose. Those programmes could, when available, also utilize audio-visual materials, to be developed by the Department of Public Information, and would rely on the expertise of two experts and a generalist.

42. Additionally, the Centre plans to hold a workshop in Geneva, in co-operation with the Department of Public Information (see also para. 45 (g) below), to be attended by representatives of media organizations from all over the world, in order to discuss, in particular, the role of the media in connection with the aims of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights. Additional meetings are envisaged in co-operation with national and regional institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as with specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, such as UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, UNICRI, etc. The Centre also plans to produce with the Department of Public Information five audio-visual teaching aids for its prototype teaching and training courses geared to various sectors of society.

B. Department of Public Information: budget envisaged for the biennium 1990-1991

43. As proposed in the programme budget of the Department of Public Information for the biennium 1990-1991, the following special information activities on human rights are to be undertaken by the Department in the next two years, as part of its continuing campaign to promote a better public understanding of United Nations efforts in this area of world concern. Figures in parentheses, expressed in United States dollars, refer to production costs and do not include staff and distribution costs.

Commemoration of Human Rights Day

44. Special events at United Nations Headquarters to commemorate Human Rights Day each year, including such activities as film and video screenings, organization of press conferences, round tables or seminars, exhibits, official reception and production of promotion material for distribution to United Nations information centres and services, the media and non-governmental organizations (\$7,000).

Convention on the Rights of the Child

45. Production of an illustrated text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child intended primarily for children and young adults, in the six official languages, for distribution to schools, libraries, non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, government agencies and officials and the general public (\$23,100).

Documentary film

46. A 30-minute documentary film about some aspects of the work of the United Nations on human rights in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, for film and video distribution to United Nations information centres and services, television and non-theatrical screenings (\$162,000).

Local language version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

47. Production of the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 10 local languages, as required by the United Nations information centres, for distribution to non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and the general public, and maintenance of stock in 80 languages, as required (\$28,000).

Education video kit

48. One educational video kit: a 10 to 15-minute video with the accompanying teaching unit on the work of the United Nations on human rights, in English, French and Spanish, for schools, colleges, non-governmental organizations and United Nations speakers, as part of a series of educational programmes leading up to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations (\$55,000).

Reprints of five human rights instruments

49. Reprints, as required, of five human rights texts, such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace and the Declaration on the Right to Development, in the six official languages, and production in five local languages for United Nations information centres and services, for distribution to non-governmental organizations, journalists, parliamentarians, educational institutions and libraries, government agencies and officials and the general public (\$30,000).

Round-table on human rights

50. International media round-table on human rights bringing journalists together with United Nations officials and other experts on human rights to discuss how the media can better cover the work of the United Nations on human rights within the context of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights (\$58,100).

Booklet entitled Human Rights: Questions and Answers

51. Production of the booklet Human Rights: Questions and Answers (DPI/919) in Arabic, Chinese and Russian for distribution to United Nations information centres, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and the general public (\$33,100).

Journal entitled Objective: Justice

52. Objective: Justice is a biannual subscription and sales publication in English, dealing with questions of self-determination, apartheid, human rights and Namibia. It is intended for non-governmental organizations, the press, education institutions and libraries, parliamentarians and government agencies and officials (\$20,400).

Acquisition of documentation

53. Continuation of the acquisition and development of comprehensive documentation and reference services on human rights for various users at the libraries of United Nations information centres and services. No specific amount is allotted to this activity; funding will come from United Nations information centres' budgets as required.

54. The above-mentioned information outputs - the estimated total production cost of which amounts to \$416,700 - are all listed in the programme budget of the Department of Public Information for the biennium 1990-1991 within the thematic category entitled "Human rights". It should be noted, however, that over 20 additional information activities and materials on human rights related issues are also proposed in the programme budget within two other thematic categories, namely, "The struggle against apartheid, the question of Namibia, and Palestine", and "Self-determination and decolonization". Production costs for these additional outputs on human rights related issues are estimated respectively at \$US 825,800 and \$US 26,000. In addition, under the thematic category "Development", some additional items related to human rights are listed, such as special events to highlight United Nations work in economic, social and cultural rights (\$US 6,000).

55. Information materials pertaining to human rights issues will also be produced by the Department during 1990-1991 as part of its regular radio and television/video programmes. For film, television and video programmes alone, the following outputs on human rights and related issues are proposed for each year (figures in parentheses, expressed in United States dollars, include production and distribution costs): at least two United Nations in Action programmes (\$7,000 per programme); at least two World Chronicle programmes (\$2,000 per programme); and two Development Magazines (\$47,000).

56. During this biennium, the Department will also continue to provide press, radio and television coverage to the proceedings of all relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies, and to disseminate information and promote publicity about human rights and related issues through its regular publications such as UN Chronicle, Yearbook of the United Nations, Development Forum, Africa Recovery and Objective: Justice.

57. Out of its total budget of about \$US 84.8 million for the biennium 1990-1991, the Department would spend some \$US 25.4 million, or \$US 12.7 million a year, on human rights and related information activities.

IV. FIRST ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE WORLD CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

58. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1989/2), abstracts of books and articles on human rights contained in the external materials file in the United Nations library 1/ have twice as many significant references (16 per cent) to the work of the United Nations than significant references to other United Nations activities (approximately 8 per cent) (para. 21). Additionally, while approximately 2 per cent of the 1.3 million wire service stories in the NEXIS data base 2/ for 1987 contained at least a reference to the United Nations, the proportion of stories on human rights with at least one reference to the United Nations was six times higher than the rate for the United Nations as a whole, i.e. 12 per cent (para. 25). The interest of the general public in the United Nations human rights programme is at least twice as high as in other United Nations issues (such as economic development or decolonization) and over three times higher than in the issue of disarmament (para. 27). While a new study, if mandated by the relevant legislative bodies, could provide the detailed statistics of the impact of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights on the above figures, it is evident that by the end of 1989, human rights issues were covered more than ever before by radio, television, newspapers and other written media, and that the references to United Nations work and United Nations organs have increased considerably.

59. In this connection, the demand for human rights information materials of the United Nations has increased considerably since the start of the new series of publications, particularly the Fact Sheet series, the Human Rights Newsletter and the ad hoc publications. Non-governmental organizations and United Nations information centres worldwide have often taken the initiative to translate the Fact Sheets into local languages. It is evident that co-ordination efforts within the United Nations system and outside it (particularly academic and research communities, media, non-governmental organizations and other national and regional human rights institutions), in connection with the World Campaign clearly offer the best chances of success of this global effort of information on human rights. The interest and participation shown so far by United Nations bodies and the wider human rights community is another indication of the real potential of the World Campaign to attain its stated long-term objective of a universal culture of human rights. Given the nature of promotional activities in the field of human rights, and in the absence of appropriate measures, a precise assessment or evaluation is not possible. The Centre, however, has noted a marked increase in the participation in and general awareness of various sectors of the human rights programme, in particular in regard to those activities aimed at building

awareness in key human rights sectors, such as that of social workers, law enforcement personnel, media, academic and research institutions, etc. The Centre has also noted an increase in the ratification of international human rights instruments by Governments and in the establishment of national institutions or offices dealing with the promotion of human rights. Moreover, in keeping with resolution 43/128 launching the Campaign, Governments are increasingly availing themselves of the potential offered by activities related to the World Campaign.

Notes

1/ The external materials file of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library contains abstracts of more than 22,000 books and articles in all official languages of the United Nations and covers a geographically wide range of sources.

2/ NEXIS (Dag Hammarskjöld Library) WIRES file: a computer file containing 20 wire services, including AP, ASAHI, Inter Press Service, JIJI, KYODO, Reuters, TASS, UPI, Xinhua. The wire services in NEXIS are among the main sources of coverage of the United Nations utilized by the press in all parts of the world.
