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PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and United States of America: joint draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the Report of the Expert Committee on United Nations Public Information (A/3928) dated 20 September 1958, and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/3945) dated 16 October 1958,

Noting further the statements made by the Secretary-General at the 682nd and 689th meetings of the Fifth Committee, concerning the public information activities of the United Nations, in particular his statements that it is his "intention to act upon the many excellent recommendations" included in paragraph 227 of the report of the Expert Committee in the light of the basic principles as interpreted in his statement made at the 682nd meeting,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 13 (I) dated 13 February 1946, as modified by General Assembly resolution 595 (VI) dated 4 February 1952, setting forth the basic policy of the United Nations Public Information programme and the principles for the implementation thereof,

Considering that, pursuant to the above-mentioned resolutions, the Secretary-General should, within budgetary limitations imposed by the General Assembly, make available objective and factual information concerning the United Nations and its activities to all the peoples of the world through any appropriate media,

Believing that, consistent with this policy, the Secretary-General should give priority to the use of all media of information which ensure a maximum of effectiveness at the lowest possible cost,

Considering that the Secretary-General should place greater emphasis than heretofore upon enlisting the co-operation of member Governments, privately-owned mass media of information, private institutions, non-governmental organizations, and educators in the programme of informing the peoples of the world of the United Nations and its activities,

Considering that greater emphasis should be placed upon the operations and the effectiveness of Information Centres in relation to the Office of Public Information at Headquarters without impairing the over-all central direction of the United Nations information programme, or the present facilities for the representatives of media of mass communication,

Decides:

1. To request the Secretary-General to give effect in 1959 to the extent practicable to those recommendations made by the Expert Committee and to any other means which in the opinion of the Secretary-General will further the objectives set out in the preambular paragraphs of this resolution with the maximum of effectiveness at the lowest possible cost;
2. To request the Secretary-General to consult the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning the financial implications of the action consequent upon his implementing the recommendations in operative paragraph 1 of this resolution;
3. To request the Secretary-General to report to the Fourteenth Session of the General Assembly concerning the progress he has made in implementing this resolution.
