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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1972

Section 12, chapter IV: Triangular Fellowship Programme

Note by the Secretary-General

1. This note is submitted in response to a recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its first report on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8408, paragraph 207) to the effect that the Secretary-General should make an evaluation of the results achieved under the Triangular Fellowship Programme and submit a report to the General Assembly at its twentieth-six session.

2. The Triangular Fellowship Programme was established in 1961 to provide an opportunity for young journalists and writers from Africa, Asia and Latin America to receive briefings on, and to study at first hand, the work of the United Nations family in economic and social development and to assist their professional efforts to make the work of the United Nations in these fields more widely and better understood.

3. In 1965, the Triangular Fellowship Programme was given new emphasis, taking into account the long-standing need for suitable educational material on the United Nations, particularly to promote teaching about the United Nations as requested by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Thus, a series of three seminars was held, in co-operation with UNESCO, for text-book writers in 1965, 1966 and 1967, organized on a language basis (English, Spanish and French) to enable persons responsible for the preparation of text-books and

other teaching aids in the developing countries to observe and study the work of the United Nations at first hand and to help them to secure the necessary background information to develop teaching materials in terms of their own idioms and needs. A total of 43 participants attended those seminars over a three-year period. As a result, a total of more than 3 million copies of 22 text-books and other teaching aids written by these participants have been issued in Member States at no cost to the United Nations. Other titles are in the process of publication, and additional manuscripts are still in the writing stage.

4. Following this, it was decided that the United Nations and UNESCO should expand their efforts and hold a further series of seminars to encourage and facilitate the production and use of material in the field of educational television and radio. Accordingly, the Triangular Fellowship Programme seminars in 1968, 1969 and 1971 were held, again in close co-operation with UNESCO, for educational broadcasters from developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and conducted on a language basis (English, French and Spanish). Those three seminars, each conducted for a period of four weeks, brought together a total of 39 participants and 2 observers. Without exception, the participants evaluated the seminars as eminently useful. They considered them the most practical way for educational broadcasters to obtain direct and accurate knowledge of the United Nations and to become acquainted with the resources and facilities of the Office of Public Information (OPI), with a view to the increased production, by the broadcasting organizations of the participants, of educational material concerning the United Nations. There are numerous indications that such increased production is, in fact, taking place.

5. In 1970, under the Programme, a seminar, or workshop, in international broadcasting was organized as part of the implementation of the various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the problems of southern Africa. As in previous years, the 1970 seminar was arranged and conducted with the co-operation of UNESCO. It was held in English and French over a period of 12 weeks for six participants from Africa who had been nominated by their respective broadcasting organizations and selected as persons whose future work would not only serve to improve external broadcasting in Africa but strengthen current information efforts for self-determination and human freedom, especially in southern Africa.

6. At the closing session of the 1970 seminar, the participants spoke highly of the value of the Programme. As far as OPI is concerned, the seminar was particularly valuable in so far as it afforded an opportunity for OPI officers to learn from the experience of their African colleagues. In an over-all sense, the cause of international broadcasting was advanced, and important steps were taken in the direction of implementing the directives of the General Assembly to increase the dissemination of information on the evils of colonialism and to enlist the assistance of the radio media in the interest of the peoples of southern Africa. The ultimate effectiveness of the seminar must be assessed primarily in terms of the extent to which the radio materials of the United Nations and its related agencies on the problems of southern Africa, colonialism and apartheid, as well as on the economic, social and political efforts of the Organization, are produced and broadcast by the various broadcasting organizations concerned as a result of the seminar. Although the precise degree of success in the attainment of this objective will become apparent only after some time, it is nevertheless obvious that the seminar represented an important advance in the direction indicated by the General Assembly. As a result of the seminar, six major African broadcasting organizations today have on their staffs officials who possess extensive first-hand knowledge of the nature, potential and limitations of United Nations efforts against racial discrimination and who are also personally acquainted with the assistance that OPI can extend towards production of national broadcasts on this subject.

7. In his budget estimates for 1972, the Secretary-General has proposed the initiation of a new cycle of seminars to be attended in successive years by young journalists from developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, respectively. These participants would observe and discuss the work of the United Nations in the political, economic and social spheres with a view to assisting them in their efforts to make the work of the United Nations in these fields more widely and better understood.

8. However, it is now proposed to defer initiation of this new cycle of seminars until 1973 and, instead, conduct the 1972 Triangular Fellowship Programme along the same lines as in 1970, with participants invited from African countries other than those represented in 1970, namely: Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Morocco, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The 1972 seminar, to be held in English and French, would again provide an opportunity for African broadcasters to

observe and study the work of the United Nations and its related agencies at first hand and to exchange broadcasting experience at the national as well as the world level among themselves and with the international staff of the OPI Radio and Visual Services. While gaining and exchanging knowledge on broadcasting techniques, the participants would be brought into contact with United Nations activities to combat racism and racial discrimination and to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, as well as its work in the economic, social and political fields, particularly as it concerns the needs and aspirations of the peoples of Africa.

9. The Secretary-General is firmly convinced that the results achieved and the value and benefits of these seminars fully warrant their continuation. At a comparatively small cost they have proved to be a direct and efficacious way of implementing General Assembly directives aimed at strengthening national outlets for the local dissemination of United Nations news and building support for the aims and purposes of the Organization.
