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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Faruk LOGOGLU (Turkey)

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 thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 36/149 A and B of 16 December 1981.

2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1982, 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 examined the item at its 6th to 14th, 38th and 43rd meetings, held between 22 October and 2 December. An account of the discussion of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary records (A/SPC/37/SR.6-14, 38 and 43).

4. The Committee had before it the following documentation:

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

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information (A/37/446);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication and the Establishment of a New World Information and Communications Order, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/149 A of 16 December 1981 (A/37/453 and Corr.1).

5. At its 6th meeting, on 22 October, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, the Chairman of the Committee on Information and the Assistant Director-General for Communication of UNESCO.

6. At its 8th meeting, on 26 October, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended Working Group on questions relating to information, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ernesto Rodríguez Medina (Colombia), Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/SPC/37/L.15 and A/SPC/37/L.16

7. At the 38th meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Colombia as Chairman of the Working Group introduced two draft resolutions (A/SPC/37/L.15 and A/SPC/37/L.16) based on the deliberations in the Committee's open-ended Working Group on questions relating to information. The representative of Ecuador, Chairman of the Committee on Information, and the representative of Bangladesh, on behalf of the Group of 77, made statements in connection with the draft resolutions. The representative of the United States of America made a statement in connection with draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.15.

8. At its 43rd meeting, on 2 December, the Committee had before it document A/SPC/37/L.35 containing the statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.15.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America proposed an amendment (A/SPC/37/L.18) to draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.15, whereby:

(a) After operative paragraph 28, the following new paragraph would be inserted:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/37/21).

"29. Authorizes the Secretary-General to implement the activities approved under this resolution only to the extent that they can be financed without exceeding the level of resources approved in the 1982-1983 Programme Budget (General Assembly resolution 36/240);"

(b) The remaining paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 72 to 2, with 31 abstentions. The voting was as follows: 2/

Against: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

In favour: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

11. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.15 by a recorded vote of 105 to 1, with 1 abstention (see para. 15, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows: 3/

2/ The delegations of Cyprus, Pakistan, Qatar, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates subsequently indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted against the amendment.

3/ The delegations of Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Pakistan, Qatar, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates subsequently indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Israel.

12. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Algeria, the Congo and Israel.
13. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.16 without a vote (see para. 15, draft resolution A).
14. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Sweden and Japan.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

15. 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 resolutions 34/181 and 34/182 of 18 December 1979, 35/201 of 16 December 1980 and 36/149 A of 16 December 1981,

Recalling relevant provisions of the Mexico City Declaration on Cultural Policies, 4/ adopted by the World Conference on Cultural Policies, held at Mexico City from 26 July to 6 August 1982,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979, 5/ which stressed that co-operation in the field of information is an integral part of the struggle for the creation of a new world information order, of the Declaration of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 9 to 13 February 1981, 6/ and of the Fifth and Sixth Meetings of the Intergovernmental Council of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Georgetown in May 1981 and Valleta, in June 1982, respectively,

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 from 24 to 27 June 1981, 7/

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 8/ 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,

4/ See A/37/453, annex, paras. 40-42.

5/ See A/36/542, annex, sect. I, paras. 280-299.

6/ See A/36/116 and Corr.1, annex.

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

8/ Resolution 217 A (III).

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,

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

Recalling resolutions 4/19 and 4/21 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session, held at Belgrade in 1980, 10/

Considering that the publication of the final report of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems 11/ is a valuable contribution to the study of information and communication problems and that its recommendations also constitute valuable encouragement for the continuing examination, analysis and study of information and communication problems,

Considering that international co-operation in the field of communication development should take place on the basis of equality, justice, mutual advantage and the principles of international law,

Conscious that the development of communication infrastructures, including national and regional capacity for indigenous message production and dissemination, is one of the important factors for genuine participation by a large majority of developing countries in international exchanges,

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

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication and the Establishment of a New World Information and Communication Order; 12/

2. Underlines the importance of efforts for the implementation of the principles enunciated in the Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International

9/ Resolution 33/73.

10/ A/35/362/Add.1, annexes I and II.

11/ Published in 1980 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization under the title "Many Voices, One World".

12/ A/37/453, and Corr.1, annex.

Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, Apartheid and Incitement to War; 13/

3. Calls upon all Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and professional organizations in the field of communication, to exert every effort to make better known through all means at their disposal the issues underlying the demand for the development of communication capacities in developing countries as a step towards the establishment of a new world information and communication order;

4. Considers that the International Programme for the Development of Communication represents a significant step towards the establishment of a new world information and communication order and welcomes the decisions adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the Programme at its second session, held at Acapulco, Mexico, from 18 to 25 January 1982;

5. Notes with satisfaction the co-operation existing between the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and all other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the International Telecommunication Union, in the implementation of the Programme;

6. Expresses its appreciation to all Member States that have made or pledged a contribution towards the implementation of the Programme;

7. Calls upon Member States - developed and developing countries alike - and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental 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 and make contributions to the Programme, since the availability of additional resources is essential for its implementation;

8. Considers that the proposed Global Satellite Project for the Dissemination and Exchange of Information planned by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in co-operation with INTELSAT and INTERSPUTNIK and supported by the Programme, is a positive step towards reducing the existing imbalance in global information flow;

9. Calls upon Member States to respond positively to resolution 4/22 concerning the reduction of telecommunication tariffs for news exchange, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session;

10. Invites the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue his efforts in the field of communication and information and to submit to the General Assembly at its

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

thirty-eighth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme, on the activities related to the establishment of a new world information and communication order and, in co-operation with the International Telecommunication Union, on the impact of the current technological developments and practices and their application in the communication and information sector, especially in the developing countries, bearing in mind, inter alia, the forthcoming relevant meetings of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the subject.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3535 (XXX) of 17 December 1975, 31/139 of 16 December 1976, 33/115 A to C of 18 December 1978, 34/181 and 34/182 of 18 December 1979, 35/201 of 16 December 1980 and 36/149 B of 16 December 1981 on questions relating to information,

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 14/ 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 articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 15/

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979, 16/ which stressed that co-operation in the field of information is an integral part of the struggle for the creation of a new world information order, of the Declaration of Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 9 to 13 February 1981, and of the Fifth and Sixth Meetings of the Intergovernmental Council of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Georgetown in May 1981 and Valleta in June 1982, respectively,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

14/ Resolution 217 A (III).

15/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

16/ See A/34/542, annex, sect. I, paras. 280-299.

Recalling 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, 17/ adopted on 28 November 1978 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the relevant resolutions on information and mass communications adopted by the General Conference at its nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first and twenty-second sessions,

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,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, 18/

Recalling the relevant recommendations and provisions of the Declarations adopted by the World Congress on Books, held in London from 7 to 11 June 1982, and by the World Conference on Cultural Policies, held at Mexico City from 26 July to 6 August 1982,

Conscious of the need for all to collaborate in the establishment of a new world information and communication order based, inter alia, on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information, guaranteeing the diversity of the 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 communications, and intended also to strengthen peace and international understanding,

Reaffirming that the establishment of a new world information and communication order is linked to the new international economic order and is an integral part of the international development process,

Emphasizing the important role that public information plays in promoting understanding of and support for the establishment of the new international economic order and international co-operation for development,

Emphasizing the role that public information plays in promoting support for universal disarmament and in increasing awareness of the relationship between disarmament and development among as broad a public as possible,

Reaffirming the primary role which the General Assembly is to play in elaborating, co-ordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information and recognizing the central and important role of the

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

18/ Resolution 33/73.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communications,

Emphasizing the complementarity of the activities in the field of information and communication and the need to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that deal with different aspects of information and communication,

Emphasizing its full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communications, which constitutes an important step in the development of the infrastructures of communications in the developing countries,

Expressing its satisfaction with the work of the Committee on Information as reflected in its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, 19/

Expressing its appreciation to the Joint United Nations Information Committee for its efforts towards improving co-ordination of the public information activities of the various organizations of the United Nations system,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information, 20/

Also taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 21/

1. Approves the report of the Committee on Information and all its recommendations and urges their full implementation;

2. Reaffirms the mandate given to the Committee on Information by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/182, namely:

(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;

(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;

(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order, intended to strengthen peace and international

19/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/37/21 and Corr.1).

20/ A/37/446.

21/ A/37/453 and Corr.1.

understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information, and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly;

3. Requests the Committee on Information, keeping in mind its mandate, the essential tasks of which are to continue to examine the policies and activities of the Department of Public Information, to continue to promote the establishment of a new, more just and effective world information and communication order and to continue to seek the co-operation and active participation of all organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Telecommunication Union, while avoiding any overlapping of activities on this subject;

4. Affirms its strong support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and for its efforts to promote the establishment of a new world information and communication order;

5. Reiterates again its appeal to Member States, to the information and communication media, both public and private, as well as to non-governmental organizations, to disseminate more widely objective and better balanced information about the activities of the United Nations and, inter alia, about the efforts of the developing countries towards their economic, social and cultural progress and about the efforts of the international community to achieve international social justice and economic development, international peace and security and the progressive elimination of international inequities and tensions; such dissemination being aimed at achieving a more comprehensive and realistic image of the activities and potential of the United Nations system in all its purposes and endeavours;

6. Calls upon all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to develop, in a concerted manner, integrated and coherent public information programmes to promote understanding of and support for the activities of the system in all its fields, in particular in the economic, social, development and cultural fields;

7. Requests that the Joint United Nations Information Committee, as the essential instrument for interagency co-ordination and co-operation in the field of public information, be strengthened and made more effective and that its secretariat elaborate new methods of work and longer-term indicative planning and joint action, especially in the promotion of a new world information and communication order;

8. Requests the Committee on Information and the Joint United Nations Information Committee to take action in accordance with paragraphs 15 and 16 of the recommendations of the Committee on Information 22/ for its consideration at its substantive session in 1983;

22/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/37/21 and Corr.1), sect. IV, para. 91.

9. Reaffirms the importance of the rapidly increasing role of United Nations public information programmes in fostering public understanding and support of United Nations activities and requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the current activities of the Department of Public Information with a view to ensuring a better and more efficient use of its available resources;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to the Committee on Information and to the General Assembly should contain information as set out in paragraph 42 of the recommendations of the Committee; 22/

11. Reiterates the recommendation contained in its resolution 35/201 that additional resources for the Department of Public Information should be commensurate with the increase in the activities of the United Nations which the Department is called upon to cover for the purpose of public information, and that the Secretary-General should provide such resources to the Department to this end where needed;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the activities of the Department of Public Information, as the focal point of the public information tasks of the United Nations, should be strengthened, keeping in view the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and along the lines established in the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information, to ensure a more coherent coverage of, and a better knowledge about, the United Nations and its work, especially in its priority areas, such as those stated in section III, paragraph 1, of Assembly resolution 35/201, including international peace and security, disarmament, peace-keeping and peacemaking operations, decolonization, the promotion of human rights, the struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination, economic, social and development issues, the integration of women in the struggle for peace and development, the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order, the work of the United Nations Council for Namibia and programmes on women and youth;

13. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of the vital role that information plays in the development process, to ensure that the Department of Public Information co-operates more closely with the United Nations development agencies and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, both at Headquarters and in the field, in order to pool their resources, avoid duplication and foster effectively the process of development;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the World Disarmament Campaign gives full consideration to the role of mass media as the most effective way to promote in world public opinion a climate of understanding, confidence and co-operation conducive to peace and disarmament and the enhancement of human rights and development and further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, within the World Disarmament Campaign, the Department of Public Information fulfils the role assigned to it by the General Assembly by utilizing its expertise and resources in public information to ensure its maximum effectiveness;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, within existing resources, competent organs of the Secretariat prepare a documented factual summary account of the coverage by widely representative world media, reviewing developments affecting the Palestinian people from June to December 1982;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information organizes as soon as possible, in close co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, a round table on a new world information and communication order, with the wide participation of major news media editors and with representation from all regions;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to continue and intensify his efforts to redress the existing imbalance in the staff of the Department of Public Information, and, until equitable geographical distribution is achieved, to take urgent steps to increase the representation of the group of developing countries, particularly at senior and policy-making levels, by a policy of recruiting among their nationals, taking into account also the interests of other under-represented groups of countries, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 33/143 of 20 December 1978, 35/201 and 36/149 B;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to implement the existing plan regarding programming in the Portuguese language and to submit to the next session of the Committee on Information specific proposals, including estimates of costs and benefits, for a separate plan to enable the African Unit to undertake programming at a meaningful level in French and major languages of the region other than those already in use;

19. Notes that a separate Caribbean Unit has been established and has begun functioning and requests the Secretary-General to report on measures needed for its possible expansion so that it may offer effective programming in French and in the other languages of the subregion;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Information at its next session a new, extensive and detailed report on the acquisition of a United Nations communications satellite, which should study the different alternatives and analyse and evaluate the current administration costs in relation to telephone, telex, radio, video, document processing, the holding of conferences, travel by interpreters, and so on, and, while projecting seven-year operational goals, compare them with the cost of its own satellite, taking into account all potential uses of such a satellite by the United Nations system and also presenting feasible financing and self-maintenance alternatives, and in this regard requests that the Committee on Information should, as its next session, also take into account the basic report on communications to be produced by the Joint Inspection Unit;

21. Requests the Secretary-General further to strengthen co-operation by the Department of Public Information with the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies, as well as with the regional news agencies of developing countries, and furthermore requests that the practice of coverage by the agencies of the Pool, in co-operation

with the Department of Public Information, of important conferences and events within the United Nations system should be continued and strengthened;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to publish the UN Chronicle in all the official languages of the United Nations and, within existing financial resources, to take the measures necessary to ensure that the UN Chronicle be further improved to present a wide and more comprehensive coverage of United Nations activities and that it be published in an attractive and appropriate format to ensure its wide, timely and effective circulation;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity and enhance the role of the United Nations information centres through, in particular, the implementation of the provisions of paragraph 22 of the recommendations of the Committee on Information; 22/

24. Requests the Secretary-General to initiate practical efforts toward a balance in the use of all the official languages of the United Nations in the radio broadcasting programme covering United Nations conferences held away from United Nations Headquarters;

25. Requests the Secretary-General to proceed, without prejudice to any future plan concerning the regionalization of the Radio and Visual Services Division, to maintain and enhance the functions of the Middle East and Arabic Unit in the Radio Service as the producer of television and radio programmes for the Arabic-speaking countries and to consider enlarging it through the redeployment of existing resources;

26. Reaffirms the importance of Development Forum as the only interagency publication of the United Nations system which concentrates on development issues, requests the Secretary-General to continue to support its publication from the regular budget while intensifying his efforts to secure a sound and independent financial basis for its continued publication and calls upon all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to contribute to this system-wide publication;

27. Requests the Secretary-General to report further to the Committee on Information at its next session on the viability of a world-wide United Nations short-wave network, its regional segments and its pertinent frequencies, as well as on the alternative solution of continuing to rent broadcast time on existing national short-wave transmitters;

28. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the co-operation between the Department of Public Information and the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa, as well as with radio stations which are members of that Union, in order to broadcast United Nations radio programmes on those radio stations, and further requests the Secretary-General to co-operate with the national radio broadcasting organizations in Africa for the establishment of a pilot project for wider broadcasting of United Nations radio programmes;

29. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1983, on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the Committee's report; 22/

30. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution and, in particular, on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Information; 22/

31. Requests the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

32. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".
