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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

| | Paragraphs | Page |
|---|------------|------|
| III. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT | 1 - 8 | 2 |
| A. United Nations Population Fund | 1 | 2 |
| B. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) | 2 - 4 | 2 |
| C. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | 5 - 8 | 2 |

III. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A. United Nations Population Fund

1. All countries members of the Organisation of American States receive assistance from UNFPA in support of their population and development activities. In 1987, UNFPA assistance to OAS countries totalled \$17.3 million. As at 31 August 1988, UNFPA assistance to OAS countries for population activities totalled over \$20 million.

B. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

2. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) is the focal point in the United Nations for all matters related to human settlements. It maintains co-operative relationships with OAS within the range of the latter's substantive functions and responsibilities in the development and well-being of the Americas.

3. Co-operation between UNCHS and OAS includes an exchange of invitations to participate in each other's meetings. It also includes a general exchange of information on technical publications and summaries of projects executed by UNCHS in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. UNCHS is of the view that co-operative activities with OAS could be further expanded in the above areas, as well as in the area of technical co-operation.

C. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

5. UNHCR continued its close collaboration with OAS, in particular with the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, in respect of the development of the joint co-operative programme established in 1982 to study the underlying problems of the status and legal protection of refugees, asilados and displaced persons in the Western Hemisphere.

6. During the first stage of the joint programme (1982-1983), a comprehensive comparative document on the universal and American instruments dealing with refugees, asylum and human rights was prepared, as well as individual country studies on the legal status of refugees, asilados and displaced persons in Argentina, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Peru and Bolivia.

7. The third stage of the joint co-operative programme currently under way focuses on the legal aspects of the mass influx of refugees. In 1987-1988, field research was undertaken in Costa Rica, Mexico and Honduras. The study on Costa Rica has been completed, while the study on Mexico is in the final stages, having been submitted to the Government for comments. The study on Honduras is expected to be concluded in August 1988.

8. Other aspects of the collaboration between UNHCR and OAS included the participation of the latter in the UNHCR First Seminar on the International Protection of Refugees, which took place at Buenos Aires in June 1987. As in previous years, UNHCR participated in the International Law Course organized annually by the Inter-American Juridical Committee, held in Rio de Janeiro in August 1987.
