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CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THE APPLICATION AND IMPROVEMENT
OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ibrahim BADAWI (Egypt)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Co-operation and assistance in the application and improvement of mass communications for social progress and development" was included in the draft agenda of the thirty-first session on the basis of a request contained in a letter dated 19 August 1976 from the representatives of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/31/193).
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
3. The Committee considered this item at its 77th meeting, on 10 December. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States and of the specialized agencies are contained in the summary record of that meeting (A/C.3/31/SR.77).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/31/L.46/Rev.1

4. At the 77th meeting, on 10 December, the representative of Indonesia introduced a draft resolution entitled "Co-operation and assistance in the application and improvement of mass communications for social progress and development" (A/C.3/31/L.46) sponsored by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
5. After an exchange of views, during which the representatives of Morocco, Nigeria, and Jamaica brought forward a number of suggestions for changes in the

text, the representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the sponsors, revised the draft resolution, including its title.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/31/L.46/Rev.1) without a vote (see para. 7 below).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

7. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Co-operation and assistance in the application and
improvement of mass communications for social progress
and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1778 (XVII) of 7 December 1962 and convinced that the establishment and/or the development of national information and mass communications systems will play an important role in the promotion of opportunities for the peoples of the developing nations to participate fully in national development and in the promotion of international co-operation including the efforts to achieve the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the establishment of the new international economic order,

Further recalling its resolution 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973 and convinced that the establishment and/or the improvement of national information and mass communications systems will greatly help preserve and enhance the cultural values of a country and will be one of the most efficient methods for transmitting scientific and technological knowledge and the cultural values of a country,

Desirous that the benefits of co-operation and assistance in the application and the establishment and/or improvement of national information and mass communications systems for social progress and development be considered with a view to disseminating those benefits to all countries regardless of their stages of economic and social development,

Acknowledging the important contributions made and the significant roles being played by the specialized agencies, by intergovernmental organizations, regional economic and social commissions, non-governmental organizations, and regional communication media training and research institutions in assisting developing countries in the field of mass communications,

Noting with appreciation the relevant decisions taken by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its nineteenth session in the field of mass communications,

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Convinced that consideration of ways and means of achieving the application and improvement of national information and mass communication systems for social progress and development will pave the way for improved international co-operation in the field of mass communications,

1. Invites the Governments of the developing countries to give due regard to the establishment and/or the strengthening of their national mass communication systems within the framework of their over-all development plans;

2. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue and intensify its programme for the development of mass communication systems, especially for the benefit of developing countries;

3. Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in co-operation with the United Nations, the specialized agencies concerned and other interested organizations, to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on progress achieved in the development of mass communication systems, which report will be used as a basis for discussion at that session of the Assembly;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Co-operation and assistance in the application and improvement of mass communications for social progress and development" and to consider it at that session as a matter of priority.
