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NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
CO-ORDINATION TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-first session of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination was held at United Nations Headquarters on 11-12 October 1955. Members present were: Mr. Dag H. Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations (Chairman); Mr. David A. Morse, Director-General of ILO; Dr. Philip V. Cardon, Director-General of FAO; Dr. Luther H. Evans, Director-General of UNESCO; Dr. P.M. Dorolle, Deputy Director-General of WHO (representing Dr. Marcolino G. Candau); Mr. Eugene R. Black, President of IBRD; Mr. Ivar Rooth, Managing Director of IMF; Mr. Carl Ljungberg, Secretary-General of ICAO; Dr. Marco A. Andrada, Secretary-General of ITU; and Mr. David A. Davies, Secretary-General of WMO. Others present included: Mr. A.D.K. Owen, Executive Chairman of TAB; Mr. Maurice Pate, Executive Director of UNICEF; Mr. P. de Seynes, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations; Mr. H.L. Keenleyside, Director-General, Technical Assistance Administration, United Nations; Mr. B. Lukac, Executive Secretary of PC.IMCO; and Mr. Martin Hill, Deputy Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations.

2. The twenty-second session of the Committee was to have opened in Geneva on 3 May 1956. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was, however, prevented from attending, owing to his mission to the Middle East under the Security Council's resolution of 4 April 1956. The session was accordingly postponed, and in its place informal meetings were held on 3-4 May among the following members of the ACC and senior officials of the organizations concerned: Mr. David A. Morse (Acting Chairman), Director-General, ILO; Sir Herbert Broadley, Acting Director-General, FAO; Dr. Luther H. Evans, Director-General, UNESCO; Dr. Marcolino G. Candau, Director-General, WHO; Mr. E. Lopez-Herrarte, Liaison Officer, IBRD (representing Mr. Eugene R. Black); Mr. Ivar Rooth, Managing Director, IMF; Mr. Carl Ljungberg, Secretary-General, ICAO; Mr. Fulke Radice, Vice Director, UPU (representing Dr. Fritz Hess); Mr. Marco A. Andrada, Secretary-General, ITU; and Mr. David A. Davies, Secretary-General, WMO. Others present included: Mr. A.D.K. Owen, Executive Chairman, TAB; Mr. J.M. Read, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees; Mr. E. Wyndham White, Executive Secretary to the Contracting Parties to GATT; and Mr. Martin Hill, Deputy Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations.

3. Following these meetings, the present report has been approved by all members of the ACC.

I. COUNCIL PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH REPORTS OF THE  
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

4. During the consideration of the "General Review" item at the Council's twentieth session, interest was expressed in receiving comments of the specialized agencies regarding the revised procedures of the Council for dealing with this item. While the ACC would find it difficult to draw conclusions from the experience of a single session, there are certain considerations which it might be useful for it to put forward at this stage.

5. In an earlier report,<sup>1/</sup> the ACC underlined the importance its members attached to effective reporting to the Council by the specialized agencies, and the Council itself, at its seventeenth session,<sup>2/</sup> requested that in their reports the agencies should, until further notice, devote special attention to certain matters, such as major programme developments and plans, with an indication of priorities and major shifts in emphasis; participation in co-operative activities and developments in relations with the United Nations and other specialized agencies; and actions taken pursuant to recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council. It would be helpful if the agencies' annual reports could, as in the past, be examined in terms of some of the major questions on which the agencies have been asked to concentrate, and if means could be sought to devote somewhat closer and more detailed attention to these reports. In this connexion it may be noted that, while the reports of IBRD and IMF have continued to appear as separate items on the Council's agenda, those of the other agencies no longer do so. They do not appear separately as sub-items or even collectively as a single sub-item; nor were they separately discussed at the Council's last summer session.

6. Whatever measures the Council may see fit to take, with the aim of directing adequate attention to the programmes and activities of the specialized agencies, the ACC hopes that the annual reports of the agencies will continue to be considered by the Council in plenary meeting, particular questions of co-ordination and related matters being dealt with, where necessary, in the Council's Co-ordination Committee.

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<sup>1/</sup> E/2512, paras. 8-11.

<sup>2/</sup> Resolution 528 (XVII).

7. As regards recommendations made by the Council to the specialized agencies, it should be noted that, while some of them are of concern to all specialized agencies or specialized agencies in general, a number could more usefully be made in terms of their applicability to the problems of individual agencies, in view of the differences in the functions, organization and methods of operation of the various agencies.

## II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN THE FIELD OF ATOMIC ENERGY

8. At its October session, the ACC gave careful consideration to the question how best to co-ordinate the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in promoting peaceful uses of atomic energy, and it agreed on the following text, which the Secretary-General brought to the attention of the First Committee of the General Assembly on 17 October 1955:

"Many of the specialized agencies are closely concerned with different technical aspects of the question of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and participated actively in the International Conference held in Geneva last August.

"The ACC has noted the Secretary-General's proposal to the General Assembly that the Advisory Committee, which was set up in connexion with the International Conference, should be continued and be available as a consultative body for assistance on those atomic matters in which responsibilities may be entrusted to the United Nations Secretariat. It has also noted the proposals placed before the General Assembly by certain delegations which envisage the calling of further scientific conferences on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

"Several agencies within the United Nations family, by direction of their respective governing bodies, are continuing or expanding activities designed to further the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy. These and the other agencies represented on the ACC recognize the need for full co-ordination of their present and future activities and for means by which to realize suitable liaison with the Advisory Committee.

"In order to promote a common approach and the fullest co-ordination in these matters among the organizations concerned, the ACC has decided to set up a sub-committee in which the executive head of each interested agency will participate or be represented. The link between the sub-committee of the ACC and the Advisory Committee would be provided by the Secretary-General as chairman of both committees; and it is assumed that

arrangements will be agreed upon giving the specialized agencies through their representatives on the sub-committee opportunity to present their views to the Advisory Committee. The sub-committee will further help to co-ordinate the activities of the various members of the United Nations family of organizations in respect of other questions which may arise in this field on which they have a contribution to make."

9. Further reference to this decision was made by the Secretary-General in his note of 2 November 1955<sup>1/</sup> to the First Committee, in connexion with the proposal for the creation of a Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation. Recalling that one of his duties as chairman of the ACC was to represent the viewpoints of the United Nations and the various specialized agencies, when joint interests were involved, he stated that, as chairman of the newly established ACC Sub-Committee on Atomic Energy, it was his task "to serve as a link with organizations in the United Nations family on questions which may arise concerning the projected atomic energy agency as well as those concerning related fields, such as the one now under discussion".
10. The Sub-Committee met on 12-13 December 1955. It was mainly concerned, at that session, with organizational questions, although preliminary consultations took place on work programmes bearing on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the relationship of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and the position of the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned vis-à-vis the Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation. A second session, which was to have been held in Geneva in connexion with the ACC session in May, is now scheduled for early in July, for the purpose mainly of examining and co-ordinating the present and planned or contemplated activities of the different United Nations organizations in the field of atomic energy.
11. The executive heads of the specialized agencies have been consulted by the Secretary-General concerning his study, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Atomic Energy, of the question of the relationship between the proposed International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations.
12. Representatives of the specialized agencies concerned attended the first session of the Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation, which met in New York from 14 to 23 March 1956.

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<sup>1/</sup> A/INF/67.

### III. PROGRAMME MATTERS

#### Technical assistance

13. The last report of the ACC, adopted at the session in April 1955 (E/2728) contained the following paragraph:

"10. The ACC took note of the fact that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance had been in operation for five years. It considered that it might be useful, therefore, to review the experience gained thus far and to consider plans for the future development of the programme. It therefore requested TAB to make a study of this matter and report to the ACC at its meeting in the spring of 1956."

14. On 11 July 1955, the Technical Assistance Committee adopted the following resolution (E/2779, paragraph 27):

#### "The Technical Assistance Committee

Considering that the arrangements regarding the organization and administration of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance approved by Council Resolution 542 B II (XVIII) offer a satisfactory basis for the conduct of the programme,

Noting that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination has requested the Technical Assistance Board (E/2728, paragraph 10) to prepare a review of experience gained under the Expanded Programme and to consider plans for the future development of the programme,

1. Requests that TAB in preparing the review requested by ACC take into consideration the pertinent comments made during the present session of TAC regarding such matters as the concentration of resources, recruitment, methods used in the implementation of the programme and other relevant issues,

2. Requests further that the review include concrete recommendations for subsequent action, as appropriate, by TAC, the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly, and that it be submitted to TAC, together with the comments of ACC thereon, in time for consideration at the meeting of TAC next summer, ..."

15. The review requested, under the title "A Forward Look", was completed by the TAB on 3 May 1956 and transmitted to the ACC. The ACC now submits it to the Economic and Social Council and the Technical Assistance Committee.<sup>1/</sup> In doing so, it wishes to put forward the following general observations:

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<sup>1/</sup> E/2885  
E/TAC/49.

- (i) The programme, even on the modest scale on which it has been operating during the past six years, has made and is making a substantial contribution towards the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations family and notably towards the achievement of "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development" as well as "the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations".
- (ii) It is clearly of cardinal importance to ensure greater stability in the programme as well as increased financial resources, which would make it possible to fill part at least of the gap between urgent and proven technical assistance needs of the under-developed countries and the means now available for meeting them.
- (iii) It is becoming increasingly evident that some extension in the range of the assistance supplied must take place if full benefit is to be derived from the gains which the programme has already brought. Side by side with assistance of the present type, much more should be done in the way of organizing practical demonstrations, organizing national and regional training centres, providing equipment, etc. How far such an evolution and strengthening of the programme will be possible depends primarily on the extent to which present financial resources can be increased.
- (iv) The programme must play its part in a wider setting of international activity and financial commitment in favour of economic and social development. Its future must be considered in relation to the decisions to be taken on other aspects of this great problem, including the provision of capital to the under-developed areas.
- (v) It is important to bear constantly in mind that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance is a co-operative programme in which almost all countries are both benefactors and beneficiaries and have, in both capacities, responsibilities which must be fulfilled.



- (vi) The ACC wishes to emphasize once again that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance is not merely a series of projects operated by a number of separate agencies, but a composite whole planned jointly, in an increasingly effectual manner, within the participating agencies and in the countries concerned under the guidance of TAB and TAC.

16. The members of the ACC participating in the programme endorse the conclusions of TAB's review, commend them to the special attention of the Council and the TAC, and emphasize the readiness of their organizations to undertake, on the basis of the experience which they have now acquired, any larger tasks which it may become necessary to discharge as international action develops. Well-tested and proven international machinery now exists for this purpose.

#### Programme co-ordination and co-operation

##### (i) Methods of programme co-ordination

17. In resolution 590 (XX), the Council stressed "the importance of early and close consultation among the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the advance planning of programmes of interest to more than one of these bodies" and requested a report "with particular reference to any methods used and any consultations held relating to the advance planning of programmes and projects".

18. The ACC and the Secretary-General have, on several occasions, reported to the Council on the procedures followed and progress made in this respect. The most comprehensive of such reports is the document entitled "The development of co-ordination and co-operation among the United Nations and the specialized agencies in economic and social programmes", which was annexed to the Sixteenth Report of the Committee to the Council in 1954.<sup>1/</sup> That document shows that advance inter-secretariat consultation in the planning of work has become a matter of routine, covering a very wide range of subjects. In a majority of cases, inter-secretariat consultation takes the form of exchanges of drafts and correspondence or personal contacts at the working level. The increasing contacts in the field among regular staff arising in connexion with the technical assistance programmes are also utilized wherever practicable. Occasionally,

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<sup>1/</sup> E/2607/Add.1.

these individual clearances and consultations need to be supplemented by bringing together the responsible officers of co-operating organizations. While the number of such meetings is severely limited owing to the stringent financial limitation on travel, the present report refers to certain subjects - agrarian reform, water resources, community development, fundamental education, migration and housing - on which collective programme consultation took place in the past year.

19. An important element in the arrangements for inter-agency consultation at the planning stage is the annual meeting of senior officers of the United Nations, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO to review the entire international social programme of the organizations concerned. These meetings, which are held in connexion with the summer session of the Council, have been devoted, increasingly, to exchange of information and consultations on the future work programmes of the organizations. On the economic side, while arrangements for consultations and clearance on various individual subjects are in general working satisfactorily, the need is beginning to be felt, in connexion with the development of certain broad new programmes, for example in the field of industrialization, for a more comprehensive and systematic exchange of information and consultations among agencies concerned.

20. Several representatives spoke in the Council last summer of the helpful practice of UNESCO of submitting drafts of its biennial programme to other organizations for advance comments. While the UNESCO practice cannot be exactly duplicated by other agencies because of differences in their functions and procedures, its general purpose can be served, the ACC believes, by full and conscientious use of the existing procedures referred to above for inter-agency consultation on particular subjects and on social and economic programmes as a whole.

(ii) Scope and results of recent consultations

21. In respect of work on agrarian reform and co-operatives, the various agencies concerned have continued to consult and collaborate in implementing the Council's resolutions on these subjects. Similarly, the interested agencies have been concerting their efforts under the Council's resolution on the development and utilization of water resources; arrangements have been made, in particular, for developing services in the field of hydrology and for the centralization and

exchange of information on water projects; the results of co-ordination in this field being embodied in the report submitted to the Council.<sup>1/</sup> Arrangements have likewise been made to ensure full inter-agency consultation in regard to questions of industrialization and productivity. In this, as in other fields of common interest, it is obviously important to ensure a co-ordinated approach by all members of the United Nations family.

22. Through the ACC machinery, arrangements were made for the specialized agencies' co-operation with the United Nations Secretariat in preparing the report called for by Council resolution 585 H (XX) on the implementation of the priorities laid down by the Council in the programme of concerted practical action in the social field. Also through ACC machinery, consultations took place on migration programmes and inter-agency co-operation was arranged in regard to the African survey on community development, the community development study tour in the Eastern Mediterranean and the preparation of the next World Social Report by the United Nations Secretariat in collaboration with the specialized agencies. Full consultations were moreover held with respect to the other aspects of the programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies relating to community development. With a view to strengthening inter-agency co-operation in this field, attempts will be made this summer to clarify and redefine if necessary, on the basis of recent experience, the concept of community development and related concepts such as fundamental education and agricultural extension, as well as the relation between voluntary and public responsibility and the question of the relevance of the concept of community development to urban problems.

23. As regards fundamental education, the ACC decided at its twenty-first session that a review and appraisal of the basic objectives and programmes of the two regional centres for fundamental education at Pazcuaro, Mexico, and Sirs-El-Layyan, Egypt, should be undertaken by senior officials of the major participating organizations. On the basis of this review, which has now been completed, the ACC considers that the Centres should be maintained. It recommends at the same time certain major adjustments in the programmes of the Centres and in the selection and utilization of students and expresses the hope that the Centres will become a focus of inter-agency activity of increasing value in the

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<sup>1/</sup> E/2827.

growing pattern of rural development in the two regions. It further proposes that it should review the results of the adjustments in the programmes after a period of two years.

24. The Director-General of UNESCO, stating his agreement with the major adjustments proposed, has undertaken to present them for acceptance to the participating Member States, the Organization of American States, the Executive Board and General Conference of UNESCO.

25. The ACC notes that, as the result of these adjustments, the functions of the Centres would be:

- (a) to provide regular courses in fundamental education of eighteen to twenty-one months for persons mostly selected by Ministries of Education;
- (b) to provide short specialized courses in different aspects of education for social and economic development for persons drawn from various Departments of Governments concerned; (these courses should be jointly planned, where appropriate, with the agencies concerned);
- (c) experimental study of educational methods and communication techniques in relation to development programmes;
- (d) the production of tested prototype educational materials (books, films, filmstrips, posters, etc.) for use in rural development.

26. In order to discharge these functions effectively the Centres must command the services of technical staff in such fields as social welfare, community organization, rural extension, health, home economics and rural industries, in addition to staff in more specifically educational fields.

27. The ACC wishes to emphasize the need for improved co-ordination at all levels in the management of the Centres. It therefore recommends closer contacts between the Centres and various ministries of participating Governments and the use of local inter-agency committees, fuller recourse to the services of resident representatives of T.E.B. and vigorous concerted action by the headquarters, regional and other offices of the various organizations concerned.

28. The ACC believes that the clarification to be undertaken this summer of the concept of community development and related concepts, including fundamental education (see para. 22 above), should greatly assist the more systematic organization and use of the regional fundamental education centres, that the further

examination of the purposes and activities of these centres should be an integral part of this broader review, and that technical details and plans for implementation should be worked out in the light of this study.

29. With a view to the further development of concerted practical action in the social field, it has been thought useful, as an experimental step, to take each year a limited number of major problems and work out common programmes and projects for dealing with them. For the current year the topics selected for such concerted plans are urbanization (with the United Nations Secretariat taking the lead) and social policies for indigenous peoples (with the ILO taking the lead).

30. The Committee noted that consultations are taking place in regard to the Secretary-General's supplementary report on co-ordination of UNICEF programmes with the regular and technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. It is glad to learn that co-operation is becoming increasingly effective, and that joint efforts are being made in a number of important fields to help governments achieve solutions to specific problems; also that detailed financial arrangements between UNICEF, FAO and WHO have now been worked out and are proving to be mutually satisfactory.

(iii) Regional co-ordination

31. Certain basic principles of regional co-ordination were drawn up by the ACC in 1951<sup>1/</sup> and these principles have, on the whole, been successfully applied. In the past five years there has been a very considerable development of international activities at the regional level; this has called for an intensification of efforts to ensure good co-ordination, both within the regions and at Headquarters. Joint working arrangements on projects of common concern have been extended, and solutions found to specific problems of co-ordination among specialized agencies, between specialized agencies and particular regional commissions and between organizations within the United Nations family and organizations outside.

32. It must be recognized that even within the United Nations family, the varying structures of the different agencies and differences in the location of responsibility for decisions constitute a major difficulty in the way of securing fully satisfactory co-ordination of regional operations. Nevertheless, it is

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<sup>1/</sup> E/1991, para. 35.

safe to claim that regional co-ordination has improved year by year. There has generally been more contact at the regional level and more co-operation in the planning of regional activities, among not only organizations with well-developed regional arrangements but also those which have expanded their regional activities only in recent years. An example of arrangements for increased co-ordination at the regional level is the recent establishment of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America in Santiago and the proposed setting up of an office of the TAB Resident Representative in the same city, thereby providing closer contacts between ECLA and the organizations concerned. The recently established practice by which the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions are present during the Council's summer sessions provides further useful opportunity for regular informal contacts between them and the executive heads and other senior officers of specialized agencies.

33. The ACC does not consider it necessary to elaborate upon the principles already formulated or to suggest new types of machinery. The essential safeguard is that arrangements for consultation and co-operation are kept under constant review among the agencies concerned. Arrangements can in this way be extended, as appropriate, to cover new areas of work or terminated where they are no longer needed. They can moreover be adapted to the structural changes that are constantly occurring, recent examples of which are the experimental reorganization of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration in respect of Latin America and the partial decentralization of the activities of the United Nations Secretariat in the social field.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND OTHER MATTERS

##### International Civil Service Advisory Board

34. In accordance with an earlier decision taken by the ACC, the International Civil Service Advisory Board was requested to review, in 1956, the question of the age of retirement in broad terms as a major element of personnel policy, taking into account not only the age question as such but also the question of normal duration of a career in the international civil service.

35. The Board met in April, and its report is to be considered by the ACC at its next session.

##### Education grant

36. The United Nations, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNESCO, ICAO and WMO have all implemented the 1955 recommendations of ICSAB<sup>1/</sup>, which ACC endorsed, on liberalization of eligibility provisions for the education grant, including education travel. Three agencies (ILO, ICAO and WMO) have followed the United Nations in increasing the amount of the grant. In the interests of comparable administration of the new eligibility terms, all these organizations have agreed to exchange information on the administration of the grant.

##### Comprehensive salary review

37. The tenth session of the United Nations General Assembly, by resolution 975(X), established a committee, composed of experts nominated by governments, to review the United Nations salary, allowance and benefits system and invited the specialized agencies to co-operate in this review. The machinery of ACC has been used for inter-agency consultation on this development, and a special statement on salary review matters has been prepared by ACC and submitted to the Committee.

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<sup>1/</sup> A/2996, Annex - Report of the International Civil Service Advisory Board on Educational Facilities for the Children of International Civil Servants.

Other administrative and financial matters

38. The Committee gave attention to a considerable variety of other administrative and personnel matters. Special mention may be made of the work done toward amending a provision of the Pension Fund Regulations concerning validation of prior non-pensionable service. The Committee understands that a study of staff regulations is being undertaken in preparation for a review of Staff Regulations by the General Assembly next year.

Common services and co-ordination of services

39. The ACC has previously reported<sup>1/</sup> that its studies on the possibilities of developing satisfactory arrangements for common services and co-ordination of services among offices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies (in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 411 (VI) and 672 (VII)) have made it clear that the existence of common premises is frequently an important factor in achieving this end and that the assistance of governments in obtaining such accommodation is of primary importance. In this connexion the ACC has noted with appreciation the increasing practical assistance which is being provided by certain governments in centres where there are several offices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

Pattern of conferences

40. The ACC understands that the present programme of conferences at Headquarters and Geneva, as established by the General Assembly,<sup>2/</sup> comes to an end next year. The executive heads of the specialized agencies wish to express general satisfaction with the present pattern and to reaffirm the importance which they attach to it as an essential element in sound planning and the co-ordination of services. Furthermore, in their view, the holding of the summer session of the Council in Geneva has proved valuable in promoting effective programme co-ordination among the United Nations and the specialized agencies located in Europe and in enabling representation and contacts to be appropriately maintained.

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<sup>1/</sup> E/2607, para. 33.

<sup>2/</sup> Resolution 694 (VII).



### Public information

41. At the Council's twentieth session, it was suggested that greater publicity might be given to the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the economic and social fields. A brief note on the subject, suggesting the intensification of action by governments for this purpose within the framework of their information and education programmes, is appended to this report. (See Annex I).

42. The ACC welcomed the invitation which had been extended by the Belgian Government and the arrangements which had been made with the Government's assistance to enable the United Nations and the specialized agencies to take part, without cost, in a joint exhibit at the Brussels Universal and International Exhibition of 1958. In agreement with the ACC, the Secretary-General appointed a Commissioner to act on behalf of all the organizations concerned and arrangements for regular consultation among the agencies have been made to ensure co-ordinated participation.

### Review of publications and studies

43. In resolution 590 A.I (XX), the Council asked the United Nations and the specialized agencies to "review from time to time their publications and studies and the use made of them...". While the terms of the resolution call for action by the United Nations and the specialized agencies individually, an exchange of information took place in the ACC on the different procedures followed regarding the publications programmes of the various organizations. In the case of the United Nations, arrangements have been made to circulate each spring to the specialized agencies, for their information and any comment, the draft programme of publications for the following year. Certain of the specialized agencies also consider it practicable to circulate their publications programmes in advance, while others are seeking to achieve the same end by other appropriate methods.

### Inter-agency agreements and agreements between agencies and other inter-governmental organizations

44. The ACC has been informed that the draft agreement between FAO and the Council of Europe, the text of which it had noted previously,<sup>1/</sup> has now come

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<sup>1/</sup> E/2728, para. 40 and E/2734.

into force. It has noted the text of a draft agreement<sup>1/</sup> between UNESCO and the European Council for Nuclear Research and has no observations to make on the proposed text. The Committee has also taken note of an exchange of letters providing for working arrangements between the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Arab League, along lines similar to the arrangements between the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Council of Europe<sup>2/</sup>. It has likewise noted the arrangements between FAO and ECLA for a joint programme of work on specific projects and the initiation of informal contacts between ECE and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, in addition to the working contacts already established between ECE and the staff of such organizations as the Council of Europe, the Organization for European Economic Co-operation and the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community.

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<sup>1/</sup> E/2841.

<sup>2/</sup> E/2728, para. 40.

## ANNEX

### GREATER PUBLICITY FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS FAMILY

#### Current production

1. Information about the economic and social activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies is issued by the information units of each organization, which maintain close liaison with each other, co-ordination being supervised through the machinery of the ACC. The size and scope of these information units vary according to the activities and the finances of each agency. In general the information issued by each agency concerns the activities of that agency, including such collective undertakings as the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The United Nations Department of Public Information naturally attempts to give a wider picture of the activities of the whole United Nations family, while UNESCO endeavours to publicize some of the technical work of its sister agencies. Such information, except in the case of the United Nations Department of Public Information, is therefore almost entirely devoted to economic and social activities. In the case of the United Nations, in 1955 some two-thirds of the press and publications output, some 70 per cent of the daily radio output in about twenty-seven languages, and about three-quarters of the film and photograph production was devoted to economic and social matters. UNESCO and the United Nations, while giving due emphasis to these, devote a considerable part of their output to covering also the other activities of the United Nations.
2. This information is issued through all media: press, publications, radio, television, films, photographs and other visual means, and is distributed across the world to the general public mostly through specialized groups such as the information media, non-governmental channels and directly through the organizations at Headquarters and in the field, where the need arises. United Nations Information Centres handle material of the specialized agencies and the agencies reciprocate.
3. The limits on output and dissemination are determined by the budget. Officers outside the information services contribute information material,

speeches, lectures, articles, broadcasts, etc., as and when they can, but the main information output comes from the information units and the total production is limited by the manpower available, while the number of copies or language versions of each item is limited by the costs of production.

The work to be done

4. The quantity of material produced by the United Nations and the specialized agencies on economic and social matters has already reached the maximum within the existing budgetary limitations, but requests and outlets for material, publications, radio and television programmes, finished films and film sequences etc., are growing, and the expansion of membership has created still further demands and opportunities. Without budgetary increases, quantity can only be increased by securing greater co-operation from governments, non-governmental organizations and information enterprises.

5. The necessity for providing full information to the public in nations recently admitted, the possibilities offered by the information enterprises in these countries and by programmes such as the news personnel programme of the Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights and projects such as the Brussels Universal and International Exhibition have led the United Nations and the specialized agencies to work on new ideas in the various fields of public information, while maintaining the present quantities of their output. Without restricting information of a world wide scope, it is indispensable to stimulate public interest by focussing attention on activities relating to the problems or interests of individual regions, especially when dealing with projects which require public support.

6. The United Nations and the specialized agencies are collecting more information on activities in the field and adapting its presentation to meet the specific requirements of the different regions of the world. Individual and joint missions to collect information in the field will be increased. Further the dispersal of manpower from Headquarters to the field is being developed with a new emphasis, particularly for radio and visual use, and producing it in a form suitable to obtain the maximum impact in the regions to which it is addressed.

7. In the field of radio the emphasis has been shifted from the production of news programmes to that of feature programmes prepared in co-operation with the various agencies in all the United Nations language services. These feature programmes lend themselves to more attractive and therefore more effective presentation of economic and social matters than do news programmes.

#### Action by governments

8. It is in the actions which governments themselves can take or encourage that the greatest possibilities lie for creating fuller public understanding of the economic and social work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Governments have, of course, already been helpful in this respect, though the interest evinced naturally depends on a number of factors and therefore varies.

9. In becoming a member of the United Nations or of a specialized agency, each government undertakes to realize the objectives of the Organization by all necessary and possible action. The interest of the Economic and Social Council in this subject is a sign that governments fully appreciate that broad public understanding of the work of the United Nations and the agencies is essential to the achievements of the objectives which they have before them. Action by governments to help their citizens to get the necessary information should therefore follow through whatever machinery governments may possess for the purpose.

10. With their limited resources, the international agencies could not surmount all the difficulties presented by the multiplicity of languages and cultures. In this they must rely on national media for intimate, widespread and most direct approach. The task of informing citizens of the purposes and the activities of their own government, working singly or in a joint international undertaking, is one which by its nature must fall in the first instance upon the government itself and on the information media of the country concerned. The role of the agencies through their information services, is essentially to stimulate and facilitate such a task and to provide material suggesting and supplementing appropriate national action.

11. Perhaps the greatest contribution that governments can make towards creating an informed understanding of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and specialized agencies would be regularly to include in their information

and education programmes, material on the international organizations of which they are members and to reproduce, and, where necessary, translate and adapt for distribution through their own channels, suitable information material produced by international organizations. Governments can also greatly assist by providing to all information media general information and first-hand knowledge of the economic and social effects of the work of the United Nations and specialized agencies on the life of their people.

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