



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/714
11 December 1984
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 74

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (Mexico)

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-ninth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 38/82 B of 15 December 1983.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1984, 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 considered the item at its 19th to 21st, 23rd, 25th to 30th, 50th and 51st meetings, held between 1 November and 10 December 1984 (see A/SPC/39/SR.19-21, 23, 25-30, 50 and 51).

4. The Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Committee on Information (A/39/21); 1/
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/39/479);
- (c) Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (A/39/497);
- (d) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Publications policy and practice in the United Nations system" and comments thereon (A/39/239, A/39/239/Add.1 and Corr.1 and Add.2);
- (e) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/39/602).

5. At its 19th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information of the Secretariat, the Chairman of the Committee on Information, the Assistant Director-General ad interim for the Communication Sector of UNESCO and the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 2 October, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group on questions relating to information, under the chairmanship of Mr. Giovanni Jannuzzi, Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/SPC/39/L.20/Rev.1 AND A/SPC/39/L.21/Rev.1

7. At the 50th meeting, on 7 December, the representative of Egypt introduced two draft resolutions (A/SPC/39/L.20/Rev.1 and A/SPC/39/L.21/Rev.1) on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

8. At the 51st meeting, on 10 December, the Committee had before it the statement by the Secretary-General (A/SPC/39/L.31 and Add.1) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.20/Rev.1.

9. At the same meeting, the representatives of Egypt, Nicaragua and Portugal made statements in connection with the language editions of the draft resolutions.

10. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Barbados, Ecuador, France, Italy and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 21.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.20/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 108 to 6, with 7 abstentions (see para. 15, draft resolution A). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.21/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 98 to 6, with 17 abstentions (see para. 15, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows: 2/

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait,

2/ The representatives of Ghana, Guatemala, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lesotho and Senegal stated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden.

13. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Albania, Austria, Benin, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Germany, the Federal Republic of, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

14. The representative of Egypt, as Chairman of the Group of 77, made a statement.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS BY 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 3535 (XXX) of 17 December 1975, 31/139 of 16 No. 1 of 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, 36/149 B of 16 December 1981 and 37/94 B of 10 December 1982, 38/82 B of 15 December 1983 on questions relating to information,

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 3/ 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, 4/

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Political Declaration of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983, 5/ in which the importance of the establishment of the new world information and communication order was stressed anew, as well as 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 6/ and particularly the final documents of the Conference of the Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries held at Jakarta from 26 to 30 January 1984, 7/

3/ Resolution 217 A (III).

4/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI).

5/ See A/38/132-S/15675 and Corr.1 and 2, annex, sect. I, para. 173.

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

7/ A/39/139-S/16430, annex.

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,

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, as well as the relevant resolutions on information and mass communications adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its nineteenth, twentieth, 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, and those of the Concluding Document of the meeting of representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Madrid from 11 November 1980 to 9 September 1983,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, 8/

Conscious of the need for all countries, the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, 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 diversity of 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 communication, as the principle of sovereign equality among nations extends also to this field, and intended also to strengthen peace and international understanding, enabling all persons to participate effectively in political, economic, social and cultural life and promoting understanding and friendship among all nations and human rights,

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 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communication, and that the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, give that organization adequate support and assistance in the field of information and communication,

Recognizing the importance of the co-ordination and co-operation between the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the International Programme for the Development of Communication in the promotion of the establishment of a new world information and communication order,

Fully aware and cognizant of the important contribution which the mass media world-wide can make in enhancing and strengthening peace, deepening international understanding, promoting justice, equality, national independence, development, the exercise of human rights and the establishment of a new world information and communication order,

Noting that the forthcoming celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations will provide a unique opportunity to promote and publicize the noble goals and accomplishments of the United Nations as a major forum for pooling the efforts of States to contribute to the solution of vital world problems,

Noting that the year 1985 will also mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and the important role that the United Nations plays in its implementation,

Expressing its satisfaction with the successful co-ordination and co-operation displayed by the Department of Public Information with the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool, as well as with news agencies of other developing and developed countries, and convinced that such efforts have contributed significantly to progress towards a new world information and communication order,

Taking note of the implementation by the Department of Public Information of those parts of the Declaration and Programme of Action relevant to information of the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence held in Paris in April 1983 9/ as well as those parts relevant to information of the Declaration and Programme of Action

9/ International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, Paris, 25-29 April 1983 (A/CONF.120/13), part three.

of the Extraordinary Meeting of the United Nations Council for Namibia held at Bangkok, from 21 to 25 May 1984, 10/ in order to develop and further strengthen the dissemination of information regarding the struggle for independence of the people of Namibia, with a view to reaching the broadest possible public by means of a more systematic and better co-ordinated information in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/36 D of 2 December 1983,

Taking note also of the implementation by the Department of Public Information of those parts of the programme of action for the achievement of Palestinian rights relevant to information, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 E of 13 December 1983,

Taking note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system, 11/

Expressing its satisfaction with the work of the Committee on Information as reflected in its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, 12/

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information, 13/

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 14/

1. Approves the report of the Committee on Information, and all the recommendations contained and annexed to the present resolution and affirms the requests and appeals reproduced therein as well as all the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/82 B, and particularly all those unimplemented 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;

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 of the Secretariat,

10/ A/39/24 (Part I), para. 495.

11/ A/39/239.

12/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/39/21).

13/ A/39/479.

14/ A/39/497.

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 taking all possible steps to avoid any overlapping of activities on this subject;

4. Reaffirms its strong support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, its constitution and the ideals reflected therein, its activities and for its efforts to further enhance its capabilities with a view to promoting the establishment of a new world information and communication order;

5. Reiterates 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 with the promotion of disarmament and the progressive elimination of international inequities and tensions; and the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the right of peoples to self-determination; 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. Urges the Department of Public Information to give the widest possible dissemination of information pertaining to the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with a view to strengthening international commitment to the total eradication of colonialism in all its forms;

7. Urges the Department of Public Information to strengthen its co-operation with the Pool News Agencies of the Non-Aligned Countries and in particular to ensure that its daily dispatches are received by the United Nations Office at Geneva and United Nations Headquarters in New York;

8. Requests the Department of Public Information to continue its follow-up programmes in further implementation of those parts relevant to public information in the Declaration and Programme of Action of the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, held in Paris in April 1983, 9/ as well as in the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Extraordinary Meeting of the United Nations Council for Namibia, held in Bangkok from 21 to 25 May 1984, 10/ and to report thereon to the next substantive session of the Committee on Information;

9. Requests the Department of Public Information to cover adequately policies and practices which violate the principles of international law relative to belligerent occupation, in particular the Geneva Convention

relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 15/ wherever they occur, especially those policies and practices which frustrate the attainment and exercise of the inalienable and national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and to report thereon to the next substantive session of the Committee on Information;

10. Reiterates the recommendation contained in its resolution 35/201 of 16 December 1980 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;

11. 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 Department of Public Information to consider the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit 11/ on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system and to report to the Committee on Information at its next substantive session;

12. Decides to increase the membership of the United Nations Committee on Information from sixty-seven to sixty-nine and appoints China and Mexico as new members;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information, at its substantive session in 1985, on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the Committee's report;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to consider the proposals of the Governments of Benin and Poland on the opening of United Nations information centres, in the light of recommendation 37 of the Committee on Information and of the criteria established in General Assembly resolution 38/82 of 15 December 1983, and to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session on the implementation of the present resolution and, in particular, on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the annex to the present resolution;

16. Requests the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

ANNEX

E. Recommendations

86. The Committee on Information submits the following recommendations to the General Assembly:

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Information approved by the General Assembly in resolution 38/82 B of 15 December 1983, as well as all provisions of the resolution, should be reiterated, taking into account the views expressed by delegations at the plenary meeting of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly on 15 December 1983. Those recommendations should be implemented in full, and the United Nations Secretary-General should be requested to report to the next substantive session of the Committee on Information on measures taken for the implementation of those recommendations and provisions pending implementation.

2. The mandate of the Committee on Information should be renewed as set forth in General Assembly resolution 34/182 of 18 December 1979 and reaffirmed in Assembly resolutions 35/201 of 16 December 1980, 36/149 of 16 December 1981, 37/94 B of 10 December 1982 and 38/82 B of 15 December 1983.

Promotion of the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information

3. All countries, the United Nations system as a whole, and all others concerned, should 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 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, as the principle of sovereign equality among nations extends also to this field, and intended also to strengthen peace and international understanding, enabling all persons to participate effectively in political, economic, social and cultural life, and promoting understanding and friendship among all nations and human rights.

4. The United States system should reiterate its appeal to the international media and increase its efforts for action by the international community towards global development and, in particular, for the efforts of the developing countries to achieve economic, social and cultural progress.

5. Under the current international climate of political conflicts and economic disorders, the Committee on Information, fully aware and cognizant of the important contribution that the mass media world-wide can make in enhancing and strengthening peace, deepening international understanding, promoting justice, equality, national independence, development, the exercise of human rights and the establishment of a new world information and communication order, recommends that the General Assembly appeal to the mass media to respond in a positive way to opportunities available to them in this field, in order to open new vistas of progress for the world community.
6. Aware of the existence of structural imbalances in the international distribution of news affecting the two-way flow of news, the Committee on Information recommends that urgent attention should be given to the elimination of existing inequalities and all other obstacles in the free flow and wider and better balanced dissemination of information, ideas and knowledge, by inter alia, diversifying the sources of information as a step toward free and more balanced information and the promotion of the establishment of a world information and communication order.
7. The Committee on Information recommends that the need be stressed to ensure and promote the access of the developing countries to communication technology including communication satellites, modern electronic information systems, informatics and other advanced information and communication facilities with a view to improving their own information and communication systems corresponding to the specific conditions prevailing in each country.
8. The Committee on Information, expressing its satisfaction with the successful co-ordination and co-operation displayed by the Department of Public Information with the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool, as well as with news agencies of other developing and developed countries, and convinced that such efforts have contributed significantly to progress towards a new world information and communication order, recommends that the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat strengthen its co-operation with the Pool and with the agencies of developing countries as this co-operation constitutes a concrete step towards a more just and equitable flow of information thus contributing to the establishment of a new world information and communication order.
9. The Committee on Information, while recognizing the importance of the co-ordination and co-operation between the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Programme for the Development of Communication in the promotion of the establishment of a new world information and communication order, recommends that the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare a consolidated study, within existing resources, on the contributions, effects, levels of co-ordination between those organizations and the International Telecommunication Union in support of the development

of information and communication infrastructure and systems in the developing countries for submission at the next substantive session of the Committee on Information.

10. The United Nations system as a whole as well as the developed countries should be urged to co-operate in a concerted manner with the developing countries towards strengthening the information and communication infrastructures of the latter countries in accordance with the priorities attached to such areas by the developing countries with a view to enabling them to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and in the light of their history, social values and cultural traditions. In this regard, full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication which constitutes an important step in the development of these infrastructures, should always be emphasized.

11. The United Nations system should co-operate in a concerted manner, through its information services, in promoting, as a matter of high priority, the development activities of the United Nations and, in particular, the improvement of the conditions of the lives of the people of developing countries.

12. The United Nations system should constantly promote the creation of a climate of confidence in relations among States, as a means of easing tension and facilitating the establishment of a new world information and communication order.

13. 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 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communication, the Committee on Information recommends that the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned should be urged to give that organization adequate support and assistance in the field of information and communication. The Department of Public Information in particular should co-operate more regularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, especially at the working level, with a view to maximizing the contributions of the Department of Public Information to the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting the establishment of a new world information and communication order and to disseminating as widely as possible information on the activities of that organization in this respect.

14. The Secretary-General should be requested to present to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session information concerning the arrangements for the convening, jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, of a round table in 1985 on a new world information and communication order.

15. The Department of Public Information should be urged to monitor, as appropriate, important meetings of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as of regional intergovernmental organizations devoted to information and communication questions within existing resources.

16. The United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, should aim at the provision of all possible support and assistance to the developing countries, within existing resources, with regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to actions already adopted within the United Nations system, including, in particular:

(a) Assistance to developing countries in training journalists and technical personnel and in setting up appropriate educational institutions and research facilities;

(b) The granting of favourable conditions to provide access to developing countries to such communication technology as is requisite for the establishment of a national information and communication system and correspondent with the specific situation of the country concerned;

(c) The creation of conditions that will gradually enable the developing countries to produce the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, specifically for radio and television broadcasting, by using their own resources;

(d) Assistance in establishing telecommunication links at subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries, free from any kind of conditioning.

17. All the information activities of the Department of Public Information should be guided by and carried out in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the aspiration for a new world information and communication order, as well as conforming to the consensus reached among States in resolutions 21 C/4/19, 21 and 22, as adopted at the twenty-first session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

18. The role of the Department of Public Information as the focal point for the formulation and implementation of information activities of the United Nations should be re-emphasized, and in this regard the Committee recommends that the proliferation of information units in the Secretariat independent of DPI should be discouraged.

19. The Secretary-General should be requested 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 of 16 December 1980, including international peace and security, disarmament, peace-keeping and peace-making 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.

20. The final documents of the Conference of the Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 26 to 30 January 1984, 7/ should be noted.

21. The Department of Public Information should maintain editorial independence and accuracy in reporting for all material produced by the Department and should promote to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the people of the world. It should take the necessary measures to ensure that its output contains objective and equitable information about issues before the Organization, reflecting divergent opinions where they occur.

22. The resolution adopted at the Conference of the Ministers of Information and Communication of the countries acting as centres of redistribution of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool, meeting in Cairo on 9 and 10 May 1984, on the establishment and consolidation of an information network for news and broadcasting agencies of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries should also be noted.

23. The relevant resolution on the question relating to information of the summit meeting of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference, held at Casablanca from 16 to 19 January 1984, 16/ should be noted.

Continuation of examination of 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

24. In connection with the forthcoming celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations, DPI should be urged to give appropriate support to the Preparatory Committee for the Fortieth

Anniversary of the United Nations in promoting and publicizing the noble goals and accomplishments of the United Nations as a major forum for pooling efforts of States to contribute to the solution of vital world problems.

25. The Department of Public Information should continue to ensure that the daily dispatches of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool that it receives are appropriately utilized in the performance of the public information tasks of the United Nations:

(a) With a view to further promotion and development of a functional and mutually beneficial co-operation between the Department and the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool the existing arrangements in the Department for the conduct of this co-operation should be established on a more regular basis;

(b) Having in mind the successful joint coverage by the Pool of important conferences and other events within the United Nations system, this practice should be continued and further strengthened;

(c) The Department should consider the possibility of utilizing the dispatches received from the Pool to establish a data base on the information and communication facilities in the non-aligned countries.

26. In connection with its annual training programme for journalists and broadcasters from developing countries, the Department of Public Information should allocate the last week of the programme for their visit to one of the developing countries that expresses readiness to receive them for the purpose of acquainting themselves with the ways in which information on the United Nations is received and utilized.

27. The interim report of the International Telecommunication Union on the World Communications Year 17/ should be noted and the Secretary-General should be requested to make available to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1985 a comprehensive report on the outcome of the activities of the International Telecommunication Union with regard to the Year.

28. The exchange of information between the Committee on Information and the Commission on Transnational Corporations in matters pertaining to the mandate of the Committee should again be encouraged.

29. The report of the Secretary-General on the acquisition by the United Nations of its own communications satellite 18/ should be noted. The Secretary-General should be requested to present, at the next substantive

17/ A/AC.198/79.

18/ A/AC.198/73.

session of the Committee, a complementary report on the acquisition of a United Nations communications satellite, in compliance with the Committee's recommendation 36. 12/

30. The attention of the pertinent organs of the General Assembly and of the United Nations system as a whole should be drawn to the findings of the International Telecommunication Union, 18/ especially as concerned the problem of the geostationary orbit reflected, inter alia, in paragraphs 33 and 49 of that report, taking into account the needs of the developing countries.

31. With regard to its co-operation with the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool as well as with the regional news agencies in developing countries, the Department of Public Information should co-operate as appropriate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in assisting that organization, within existing resources, in the following activities:

(a) In the preparation and implementation of a plan of integrated communication network and regional data and communication centres;

(b) In providing facilities for meetings on data and communication exchange of the public information bodies of the non-aligned countries;

(c) In the preparation for observance of 1985 as the Year of Communication for information bodies in the non-aligned countries.

32. The Department of Public Information should closely co-operate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool to organize a workshop, within existing resources, in 1985 for familiarization of news agencies of developing countries with modern technology of relevance to news agencies, and in the standardization of teaching methods and syllabuses and to produce training manuals in various languages for the training centres of the Pool.

33. The Secretary-General should be requested once again to maintain the functions of the Middle East/Arabic Unit as the producer of Arabic television and radio programmes, and to strengthen and expand this unit to enable it to function in an effective manner, and to report to the next substantive session of the Committee on Information on the measures taken in implementation of this recommendation.

34. In view of the importance of United Nations broadcasting for the European region, steps should be taken to maintain and enhance the functions of the European Unit in the Radio Service through redeployment of existing resources.

35. The Department of Public Information should be requested to use the official General Assembly languages adequately in its documents and audio-visual documentation in order to inform the public better about the activities of the United Nations. It should also make available to the French language section of the Press and Publications Division of the Department, within existing resources, the means that will allow it to distribute consistent press releases in sufficient quantity to satisfy the needs of numerous delegations that use French as a working language.

36. Effective steps should be taken to ensure that the United Nations information centres give adequate services in local languages. Such steps are to be taken within existing resources. The Committee should be informed about the implementation of this recommendation at its next substantive session.

37. The Secretary-General may be requested to consider the proposal of the Governments of Benin and Poland on the opening of United Nations information centres in their respective countries in the light of criteria established in General Assembly resolution 38/82 of 15 December 1983, through the redeployment of resources, and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

38. United Nations information centres should continue to assist press and information media in their respective countries, and, inter alia, promote the establishment of a new world information and communication order.

39. While the co-operation between the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Development Programme in the field should be promoted to the maximum extent, it is also important to bear in mind the intrinsic functions of United Nations information centres as distinct from those of the United Nations development activities. The United Nations information centres should redouble their effort to publicize the activities and achievements of operational activities for development, including those of the United Nations Development Programme, taking into account the priorities determined by the General Assembly.

40. The report of the Secretary-General concerning measures to improve the effectiveness of United Nations information centres 19/ should be noted and the Secretary-General should be encouraged to implement the proposals made by him, within the existing resources allocated to DPI.

41. The Department of Public Information should focus on and give wider coverage to the economic, social and development activities throughout the United Nations system aimed at achieving a more comprehensive image of the activities and potential of the United Nations system, taking into account the priorities set by the General Assembly, particularly in the light of the forthcoming fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

42. The Department of Public Information should promote an informed understanding of the work of the United Nations in the area delineated in General Assembly resolutions 34/146 of 17 December 1979, 36/109 of 10 December 1981, 37/108 of 16 December 1982, 38/130 and 38/136 of 19 December 1983.

43. Pending the possible acquisition by the United Nations of its own short-wave radio network and taking into account the study carried out by the Department of Public Information on this subject 20/, the Secretary-General should be requested to report on the question raised in the document mentioned above, and to inform the Committee on Information on the working of such a system and to present an evaluation report on daily short-wave radio broadcasts from Headquarters.

44. The United Nations information centres should intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local information and educational communities in a mutually beneficial way, especially in areas of particular interest to host countries.

45. The Secretary-General should continue his efforts to develop a system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the activities of the Department of Public Information, particularly in the priority areas determined by the General Assembly.

46. The Department of Public Information should improve, within existing resources, its data-collection procedures with regard to the actual use made by redisseminators of materials distributed by the Department and its information centres and submit a report to the Committee on Information at its next substantive session on progress made in this area.

47. Future reports of the Department of Public Information to the Committee on Information and to the General Assembly, in particular on new programmes or on expansion of existing programmes, should contain:

(a) More adequate information on the output of the Department in respect of each topic included in its work programme, which forms the basis of its programme budget;

(b) The costs of the activities undertaken in respect of each topic;

(c) More adequate information on target audiences, end use of the Department's products, and analysis of feedback data received by the Department;

(d) The Department's evaluation of the effectiveness of its different programmes and activities;

(e) A statement detailing the priority level that the Secretary-General has attached to current or future activities of the Department in documents dealing with such activities.

48. The Secretary-General should be requested to strengthen the Planning, Programming and Evaluation Unit of the Department of Public Information through the redeployment of existing resources.

49. The steps taken by the Department of Public Information in redressing the imbalance in its staff should be noted. The Department should continue to intensify its efforts to that end and the Secretary-General should be requested to take urgent steps to increase the representation of underrepresented developing countries, and of other underrepresented groups of countries, especially at the senior levels, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter, and to submit a report to the Committee on Information at its next substantive session.

50. Member States should be called upon once again to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information.

51. Quality, usefulness and coverage of the daily press release and the weekly news summary issued by the Department of Public Information in all working languages should be further enhanced and improved in view of the important public information tasks that they can perform. Services provided at the Press Section of the Department of Public Information both for the media and the delegations should be further improved. The Department of Public Information should continue to co-operate closely with and provide assistance to the United Nations Correspondents Association.

52. The Department of Public Information should review and report to the next substantive session of the Committee on Information on the present system of charging the Member States and the media for video tapes, audio tapes and news photographs of important United Nations events such as General Assembly and Security Council debates with a view to reducing the present prohibitive costs of those materials so as to enable the media in the Member States, particularly in the developing countries, to give wider publicity to such events.

53. The interim report of the Secretary-General entitled "The Department of Public Information as the Focal Point for the Formulation and Implementation of Information Activities of the United Nations" 21/ should be noted and the Secretary-General should be requested to submit his final report on the subject to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

54. The operations of the Non-Governmental Liaison Services (Geneva and New York) as inter-agency projects reaching specific target audiences in the industrialized countries on international development issues should be continued on a stable financial basis through the United Nations participation in those services. The Secretary-General should be requested once again to urge all United Nations specialized agencies to make long-term contributions to the financing of those services, thereby stressing their inter-agency character.

55. The Joint United Nations Information Committee, as the essential instrument for inter-agency co-ordination and co-operation in the field of public information, should be further strengthened and given more responsibility for the public information activities of the entire United Nations system.

56. Since Development Forum is the only inter-agency publication of the United Nations system that concentrates on development issues, the Secretary-General should, while continuing his efforts to secure a sound and independent basis for the periodical, make such arrangements through the regular budget as necessary to ensure its continued publication. All the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system should be urged to contribute to the financing of this system-wide publication, thereby recognizing its inter-agency character.

57. The Secretary-General should continue to ensure that Development Forum retains its editorial policy of intellectual independence, thus enabling this publication to continue to serve as a world-wide forum in which diverse opinions on issues related to economic and social development can be freely expressed.

58. The Secretary-General should be encouraged to continue and intensify his efforts to explore all possibilities outside the regular budget of the United Nations of securing the adequate resources for the continuation of the World Newspaper Supplement project.

59. The World Disarmament Campaign should give 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, the enhancement of human rights and development. Within the World Disarmament Campaign and Disarmament Week, the Department of Public Information should fulfil the role assigned to it by the General Assembly by utilizing its expertise and resources in public information to ensure its maximum effectiveness.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 34/181 and 34/182 of 18 December 1979, 35/201 of 16 December 1980, 36/149 A of 16 December 1981, 37/94 A and B of 10 December 1982 and 38/82 A of 15 December 1983,

Recalling, the relevant provisions of the Political Declaration of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983 5/ in which the importance of the establishment of the new world information and communication order was stressed anew as well as 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, 6/ and particularly the final document of the Conference of the Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 26 to 30 January 1984, 7/

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the Conference 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, 22/

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 3/ 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 the relevant provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and those of the Concluding Document of the Madrid meeting of representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held from 11 November 1980 to 9 September 1983,

Recalling also 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 from 23 September to 28 October 1980, as well as resolution 2/03 adopted by the General Conference at its fourth extraordinary session, held in Paris from 23 November to 3 December 1982,

Recalling also part VI of resolution 4/19 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in October 1980 and, in this context, expressing anew the wish

that that organization demonstrate its willingness to contribute to the clarification, elaboration and application of the concept of a new world information and communication order,

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, adopted on 28 November 1978 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, 8/

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, in order progressively to remedy existing imbalances, it is essential to strengthen and intensify the development of infrastructures, networks and resources in the communication field and thus encourage a wider and better balanced dissemination of information,

Conscious also that diverse solutions to information and communication problems are required because social, political, cultural and economic problems differ from one country to another,

Emphasizing its full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization which constitutes an essential instrument for the development of the infrastructures of communication in the developing countries and the establishment of a new world information and communication order,

Recognizing the central role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communication within its mandate, as well as the progress accomplished by that 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, 14/ on the activities relating to the establishment of a new world information and communication order, and on the social, economic and cultural impact of the new communication technologies;

2. Appeals to the mass media all over the world to explore all possible avenues for more equitable international co-operation in the field of information and communication and to respond in a positive way to the exceptional opportunities now available to them in the field of international relations, in order to open new vistas of progress for the world community;

3. Underlines the importance of efforts made to implement the principles set forth in 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, adopted on 28 November 1978 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

4. Reiterates its appeal to 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;

5. Considers that the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 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 fifth session, held in Paris from 3 to 9 May 1984;

6. 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, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union, whose projects have been approved by the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

7. Expresses its appreciation to all Member States that have made or pledged a contribution towards the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

8. Reiterates its request to Member States and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as other international governmental and non-governmental 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 to make an increased contribution to the International Programme for the Development of Communication by making greater financial resources available, as well as more staff, equipment, technologies and training resources;

9. Notes with satisfaction the progress made under the Global Satellite Project for Dissemination and Exchange of Information, executed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in co-operation with the regional radio broadcasting unions in Africa, Asia and the Arab States and supported by the Programme;

10. Takes note of the final report submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization relating to the symposium on the Cultural, Social and Economic Impact of New Communication Technologies, held in Rome in December 1983, as well as the final report of the Roundtable on the establishment of the new world information and communication order organized jointly by the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, held at Igls, Austria, from 14 to 19 September 1983; 23/

11. Notes that very few countries have so far responded positively to resolution 4/22 concerning the reduction of telecommunication tariffs for news exchanges, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session and calls once again upon Member States to respond positively and effectively and to take the necessary steps in order to implement that resolution;

12. Reaffirms its strong support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, its constitution, the ideals reflected in it, its activities and for its efforts to further enhance its capabilities with a view to promoting the establishment of a new world information and communication order;

13. Invites the Director-General to prepare a study on the progress so far made in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of research on a new world information and communication order, analyse the conclusions reached and, if necessary, broaden the basis for the study;

14. Encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue and intensify its studies, programmes and activities with a view to identifying new technological trends in information, communication, telematics and informatics and assess their socio-economic and cultural impact on the development of peoples, and in this context requests it to provide periodic studies relevant to these topics;

15. Invites the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue his efforts in the information and communication field and to submit to the General Assembly, at its fortieth session, a detailed report on the application of the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the activities relating to the establishment of a new world information and communication order, as well as on the social, economic and cultural effects of the accelerated development of communication technologies.
