

UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

SUB-COMMITTEE OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON INFORMATION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THIRTEENTH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
23 JANUARY 1946 AT 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Francis Williams

The Sub-Committee continued the consideration of the views on broadcasting expressed by outside experts, heard by the Sub-Committee at its meetings on the 9 and 14 January 1946 (A/INF/W.4).

1. Languages:- it was generally felt that the United Nations radio should start off with one station broadcasting in only a few languages. It would be unwise to try to extend the linguistic scope of United Nations broadcasts too widely in the initial stages. The final aim of United Nations radio work should be to build up a network which would enable broadcasts to be made in as many as twenty-five to thirty languages.
2. News Service:- it was pointed out that an international news service covering world events and not merely United Nations activities, as envisaged by some experts, would entail considerable technical difficulties and expenses. Such a news service would unavoidably lead United Nations radio to enter into competition with established news agencies.

The Sub-Committee agreed unanimously that United Nations radio news service should be confined to United Nations activities only.

3. Relations with UNESCO and School Programmes:- the view was put forward that it did not fall within the scope of United Nations radio to broadcast school programmes. This purely cultural matter should be handled by UNESCO alone.

It was generally felt, however, that the United Nations could

not disassociate themselves altogether from this aspect of radio work. Whilst leaving the actual work on school programmes to UNESCO the United Nations should establish the general policy in this field and retain full editorial control over UNESCO school programmes to be broadcast over United Nations radio station or stations.

The representative of the Soviet Union stated that he wished to reserve his position as regards this point.

4. News Commentators:- the Sub-Committee agreed that as regards United Nations broadcasting activities "radio commentators" would actually be "radio broadcasters", i.e. persons experienced in broadcasting in attractive form objective background information on United Nations radio news service. The scripts of such background broadcasts should be prepared by the Department of Public Information and their object would be to clarify to the general public problems and reports on United Nations activities which otherwise might remain obscure.

5. Entertainment Programmes:- the Sub-Committee was unanimous in agreeing that whilst musical and light programmes could be broadcast under the auspices of UNESCO or of national organizations over the United Nations radio, the latter should not initiate or sponsor such programmes on its own.

6. United Nations Radio Facilities:- it was pointed out that it was not intended to run the United Nations radio on a commercial basis nor to sell time on the air to private agencies or Governments. The technical facilities of the United Nations radio could be, subject to specific safeguards, put at the disposal of private broadcasting agencies for relay purposes only.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.