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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 43/60 A of 6 December 1988, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of that resolution, and to report to the Committee on Information at its eleventh session in 1989 on the implementation of that resolution.
2. The following documents, related to topics covered by General Assembly resolution 43/60 A, were submitted to the Committee on Information at its eleventh substantive session, held from 13 to 28 April 1989:
 - (a) Assessment of the effectiveness of the UN Chronicle: 1988 survey (A/AC.198/1989/3);
 - (b) Application of modern technologies within the Department of Public Information (A/AC.198/1989/4);
 - (c) Public information activities of the United Nations pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine (A/AC.198/1989/5);
 - (d) Progress report on the staff of the Department of Public Information in posts subject to geographical distribution (A/AC.198/1989/6);
 - (e) Public information activities of the United Nations pertaining to the policies and practices of apartheid (A/AC.198/1989/7);
 - (f) Report on the review of public information activities in the Secretariat external to the Department of Public Information (A/AC.198/1989/8);

(g) Implementation of recommendation 37 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 1/ concerning public information activities (A/AC.198/1989/9).

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Public Information provided additional information in several oral statements to the Committee on Information.

4. The deliberations of the Committee on Information on those topics and others on its agenda are reflected in its report to the General Assembly. 2/ As in the past, the present paper avoids, as much as possible, repetition of the contents of the reports submitted to the Committee on Information. The present report deals mainly with items not considered by the Committee or updates the information in the reports submitted to the Committee.

II. CO-OPERATION WITH THE POOL OF NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES AND WITH THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

5. In recommendation 8 (a), contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 43/60 A, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the Department of Public Information co-operate more regularly with UNESCO, especially at the working level.

6. In line with this recommendation, the Department has co-produced, as part of its UN in Action television programme, two video documentaries on the restoration of Sana'a, and on the restoration of major edifices in Benin. An article in the quarterly UN Chronicle was devoted to UNESCO's continuing efforts for the protection of cultural and natural heritage as defined by the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

7. Complementing UNESCO's activities, the Department has continued to train broadcasters and journalists from developing countries. As in previous years, the ninth annual training programme, which runs from 12 September to 20 October 1989, is providing skills training and briefings on major issues before the United Nations for 17 young journalists from developing countries around the world. Trainees will be assigned activities in the Department and will be encouraged to cover the proceedings of the General Assembly for their home media.

8. The Department has begun to explore the possibility of obtaining external support for broadening its training programme and for increasing the number of journalists and broadcasters from developing nations.

9. Among major events highlighted by the Department was International Literacy Day, as one of a series of United Nations activities leading to International Literacy Year (1990), for which UNESCO is assuming the role of lead organization as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/104 of 7 December 1987. The event, which took place at Headquarters on 8 September 1989, focused on the importance of literacy for children and their families.

10. In resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (b), the Department was requested to strengthen its co-operation with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, with the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, with the Eco-Pool of the News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries and with the Broadcasting Organization of Non-Aligned Countries.

11. The Department has continued to strengthen its ties with the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, with which it has co-operated for the past seven years by sending daily news dispatches through TANJUG, at Belgrade, to the more than 90 news agencies members of the Pool. The Department participated this year in the Fifth General Conference of the Pool of News Agencies of the Non-Aligned Countries, which took place at Luanda from 1 to 5 June.

12. After extensive consultations, plans are being worked out to transmit United Nations dispatches, in English, French and Spanish, to five focal point news agencies in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Those agencies would act as centres for the redissemination of United Nations information through a network of correspondent news agencies and media in their regions. Many members of the Broadcasting Organization of the Non-Aligned Countries are co-operating on a regular basis with the Department. Further co-operation with that organization is under study with regard to its proposed programme exchange service.

III. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

13. In resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (c), the Secretary-General was requested, inter alia, to ensure that the Department of Public Information continue to disseminate information about the United Nations activities in the field of human rights.

14. To mark the fortieth anniversary in 1988 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a multi-media public information programme was launched on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1987, by the Department in co-operation with the Centre for Human Rights, with the theme "People only live full lives in the light of human rights". Designed to extend beyond the fortieth anniversary of the Declaration, the programme sought to mobilize non-governmental organizations in support of human rights issues and to alert the news media to United Nations activities related to human rights.

15. Following the launching by the General Assembly on 10 December 1988 of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, the Department has continued to build on the momentum generated by its public information activities for the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. An important aspect of this effort is the utilization of the news value of major events or international anniversaries. As the majority of these in 1989 pertain to the social field, many of the special activities undertaken this year by the Department in connection with human rights have been concerned with social issues, including the following:

(a) In observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the text of the Declaration was issued in the six official languages and distributed to United Nations information centres and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offices in the field, for dissemination to interested non-governmental organizations and policy makers at all levels;

(b) On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Department has launched a pamphlet entitled The United Nations Social Agenda, which provides a cohesive link between all the social issues dealt with by the United Nations system. This pamphlet covers, in brief articles, issues such as human rights, women, literacy, AIDS, drugs, the aged, youth, crime and development, highlighting relevant dates and anniversaries. The pamphlet, produced in English, French and Spanish, is also distributed to all United Nations information centres for dissemination to non-governmental organizations, the media, libraries, and educational and research institutes;

(c) In connection with preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to be held in 1990, the Department issued a press kit on the work of the United Nations in crime prevention and control. Press coverage and media liaison were provided for the five regional preparatory meetings held in 1989. An information brochure on the Eighth Congress is soon to be issued in all official languages, and a new booklet entitled The United Nations and Crime Prevention and Control is under preparation. The texts of the various crime control instruments and rules that have been published by the Department are being reprinted and distributed to the United Nations information centres and services in anticipation of an increase in requests leading up to the 1990 Congress.

16. To highlight the human rights aspects of various social issues, the Department is co-sponsoring with the Centre for Human Rights an all-day symposium and workshop to be convened by the New York NGO Committee on Human Rights on 19 October 1989. Addressed to non-governmental organizations not directly involved in human rights advocacy, the symposium seeks to demonstrate the link between human rights and other issues.

17. The Department is distributing to United Nations information centres an animated video of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The video will be available in the six official languages and in selected local languages. The Department is also producing various radio series covering human rights and related social issues. United Nations television programmes such as UN in Action and programmes produced for CNN World Report, which are seen weekly in over 120 countries, cover human rights and social issues on a regular basis.

18. The Department has continued to give full coverage to the meetings of all United Nations bodies concerned with human rights, such as the Commission on Human Rights and its various committees and working groups, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee against Torture, as well as to the work of Special Rapporteurs in the field of human rights. The Department is also planning, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Centre for Human Rights, special activities on the occasion of the

thirtieth anniversary, on 20 November 1989, of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Full coverage was provided by the Department on the adoption by the Commission on Human Rights of the draft convention on the rights of the child, to be submitted to the General Assembly for adoption at the forty-fourth session.

IV. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH DECOLONIZATION AND THE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS OF NAMIBIA

19. The Department of Public Information was further requested in resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (c), to continue to disseminate information about the United Nations activities in the field of decolonization. In recommendation 8 (i), the Department was urged to further intensify its efforts in order to alert world public opinion to the illegal occupation of Namibia and continue to disseminate adequately and accurately, with the full assistance of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the United Nations system as a whole, information relating to the struggle of the oppressed people of Namibia for self-determination, national independence and freedom as well as to the need for the full and speedy implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. In recommendation 8 (j), the Department was requested to continue adequate coverage of the United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

20. In pursuance of these mandates, the Department has continued its efforts to generate international support for decolonization and self-determination of peoples. The most important development in this regard has been the launching of the process leading to the independence of Namibia under United Nations auspices. As the world witnesses the birth of a new nation in southern Africa under the supervision and control of the Organization, the Department is working to provide accurate, in-depth information on the country as well as on the process leading to independence. The co-ordinated, multi-media approach of the Department has been reflected in the preparation of an information strategy to generate broad public interest in and support for Namibia's transition to independence and the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in that country.

21. A three-pronged effort was launched towards this end. First, the Department helped to develop UNTAG's own information programme within Namibia, and continues to support that programme by producing specific outputs required by UNTAG and by detailing staff to complement UNTAG's own resources. Second, the Department is responsible, at Headquarters, for world-wide dissemination of information on developments related to UNTAG. Third, the Department continues to implement its programme of activities related to Namibia, which it is mandated to carry out under the guidance of the United Nations Council for Namibia. In this regard, consultations with the Council are maintained on a constant basis. In tailoring the programme, the requirements of the informal understandings reached in 1982 on the question of impartiality have been taken into account.

22. Information on the role of the Secretary-General in implementing Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and on the activities of UNTAG have been disseminated widely to the media, United Nations information centres and delegations. On the

basis of documentation and other information received from UNTAG headquarters in Windhoek, all necessary arrangements have been made by the spokespersons of the Secretary-General to meet increasing requests coming from the media.

23. Among special information materials produced by the Department were two comprehensive press kits on UNTAG for distribution at Headquarters and through the United Nations information centres and services, providing in-depth information about the activities of the United Nations on an issue of highest priority to the international community. In addition, a pamphlet and a poster on "Namibia - Free and Fair Elections" were widely distributed both in Namibia and throughout the world.

24. The Under-Secretary-General of Public Information held a special briefing session with delegations and exchanged views on further activities by the Department aimed at creating an informed understanding of the role of the United Nations in Namibia.

V. ACTIVITIES AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

25. In resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (c), the Department of Public Information was further requested to disseminate information about United Nations activities for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

26. In line with this mandate, the Department has continued to provide full coverage of activities undertaken by the United Nations against racial discrimination. During the reporting period, press releases were issued in the working languages on the proceedings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its thirty-seventh session, held from 7 August to 1 September in Geneva. As in previous years, wide publicity and coverage were given to the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was observed on 21 March 1989 at Headquarters at a solemn meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid. On this occasion, special exhibits and other events to commemorate the 1960 massacre of civilians at Sharpeville, South Africa, and to emphasize the role of the United Nations for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, were organized by the Department at Headquarters and by the United Nations information centres and services in the field.

27. Between January and September 1989, the Department replied to over 1,500 public inquiries on issues related to racial discrimination and apartheid. During the same period, seven briefings and two film screenings on racial discrimination and apartheid were arranged at Headquarters for various public groups.

28. Among special information activities undertaken by the Department were the co-production of a short animated film on racism for use by United Nations information centres, non-governmental organizations and the media, and the production of a leaflet on racial discrimination that will be distributed to educational institutions world-wide on United Nations Day.

VI. ACTIVITIES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

29. The Department of Public Information was urged in resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (d), to give the widest possible dissemination of information pertaining to acute world economic problems in general and, in particular, to the severe economic difficulties of the least developed countries and the need for strengthening the international economic co-operation aimed at resolving the external debt problems of developing countries.
30. In line with this request, the Department has intensified its activities on economic development issues in preparation for the following major United Nations events to take place at the end of 1989 and in 1990: the special session of the General Assembly on apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa, the special session of the General Assembly in 1990 devoted to international economic co-operation, the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and the adoption of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. The Department is preparing an information strategy to generate broad public interest in these events and related issues.
31. A comprehensive press kit on the debt crisis was prepared in October 1989 to publicize the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the external debt crisis and development (A/44/628). The kit, comprising backgrounders, features, graphics and briefing papers, was distributed world-wide in English, French and Spanish.
32. The following additional information materials are in various stages of production:
- (a) An information package on poverty, comprising a summary of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on international co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries (A/44/467), a feature story and graphics;
 - (b) A booklet on global economic issues, to be distributed world wide through the United Nations information centres;
 - (c) Special backgrounders and briefings for non-governmental organizations and the media, as well as radio and television programmes, in conjunction with the preparatory meetings for the adoption of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade and for the special session of the General Assembly in 1990 devoted to international economic co-operation;
 - (d) A series of information products on the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, prepared in co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
33. A news conference was held by the Department in Geneva at the time of the launching of the 1989 World Economic Survey, and a backgrounder on the main conclusions of the survey was issued and distributed world wide through the United Nations information centres.

34. Approaches have been made to major national and international economics publications to organize round-table discussions and interviews focusing on United Nations initiatives on economic questions such as the debt crisis of the developing world, the alarming growth of poverty, and trade problems.

VII. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

35. In resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (e), the need was stressed for the Department of Public Information to do its utmost to disseminate widely and to publicize the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and the tremendous efforts of the African countries towards recovery and development, as well as the positive response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa.

36. In line with the major priority assigned to the economic recovery and development of Africa, the Africa Recovery Unit of the Department, with the support of other bodies of the United Nations system, has continued to carry out an intensive campaign, producing publications and press kits and working further with its extensive media contacts to extend world-wide coverage of African economic issues.

37. Africa Recovery continues to be the major publication for the information campaign, reporting on major developments in economic and social matters and providing background material on key issues for journalists, Governments, financial institutions and non-governmental organizations.

38. A comprehensive press kit was prepared in September 1988 to publicize the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (A/43/500 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2). The kit was distributed to journalists at several press conferences held during the review session.

39. In November and December 1988, a journalists' tour to Senegal and Ghana was organized by the Department, with funding from the Government of Japan. Twenty-three senior writers, including four from Africa, were escorted on a two-week tour to acquaint them first-hand with the reality of the African economic crisis and measures being taken by African Governments to overcome the crisis. The tour was highly acclaimed by participating journalists and resulted in extensive media coverage.

40. The Department organized media coverage, including attendance by international journalists, at a high-level meeting held in March 1989 at Khartoum in support of the Secretary-General's initiative to arrange emergency relief operations for the strife-torn southern region, resulting in Operation Lifeline Sudan. A staff member of the Department was sent to the meeting to act as spokesman for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

41. The first in a series of proposed briefing papers on aspects of the African crisis was published by the Department in June, on the subject of African debt. It was produced for use at a consultation on African debt held at Washington, D.C., and for distribution as background information to journalists, policy makers and academics.

42. As international debate intensified on economic policies in Africa, the Department worked to keep the media informed on the issues. In April an informal press kit was assembled and distributed on the preliminary response of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to a World Bank report on structural adjustment policies in Africa. In July, when ECA prepared a report on an African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation, 3/ the Department developed a comprehensive press kit with funding from ECA. The international launching of this major report, at a series of meetings in London, was also organized by the Department and received wide media attention.

VIII. WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

43. In resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (f), the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the Department of Public Information continue adequate coverage of the World Disarmament Campaign.

44. In line with this mandate, the Department has continued to give wide publicity and coverage to the disarmament and related activities of the United Nations in general, and of the World Disarmament Campaign in particular.

45. Relevant information has continued to be disseminated through various Department publications such as the UN Chronicle, Yearbook of the United Nations and Development Forum. The Department has also concluded agreements to co-publish the following: UN Disarmament Studies - Climatic and Global Effects of Nuclear War and Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race; and Multilateral Aspects of the Disarmament Debate - Verification of Arms Limitation Agreements and Conventional Weapons, Nuclear Weapons and Outer Space. In addition, the Department of Public Information has assisted the Department for Disarmament Affairs in issuing the new brochure, Disarmament: A Global Concern, in English, French and Spanish, with a total print of 100,000 for world-wide distribution.

46. Disarmament and related issues were featured in regular news and current affairs radio programmes in official and non-official languages. The following radio programmes related to disarmament were produced: a feature in Portuguese devoted to the World Disarmament Campaign; an edition of Perspective entitled "Efforts towards Conventional Disarmament"; an edition of the weekly radio programme in Chinese entitled "The Nuclear Power Option"; a series of eight programmes in Bangla on "The United Nations at Work for International Peace and Security: Disarmament"; an edition of Perspectives internationales in French devoted to the proposed chemical weapons convention; an edition of the weekly programme in Russian featuring "Curb the Naval Arms Race"; and an edition of the weekly Indonesian programme Fokus Fokus Kita on the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

47. In addition to providing full coverage of United Nations events related to disarmament, the Department produced and distributed world-wide a UN in Action video on the proposed convention to ban chemical weapons, as well as a World Chronicle programme entitled "Disarmament: A Safer World for All Nations". A feature film entitled "Nuclear Countdown" is currently being updated in co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

48. Visitors to the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna have been informed, in the course of their guided tours, of the United Nations activities in the field of disarmament. They have also continued to view the exhibit on disarmament as their first stop along the guided tours at Headquarters. During the reporting period, nearly 400,000 visitors were received and some 2,000 public inquiries on disarmament were handled by the Department.

49. United Nations information centres and services have also continued to place emphasis in their programmes on United Nations activities in the field of disarmament. These have included production of press releases, background materials, television and radio programmes; arranging of public meetings, round tables, seminars, film screenings, photo and art exhibits, as well as other events emphasizing the role of the United Nations in disarmament.

IX. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

50. As requested in resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (g), the Department of Public Information submitted to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989 a report on its activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine (A/AC.198/1989/5).

51. The following are among special activities undertaken by the Department since the submission of its report to the Committee:

(a) A second regional encounter for journalists on the question of Palestine was organized at Kingston from 26 to 28 July 1989. The 18 participating journalists from the Americas held informal discussions on the various aspects of the Palestinian problem;

(b) A third series of national encounters was organized between 19 and 24 July 1989 at Bogotá, Quito and Santiago, involving small panels of experts who held press conferences on relevant issues;

(c) A new poster on the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East was produced in September 1989 and given the widest possible circulation; and

(d) An updated and revised version of the booklet entitled The United Nations and the Question of Palestine will be issued by the end of 1989, among other relevant publications.

X. ACTIVITIES AGAINST APARTHEID

52. As requested in resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (h), the Department submitted to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989 a report on its activities pertaining to the policies and practices of apartheid (A/AC.198/1989/7).

53. In addition to coverage and support, both at Headquarters and in the field, of special days, observances and other events relating to the question of apartheid, the Department has concentrated its attention on education about apartheid. In co-operation with the Centre against Apartheid, a manual entitled Teaching about Apartheid was produced to serve as a basic document for a seminar on the subject organized in Geneva from 4 to 6 September 1989 by an international non-governmental organization, the Sub-Committee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization, in co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid. Concurrently, a 30-minute video entitled "World Action against Apartheid" was produced in co-operation with the Centre against Apartheid.

54. Special efforts are being undertaken to publicize the special session of the General Assembly on Apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa, including the preparation of a press kit and a journalists' round table to be held at Headquarters from 12 to 14 December 1989.

55. Among special events covered by the Department was the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa. On this occasion, the President of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, Mr. Zephania Mothopeng, addressed the Special Committee against Apartheid and gave, for the first time since his release from a South African prison last November after more than nine years of incarceration for his opposition to apartheid, a press conference organized by the Department at Headquarters. This major event was extensively covered by the media.

56. Full coverage was also provided on 30 June for the first appearance before the United Nations of Mrs. Albertina Sisulu, wife of the former General-Secretary of the African National Congress, Walter Sisulu, who is serving a life sentence along with Nelson Mandela. Mrs. Sisulu, an outstanding South African leader in her own right, as co-President of the United Democratic Front and President of the Federation of South African Women, delivered an address before the Special Committee against Apartheid and gave a press conference organized by the Department, which also received wide media coverage.

XI. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

57. The Department was urged in resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (k), to further cover adequately and with impartiality the activities of all United Nations peace-keeping operations, in view of the paramount importance of such operations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

58. In pursuance of this mandate, the Department has given emphasis to the areas of peace-making and peace-keeping and highlighted the positive developments in the diplomatic process in a number of regional conflicts. Of particular importance have been media-related events undertaken by the Department with regard to the implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia, the positive developments for the peace process in Central America, the efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement to the conflict between Iran and Iraq, the launching of Operation Salam for humanitarian and economic assistance to the Afghan people, and the resumption of high-level meetings on Cyprus.

59. The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations peace-keeping forces was a highlight in the information activities undertaken by the Department and gave additional impetus for the promotion of a more comprehensive and realistic image of United Nations activities and potential in the areas of peace-making and peace-keeping. The coverage of this important event, the release of a press kit including photographs, a special pamphlet, a feature article, production of other materials and audio-visual background information, and a special "Open Day" celebration of the awarding of the prize at Headquarters, helped to generate public interest in and awareness of the role of the United Nations in peace-keeping efforts in a number of regional conflicts around the world.

60. Press kits on United Nations efforts in solving the conflicts between Iran and Iraq and in Cyprus, as well as the release of fact sheets, backgrounders and other information materials on these activities and on peace efforts in Central America and in Western Sahara have contributed to a positive media coverage for the United Nations.

61. The Department, in close co-operation with the Co-ordinator for United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance and Programmes relating to Afghanistan, has participated in preparations for the first United Nations pledging conference for Afghanistan. As part of an information programme, a press kit was prepared and distributed to delegations, journalists, non-governmental organizations and other interested institutions.

62. Other special information materials aimed at promoting a more comprehensive and realistic image of United Nations activities in the field of international peace and security include a new edition of the booklet entitled Basic Facts about the United Nations; a new brochure on the work of the Security Council highlighting the key role of this principal organ of the United Nations; a press kit on the forty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly; and a pamphlet on the Declaration on the Prevention and Removal of Disputes and Situations Which May Threaten International Peace and Security and on the Role of the United Nations in this Field, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/51 of 5 December 1988.

63. With regard to recommendation 8 (1) of resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, relating to terrorism, the Department has continued to disseminate information on United Nations resolutions on terrorism in all its forms, including Security Council resolution 638 (1989) adopted unanimously on 31 July 1989, in which the Security Council condemned unequivocally all acts of hostage-taking and abductions.

XII. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO WOMEN AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY

64. In resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (m), the Department was urged to strengthen its information programmes relating to women and their role in society.
65. In line with this request, the Department of Public Information has placed further emphasis on the priority themes identified by the Commission on the Status of Women. Among the numerous public information activities undertaken in this regard are the production of a series of feature articles on topics such as violence, political power, literacy and the effects of the economic crisis on women in developing countries; the production of a documentary film on women and work, to premiere at the 1990 meeting of the Commission; the co-production with other United Nations agencies of a film on women and literacy; and the distribution through United Nations information centres, in co-operation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, of a poster on the representation of women in parliaments around the world.
66. For International Women's Day, the Department focused on the situation of women in the United Nations, producing a photo exhibit and short video that were used in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The Department, both at Headquarters and through the United Nations information centres, continued to promote International Women's Day by widely disseminating relevant information material and brochures in English, French and Spanish, and by organizing commemorative events in a number of countries.
67. As part of its training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries, the Department held in October 1989, in co-operation with the Graduate School of Journalism of Columbia University, New York, an international seminar on sex role stereotyping in the media. The one-day seminar focused on the portrayal of women in the media and its implications for the political, socio-economic and cultural situation of women.
68. The Department has continued to produce the weekly radio programme Women, covering all issues related to the status and advancement of women. The programme is distributed on tape and cassette to some 300 radio stations world wide.
69. To publicize the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Department is producing an information kit with new material on the Convention and on the work of the United Nations for women. A high-level symposium on the Convention will be held by the Department at Headquarters in January 1990.
70. In connection with major United Nations activities on international economic development issues in 1990, the Department will produce a booklet on the role of women in the global economy in English, French and Spanish for world-wide dissemination through the United Nations information centres. The Department is also assisting in the organization of an international seminar for non-governmental organizations on women and economic policies, to be held in April 1990.

XIII. CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTICS AND DRUG ABUSE

71. The Department of Public Information was urged, in resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 8 (n), to strengthen its coverage of the efforts made by the United Nations system and Member States in their campaign against illicit trafficking of narcotics and drug abuse.

72. In observance of the second International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a special event was organized at Headquarters on 26 June, focusing on the subject of youth and the problem of illicit drugs. Drama and dance presentations as well as a group discussion called attention to various aspects of the drug problem, and a statement was made on United Nations efforts to control drug abuse and trafficking. Information materials, including backgrounders on United Nations drug control programmes, posters, buttons and the message of the Secretary-General, were produced and distributed to journalists, young people, non-governmental organizations and other interested parties. Information on the Day was also transmitted to all the United Nations information centres, and major media centres were notified.

73. A backgrounder on United Nations drug control programmes was produced by the Department. The information booklet, The United Nations and Drug Abuse Control, is currently under revision. The Department is exploring the possibility of obtaining financial support for the production of a documentary film on United Nations drug control efforts and for the organization of a media tour of United Nations drug control projects in the field.

XIV. SEMINARS FOR EDUCATORS

74. In resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, recommendation 9 (g), the Department of Public Information was requested to extend all assistance to educational institutions of Member States and to continue to organize seminars for educators and education policy makers.

75. In this regard, the Department has resumed the United Nations Fellowship Programme for Educators. Formerly called the Triangular Fellowship Programme, it has long been recognized as an important part of United Nations efforts to assist Member States in developing and extending education about the aims and activities of the United Nations system, as recommended in General Assembly resolution 137 (II) of 17 November 1947 and subsequent General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions. This year's programme will be held at Dakar from 4 to 13 December, in co-operation with UNESCO. The purpose of the meeting is to promote education about the United Nations system in teacher education programmes. Participants will be senior education officials responsible for the development and implementation of education programmes for teachers of secondary-level students in francophone African countries.

XV. PRESS RELEASES AND SALES PUBLICATIONS

76. In line with recommendation 9 (h) of resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, concerning daily coverage of United Nations meetings, the Department of Public Information has issued press releases in the working languages on all United Nations intergovernmental meetings and arranged for press conferences and briefings on a daily basis.

77. In response to recommendation 14, in which the Department was urged to actively encourage the sale of its materials, the Department has increased the number of joint ventures between the United Nations and external publishers, which are indispensable in promoting a wider dissemination of United Nations publications in different languages to various audiences. Typical subjects of external publishing are special studies carried out under United Nations auspices and the reports and/or proceedings of seminars and other meetings. Topics include disarmament, transnational corporations and African development. For 1989 there are 53 titles - 41 more than last year - being processed for external publication, including 21 in the production stage, 9 in the contractual stage and 23 in the evaluation stage. The two major projects to be finalized in 1989 with external publishers are The United Nations Yearbook and a new quarterly magazine entitled The World Statesman, which will focus on economic, social, political and cultural issues.

XVII. STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES AND SERVICES

78. Recommendation 12 of resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, stipulates that United Nations information centres should continue to assist press and information media in their respective countries in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, to intensify in a mutually beneficial way direct and systematic communication exchange with local information and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations recognized by the Economic and Social Council, and to arrange for constant evaluation of their activities in this regard.

79. Every effort has been made to intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local media, information and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. New contacts are being developed in every region and regular co-operation has been established in many countries with the print media, which often take feature stories and print special inserts on priority issues of the United Nations and its agencies. Through evolving relations with local press and broadcasting organizations, several information centres have obtained time slots for audio-visual programmes produced at Headquarters. Centre directors are often interviewed on radio and television, on a number of special broadcasts on United Nations observances and topics.

80. Dissemination of United Nations information through electronic mail and facsimile transmissions has made it possible to send regular news bulletins for immediate distribution to radio stations and newspapers, thereby providing substantive inputs for local programming.

81. Exhibits have been organized in public buildings, schools, and on the premises of information centres, using photographs, posters, wallsheets, various United Nations documents and publications. Information centres continue to provide services to many United Nations agencies and programmes by organizing press conferences, seminars, workshops and briefings for non-governmental organizations with visiting officials or on special occasions called for by these agencies.

82. In order to improve co-ordination of field office and Headquarters activities on both programme and administrative issues, the Department has continued to organize regional meetings with directors of information centres. A regional meeting for directors in the Americas was held at Mexico City in February of this year. A number of staff training programmes and workshops were organized, including a training seminar for information assistants from 13 centres in different regions, held at Headquarters in June 1989; a workshop for administrative assistants from centres in Europe, held in Geneva in August 1989; and a training programme for reference assistants from 12 centres in English-speaking African countries, which will be held at Nairobi in December 1989.

83. Several initiatives were taken for the co-ordination of United Nations information centres with UNDP field offices. The Department and UNDP signed an initial agreement entitled "Department of Public Information/United Nations Development Programme Understanding for Rationalizing United Nations Field Representation", in order to strengthen their co-operation in the field, to make their relationship more mutually beneficial and to reduce potential areas of duplication. The text was distributed to all UNDP resident representatives and co-ordinators as well as to all centre directors for review and comment. The initial agreement, which will be tested for a period of one year in the field, will be subsequently reviewed and finalized at Headquarters in the light of experience and of the comments and suggestions received from field representatives of both organizations.

XVIII. CO-ORDINATION OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

84. The Department was encouraged, in recommendation 13 of resolution 43/60 A, paragraph 1, to continue its active participation in the work of the Joint United Nations Information Committee, in recognition of the need for co-ordinating information activities of the United Nations system and of the important role of that Committee in this regard.

85. Following extensive consultations between the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information and information directors of several United Nations specialized agencies and programmes, a paper entitled Enhancing the Public Image of the United Nations System (ACC/1989/CRP.10) was prepared for consideration by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at its second regular session of 1989. The paper includes specific recommendations for improving the co-ordination of information activities of the United Nations system, in order to make optimal use of scarce resources within the system. Towards this end, recommendations are made for revitalizing the work of the Joint United Nations Information Committee. The

Committee would be responsible, inter alia, for planning inter-agency information programmes and projects on specific topics, as warranted, and for fostering shared use of information facilities and resources throughout the System.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/44/21).

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 16 (E/1989/35), chap. IV.
