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Chairman: Sir Claude COREA (Ceylon).

AGENDA ITEM 55

Public information activities of the United Nations: report of the Committee of Experts on United Nations Public Information, and comments and recommendations thereon by the Secretary-General (A/3928, A/3945, A/C.5/757, A/C.5/764, A/C.5/L.527, A/C.5/L.529, A/C.5/L.530, A/C.5/L.533) (continued)

1. Mr. MANTILLA ORTEGA (Ecuador) said that the United Nations would work largely in vain if the peoples of the world were not kept informed of its activities and aims. The maximum annual figure of \$4.5 million endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 1177 (XII) was a meagre provision for the performance of that task.

2. The Office of Public Information should aim to provide full and objective information through every medium at its disposal; freedom of information—an essential condition for the success of its work—existed in many areas, but where it did not, the Office should not be deterred from its efforts to reach the people. Presentation, however, should be adapted to local needs, and the Office should therefore choose its staff on the basis of local knowledge as well as impartiality.

3. An important function of the Office of Public Information was to interest the peoples of the world in the United Nations; the Committee of Experts on United Nations Public Information had recognized the efforts it was making in that direction, and had made useful suggestions for their improvement. However, to act on the opinion expressed in paragraph 217 of the Committee's report (A/3928)—that the Office could best work through Governments and through a select group of individuals and organizations—would entail a radical change for the worse in information policy. In some cases communication through Governments would be ineffective and even dangerous, and communication through a select group would be restrictive; it was essential for the Office to operate—albeit with due circumspection—in complete freedom and independence. The Committee's recommendation for a shift of emphasis from the mass to the selective (para. 226 (b)) gave the impression that the Committee envisaged relegating the Office from an active to a passive role.

4. He preferred to interpret the Committee's recommendations to mean that the Office should seek, by establishing good relations with organizations and individuals, to stimulate their interest in the dissemination of United Nations information; such an approach might, *inter alia*, lead to economies.

5. The Information Centres should endeavour to utilize local Press and radio facilities which were not under Government control; in that sphere the public relations approach recommended by the Committee of Experts would be appropriate. However, his delegation disagreed with the Committee's recommendation for the suspension of unrelayed broadcasts (para. 260) and with the opinion of three of its members that broadcasts from the floor of the General Assembly and Security Council should be terminated (para. 261). The reasons for failure to relay such broadcasts, especially in countries where the need for information on United Nations activities was most urgent, should receive a thorough investigation, followed by swift remedial action, within the budgetary limitations in force, in the hope that United Nations broadcasts could thus be made freely accessible to all the peoples.

6. His delegation endorsed the Committee's general recommendations (para. 227) and, consequently, the relevant parts of the United Kingdom and French draft resolutions (A/C.5/L.529, A/C.5/L.530). The United States draft resolution (A/C.5/L.527) would be acceptable if the words "To request" in operative paragraph 1 were amended to read "To recommend", and if the reference in that paragraph to recommendations of the Committee of Experts was amended to refer solely to the general recommendations contained in paragraph 227 of that Committee's report. Whatever proposal the Fifth Committee eventually adopted, it should avoid any reference to the other recommendations and comments of the Committee of Experts, and any attempt to limit, by detailed instructions, the Secretary-General's freedom to effect such improvements as he saw fit in the light of the recommendations. The results would be made known at the fourteenth session; it would be interesting to see how far the Secretary-General could reconcile the reduction of expenditure with the improvement of the information service.

7. The recommendation of the Committee of Experts (para. 280) for the establishment of an advisory group was in accordance with the suggestion made in the Fifth Committee at the twelfth session for a group to review the existing public information policy, and the Secretary-General took the view that consultation and assistance from such an advisory body would be useful and appropriate (A/3945, para. 17). Since none

^{1/} See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 41, document A/3741, para. 4.

of the draft resolutions before the Committee mentioned the advisory body, it was to be hoped that representatives would endorse the recommendation in their statements. The group should consist of experts on public information well informed on information media in their own areas, and should be appointed by the Secretary-General from different regions; they need not of necessity be Government representatives. The Secretary-General should determine the group's frequency of meetings and terms of reference. The individual members should keep the Secretary-General advised of the progress made by the information service in their respective areas, and might provide liaison between the Information Centres and public and private information agencies. His delegation agreed with the French representative that the group should have nine to twelve members.

8. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (United States of America) expressed appreciation of the thorough analysis of the report of the Committee of Experts made by previous speakers. Some, however, had interpreted it as recommending drastic curtailment of the use of certain mass information media and of the Secretary-General's responsibility in the information field. The divergency in the interpretation of the report was merely a reflection of the divergency of view in the Committee of Experts itself which had been revealed by the statement of the USSR representative at the 685th meeting.

9. The USSR representative had interpreted paragraphs 227 (a) and (b) of the Committee's report to mean that the Office of Public Information should avoid controversial issues in presenting information about the United Nations; by "controversial issues" he appeared to mean matters on which the Assembly adopted, by a large majority, a decision which conflicted with the Soviet Union's views. He appeared to consider that the Office should avoid communicating to the peoples of the world such documents as the unanimous report of the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary.^{2/} The very existence of such an interpretation made it impossible for the Committee to endorse the recommendations in question, which would be bound to convey the impression that there had been a significant change in United Nations information policy.

10. He categorically denied the USSR representative's charge that the Voice of America had instigated and organized the revolution in Hungary in 1956; most of the peoples of the world understood the causes of the Hungarian revolution, and none better than USSR Government representatives. The USSR representative's contention that the use of Voice of America facilities by the Office would give its broadcasts the stamp of United States foreign policy was in contradiction with his assertion that the Office could rely on governmental broadcasting systems to transmit information factually and without distortion. The use of governmental radio facilities was fully in accordance with General Assembly resolution 424 (V), which invited Member States to facilitate the reception and transmission of the United Nations official broadcasts and which also invited Governments to refrain from interference with the right of their peoples to freedom of information: i.e., from interference by radio operating agencies with the reception of radio signals originating beyond their territories. However, the

^{2/} *Ibid.*, Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 18.

USSR representative's comment that United Nations broadcasts were made in the American manner and appeared to echo American policies was acceptable if it meant that the Office of Public Information endeavoured, as the United States Government did, to make its broadcasts factual and objective.

11. His delegation rejected the USSR representative's charge that United States nationals in the Secretariat were guided in carrying out their functions by United States foreign policy and that such behaviour was natural; that was a regrettable commentary on the Soviet Union's understanding of the obligations of international civil servants whatever their nationality.

12. There was little prospect of reconciling the three draft resolutions before the Committee; his delegation was prepared to consult the delegations of the United Kingdom and France, but its own draft resolution differed fundamentally from theirs. His delegation considered that the recommendations of the Committee of Experts related to matters within the responsibility, competence and administrative field of the Secretary-General, and therefore that the Fifth Committee could not properly endorse or challenge them in a resolution; when it was satisfied that the basic policy was clear, the Committee should draw the Secretary-General's attention to the report and ask him to study the implementation of such other recommendations as he considered consistent with the basic policy and objectives and likely to improve the information programme. No purpose would be served by the unanimous adoption of a resolution which merely concealed a basic disagreement and was open to varying interpretations. Hence his delegation could not accept operative paragraphs 1 to 3 of the United Kingdom draft resolution or operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the French draft resolution, their acceptable features were adequately covered in its own proposal, which had been submitted after it was found impossible to obtain agreement on a single draft following lengthy consultation with other delegations.

13. His delegation felt that the establishment of the advisory group recommended by the Committee of Experts would be unwise at the present juncture. Its composition would present difficulties, and the Secretary-General's conception of such a group differed from that of the French representative. Furthermore disputes within the group might hamper the prompt, versatile and objective use of news which was the duty of the Secretary-General. He believed the time had come for the Secretary-General to make the best possible use of the results produced by the various survey groups and expert committees already instituted. His delegation's draft resolution could be regarded as a vote of confidence in the Secretary-General and as an indication of reliance upon his integrity, his desire to improve the information programme and his intention to make the best possible use of the report of the Committee of Experts.

14. Mr. RYBAR (Czechoslovakia) felt that the recommendations of the Committee of Experts should help to improve the work of the Office of Public Information and perhaps to effect some savings. His delegation endorsed, in particular, the recommendations in paragraphs 227 (a) and (b) of the report and the emphasis placed by the Committee on special efforts to meet the requirements of small or economically under-developed Member States. Primary reliance on

existing channels of information (para. 226 (d)) should obviate some needless expenditure. Application of the principle enunciated in paragraph 227 (c)—that the Office should reflect broad cultural regions in its staffing pattern—should remove some impediments to the Office's work and enable it to attain the objective stated in the revised principles: an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the Organization among the peoples of the world. The Fifth Committee should study carefully the recommendations for reorganization and decentralization of the Office of Public Information. The advisory group recommended in paragraph 280 should be of great assistance to the Secretary-General.

15. His delegation agreed with the Committee of Experts regarding the English and Spanish editions of the United Nations Review (para. 122), which tended to give a superficial and insufficiently comprehensive presentation of controversial questions, and lately often forsook impartiality for propaganda; the articles on trusteeship question in the issues of September 1957 and April 1958 illustrated that point. Instead of concentrating on questions on which the peoples of the world could agree, and on such vital issues as the cessation of atomic weapons tests, the promotion of international trade and cultural relations and the peaceful coexistence of nations, the Review devoted space to controversial matters which involved intervention in the domestic affairs of Member States. An example was the presentation of events in Hungary in the issues of January-April 1957, October 1957 and August 1958, in which official Hungarian information was disregarded or disparaged and information from other sources received undue prominence. His delegation accordingly endorsed the conclusion in paragraph 127 of the report, and the recommendations for a United Nations quarterly (paras. 247-249); it disagreed with the Secretary-General's comment that drastic changes might transform the reviews from magazines to pure reference manuals (A/3945, para. 12). However, it favoured the retention of Everyman's United Nations, the United Nations Yearbook and Basic Facts About the United Nations; they should be published in the official languages and kept up to date annually; translation into other languages should also be encouraged.

16. His delegation would support any draft resolution which effectively ensured the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts.

17. Mr. HUSAIN (Pakistan) congratulated the Committee of Experts on producing a remarkable document. He wished to endorse the tribute it had paid, in the letter transmitting the report, to the devotion and skill of the United Nations information staff.

18. Four questions of principle arose in connexion with the Committee's report. The Fifth Committee had to consider whether the primary object for which the Committee of Experts had been established had been fulfilled, whether that Committee's terms of reference had been exceeded, whether a shift in basic policy had been recommended, and whether the Secretary-General's administrative freedom of action would be hampered if the Committee's recommendations were adopted. The Fifth Committee's attitude to the report would depend on the answers to those questions.

19. The primary purpose of the Committee of Experts

was to suggest worthwhile economies, but according to the Secretary-General's financial analysis (A/3945, annex) no appreciable immediate reduction in expenditure would result from the Committee's recommendations, and no specific suggestions had been made as to how the ultimate ceiling figure of \$4.5 million was to be achieved. Moreover, the decentralization recommended by the Committee might lead to additional expenditure rather than savings.

20. The Committee's terms of reference had been defined by the General Assembly in resolution 1177 (XII), but some earlier speakers who had drawn attention to that resolution had omitted to mention the significant fact that, in operative paragraph 1, the Committee had been requested to undertake its review in the light of the opinions expressed by delegations during the twelfth session of the General Assembly. Statements by the United Kingdom representative at the 607th and 611th meetings and by the United States representative at the 612th meeting had made it plain that the Committee of Experts was to conduct a technical enquiry which would establish the proper level of expenditure, and that such an enquiry must precede any reappraisal of policy, which the Committee would not be required to undertake. The Fifth Committee's report¹ had also made it clear that a further group should be established to review existing information policy only if the findings of the Committee of Experts warranted such a course. Those statements should have left no room for subsequent misinterpretation, and the Pakistan delegation had voted at the 608th meeting for the establishment of the Committee of Experts on the understanding that it would conduct a technical appraisal and not examine basic policy or principles. That understanding had been confirmed by the Controller at the 611th meeting.

21. He accordingly submitted that the Committee of Experts had exceeded its terms of reference in recommending significant changes in policy. Some speakers, including the representative of India (at the 685th meeting) had maintained that no significant changes in policy had been recommended, but the Committee of Experts itself had stated otherwise in its letter transmitting the report. That was a dangerous situation. It might be suggested that even though the Committee might have exceeded its terms of reference, some use might nevertheless be made of its recommendations. He did not agree, believing that if there were to be changes in policy, they should be based not on assumptions and implications but on the clear acceptance of such changes by all parties.

22. The Pakistan delegation emphatically disagreed with the suggested shift in policy from the mass approach through media of mass communication to the selective approach of public relations. The Soviet representative's views, as expressed at the 685th meeting, had given the Fifth Committee a foretaste of what that change might mean, and the United Kingdom representative, who had been obliged to dissociate himself from those views, must have realized what a pitfall paragraph 226 (b) might prove to be. The representatives of the Press working at Headquarters had expressed fears that the services they were receiving would be impaired (A/C.5/757). In that connexion, it should be remembered that many accredited correspondents, especially those from smaller countries, had to cover United Nations activities, and in some

cases also events in the United States, singlehanded, and any reduction in the present system of Press releases would be a severe handicap to them. The Pakistan delegation would be unable to approve the recommendations in paragraph 227 of the report, not because they were intrinsically unacceptable, but because, as the Committee of Experts had stated (para. 226), they were predicated upon changes in basic principles.

23. It was not true that the Secretary-General agreed with the Committee's recommendations on policy. It was clear from paragraphs 8, 9 and 12 of his comments and recommendations (A/3945) that he had not wished to comment on those parts of the report which involved questions of basic principle, but in his opening statement to the Fifth Committee at the 682nd meeting he had said that the United Nations could not endorse the principle of a selective approach. He had further indicated (A/3945, paras. 16 and 17) that implementation of some of the Committee's recommendations might encroach upon his administrative jurisdiction.

24. In brief, the budgetary aspect of the Committee's task had been lost sight of; there was considerable doubt in the Fifth Committee that its terms of reference had been complied with; a shift in policy unacceptable to many delegations had been recommended, and some of the recommendations, if adopted, would tie the Secretary-General's hands. In the circumstances, the Committee's report could not be adopted. The best course would be to follow the suggestion made by the representative of Italy at the 682nd meeting that an item entitled "United Nations Public Information Policy" should be included in the agenda of the fourteenth session. It might also be advisable to establish another larger committee with a clear-cut mandate to examine the basic principles governing United Nations information services and report to the General Assembly.

25. Mr. MEZINCESCU (Romania) commended the Committee of Experts on its report, the value of which was enhanced by the agreement of six experts from such different geographical areas on the difficult subject of United Nations information activities.

26. The core of the problem was the correct interpretation of the basic idea that the United Nations could not achieve the purposes for which it had been established unless the peoples of the world were informed of its aims and activities (A/3928, para. 7). That idea had been interpreted to mean that the Secretariat should be able to speak directly to the peoples of the world, and the information activities of the United Nations had subsequently been developed on the basis of purely subjective views on the availability to the peoples of certain States of information about the aims and activities of the United Nations. That had led to the present situation, in which the Office of Public Information was spending money on radio broadcasts that were not relayed by national networks, publishing costly reviews with a limited distribution which were not intended for any specific category of readers, producing films with a very limited distribution, and maintaining an expensive television service for the benefit of only one or two Member States.

27. The Romanian delegation considered that the basic aim of keeping the peoples of the world informed should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, and therefore fully agreed with the view expressed in paragraph 213 of the Committee's report.

As stated in that paragraph, the United Nations was an Organization of sovereign States, which, according to Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Charter, was based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members. Hence, the United Nations could not authorize one of its organs to speak directly to the people of a State without the consent of the Government concerned.

28. The idea of a direct approach had been defended at the 682nd meeting by the representatives of the United States and Italy, who had made the real meaning of that idea quite clear. The representative of the United States had said that where media of mass communications were not highly developed the Secretary-General must rely upon other means for making information available to those peoples, and had further said that if the Expert Committee had meant to recommend that United Nations radio programmes should not be beamed to any country without a request from or the consent of the Government concerned, its recommendation was obviously unacceptable. The representative of Italy, referring to certain countries where the public information arrangements were to his liking, had said that the four channels recommended by the Committee in paragraph 214 of its report would act not only as filters and transformers but also as "amplifiers" of the information coming from the United Nations. The intention of those two representatives appeared to be that information about the United Nations, coloured to suit the interests of certain Governments, should be disseminated in the name of the United Nations to the peoples of countries whose information arrangements were not to the liking of those two representatives.

29. Such an interpretation could only lead to United Nations information activities serving the ends of the cold war rather than the principles and purposes of the Organization. Article 100 of the Charter required the Secretariat to remain completely impartial. Yet the Office of Public Information was using such well-known cold war propaganda channels as the Voice of America for the transmission of certain radio broadcasts that were not relayed by national networks. Similarly, while the 650 million inhabitants of China were unable to make their voice heard in the General Assembly, the Office of Public Information was using the broadcasting facilities of United States occupation forces in Korea to disseminate information without the consent of the legitimate Government of China. Such practices should be stopped. The Committee of Experts had unanimously recommended that where adequate information use would not be made of Headquarters transmissions from New York, the broadcasts should be suspended (para. 260). Even if the Office of Public Information had unlimited resources, it would not be able to impose its own brand of information on peoples who intended to conduct their own affairs without outside interference.

30. He could give many examples of a lack of objectivity in the work of the Office of Public Information. It often happened, for example, that over nine minutes of the ten-minute broadcasts of certain debates were devoted to statements of the position of the United States and its supporters. The same lack of objectivity appeared in the articles in the United Nations Review; in three articles on technical assistance, totalling twenty pages, that appeared in the issues of February, March and April, 1958, the only reference to the con-

tribution of Eastern European countries was an entry in the list of contributions for 1957 showing that the Soviet Union had contributed \$1 million. Immediately after that reference care had been taken to add that the United States share was much the greatest. No mention had been made of the contributions of such countries as Poland and Czechoslovakia. The same lack of objectivity was displayed in the Review's treatment of the third emergency special session of the General Assembly. Moreover, in addition to introducing an element of opinion, as the Committee of Experts had stated (para. 127), the Review carried advertisements for publications of a plainly propaganda nature. The Review, far from serving the aims of the United Nations, was actually harmful, and the situation would not be improved by converting it into a quarterly publication unless the editorial policy were radically changed.

31. The representative of Pakistan had maintained that the Committee of Experts had exceeded its terms of reference, but the Romanian delegation considered that the reference in operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1177 (XII) to possible modifications had entitled the Committee to propose changes in information policy. Moreover, the Secretary-General had referred to the reappraisal of basic information policy in paragraph 5 of his memorandum of 14 March 1958 (A/3928, annex) and to the extent of the services acceptable to Member Nations, in paragraph 6.

32. The Committee's recommendations should be of the greatest assistance to the Secretary-General in discharging his responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of Article 100 of the Charter, and the Romanian delegation hoped that after analysing the Committee's report in the light of his own memorandum and the views of the majority of the Fifth Committee, he would accept the Committee's conclusions.

33. In addition, his delegation considered that there should be a thorough review of the geographical distribution of the staff of the information services with a view to ensuring that all geographical areas and shades of opinion in the United Nations were represented at all levels.

34. The Romanian delegation considered that United Nations information activities could and must be carried out within the limit of \$4.5 million proposed by the Advisory Committee^{3/} and referred to in the fourth preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 1177 (XII). The Committee of Experts had considered that figure a reasonable basis for planning (para. 278).

35. His delegation also supported the Committee's recommendation for the establishment of a Bureau of Planning and Co-ordination.

36. Mr. TING (China), speaking on a point of order, said that the Romanian representative had raised a political issue that was irrelevant to the matter under discussion.

37. Mr. ALLENDE (Chile) said that his delegation believed that the United Nations Review should be an effective means of disseminating information about the Organization's main activities. In its present form, however, the Review and particularly the Spanish edition, aroused little interest. The Spanish edition should

preferably contain information about activities undertaken by the United Nations and its specialized agencies in Asia, Africa and Europe, while the French and English editions should be devoted to the economic and social programmes being carried out with United Nations assistance, in Latin America. In that way, the Review would promote better intercontinental understanding and a better idea of the true significance of the many-sided work of the United Nations.

38. As his delegation had frequently stated in the past, the Spanish edition of the Review should be prepared at the Economic Commission for Latin America headquarters and not in New York; it should continue to be printed in Mexico. That would mark a further step towards the decentralization of the United Nations public information services and would result in a publication which was much better adapted to local circumstances. He urged the Secretary-General to consider that suggestion which had the support of several Latin-American delegations.

39. His delegation did not agree with the recommendation of the Committee of Experts that publication of the Review should be suspended. Instead of replacing it by another publication of problematical value, steps should be taken to ensure that the information it contained, which should reach all educational centres and libraries throughout the world, was of greater current interest.

40. Mr. AHANEEN (Iran) said he had found that most of the criticisms of the report of the Committee of Experts stemmed from a too hasty reading of the text. He had been rather impressed by the sense of responsibility and the realistic insight which the experts had displayed. The report was an admirably clear study presenting, for the first time, a complete picture of United Nations public information activities. It should be discussed dispassionately with a view to finding the best means of implementing the basic principles underlying the information policy within the limited funds at the Organization's disposal.

41. As the Secretary-General had pointed out in his opening statement, there appeared to be full agreement on three basic principles: strict objectivity in the presentation of facts, the adjustment of public information activities to the natural idioms of various parts of the world, and universality of information or the need to try to reach all parts of the world on as equal a basis as possible. Those principles summed up the basic revised principles approved by General Assembly resolution 595 (VI). They had obviously been borne in mind by the experts, who had sought to find the most appropriate and realistic ways of implementing them in the light of past practice and experience.

42. A major misconception had arisen with regard to the Committee's recommendation concerning a shift of emphasis to the "selective approach" and the use of existing channels. It was inevitable that the man in the street should have doubts about the objectivity, impartiality and universality of the selective approach as opposed to the direct mass approach. In actual fact, however, in the modern context of public information, any direct mass approach was automatically a selective approach because it was impossible, even theoretically, for everybody to be informed of every fact without an intermediary. Any operation of "mass approach through media of mass communication" was inevitably

^{3/} Ibid., Twelfth Session, Supplement No. 7, paras. 26-39.

bound to be selective or to operate through selected intermediaries and channels. Accordingly, the question was not one of choice between the direct mass approach and the selective approach but rather between various selective approaches, the criterion being which would best serve the ultimate purpose of the universal, free and full flow of information.

43. In those circumstances, the Committee of Experts had concluded—with considerable justification—that the basic principles could be carried into effect most practically and realistically by a shift of emphasis to public relations and by working through existing organizations and individuals. As the Indian representative had clearly explained at the 685th meeting, reliance on the services of existing official and private agencies of information, on educational institutions and on non-governmental organizations was fully in accord with the basic principles and might yield greater results at less cost, as it would permit the United Nations to reach the people better.

44. Most of the recommendations in the report were the result of a careful balance between the need to achieve the fundamental objectives in the most efficient and realistic way and to observe the prescribed financial limitations, which called for a whole system of priorities, selective operations and economies. The question of priorities was thoroughly analysed in paragraph 222.

45. He fully endorsed the experts' views on the Information Centres (paras. 185—199). His delegation attached great importance to the need for developing and organizing the centres in the light of the Committee's recommendations. The Information Centres were much more important in the less developed areas than in capitals such as London, Paris or Washington where they might be duplicating the work of existing private or official bodies. Such centres would be particularly valuable in or near Trust Territories, as the free and full flow of information was important in preparing the people of those Territories for the attainment of the objectives of the International Trusteeship System.

46. His delegation had some reservations about the experts' recommendations on broadcasting. It was indeed a matter of concern that there were whole regions of the world, where reception was extremely poor. Such conditions made it difficult for national radio networks to relay United Nations broadcasts and for private listeners to benefit from them. Nevertheless, the solutions proposed by the Committee were not the most appropriate. The unwillingness of a national radio network to relay United Nations broadcasts, whatever its motive, was not sufficient reason to suspend such broadcasts. It was a matter of principle that all people, whatever the attitude of their Government, should have the opportunity of benefiting from the impartial and extremely useful United Nations broadcasts.

47. He agreed with the Committee of Experts that the broadcasts should not dwell on the differences separating peoples and nations but should emphasize the constructive role of international co-operation. Once that pattern took shape, additional efforts should be made to increase the technical efficiency of the broadcasts and to encourage Member States to relay them. There was no reason why the use of two-way circuits, which had proved so successful in India and Pakistan, could not be generally extended to all regions where

reception was poor. His delegation shared the Secretary-General's views on radio broadcasts (A/3945, para. 10) and it had been surprised to find that the actual practice of the Office of Public Information, at least in its relations with Iran, coincided more with the views and recommendations of the Committee of Experts than with those expressed by the Secretary-General. It was regrettable that the five-minute daily news summary in Persian, a language spoken widely even beyond the frontiers of Iran, had ceased, in spite of the formal request for its continuation by the Permanent Mission of Iran. The broadcasts had been suspended on the grounds that receiving conditions were extremely poor and that the Iranian radio network was not relaying the programme. That did not justify the decision, which ran counter to the views held by the Secretary-General himself.

48. His delegation endorsed the Committee's recommendations on a Bureau of Planning and Co-ordination, on the Press and Publications Division, on publications, photographs and films. Provided that objectivity and impartiality were maintained, the principle of projecting the United Nations and its activities in a manner and form which led to "identification of people with the United Nations and not estrangement", was worthy of serious consideration. The example of a film such as Danny Kaye's "Assignment Children" should be followed. He welcomed the Committee's emphasis on the need for local use of resources and talent whenever possible and economically justified. He was glad to note that it was in favour of stimulating local productions and had recommended that, in film activities, special attention should be paid to the needs of the less developed areas.

49. It would be regrettable to discontinue the French edition of the Review which was sober and factual and had proved extremely useful to students and scholars. He believed the same was not true of the English and Spanish editions, to which the criticisms expressed in paragraph 122 of the report applied.

50. He endorsed the experts' recommendation concerning the establishment of an advisory group, but agreed with the French representative that the membership of the group should be increased to between nine and twelve so that the main cultural groups and languages could be represented.

51. In conclusion he expressed the hope that the discussions would lead to the unanimous adoption of a compromise resolution endorsing the three basic principles outlined by the Secretary-General.

52. Mr. ANCHISSI (Guatemala) introduced the draft resolution in document A/C.5/L.533.

53. The report of the Committee of Experts was a thorough and important study and bore witness to the spirit of co-operation existing among the experts, to whom the Fifth Committee owed a debt of gratitude.

54. The Secretary-General should be given some discretion in carrying out the Organization's public information programme, as he might have to deal with emergency situations which could not be foreseen by the General Assembly. Too strict a financial limitation, moreover, might seriously affect both the quantity and quality of the information services.

55. If an advisory group were to be established, and he doubted whether it was really necessary, it should

consist of at least ten members so that all regions of the world could be represented.

56. Mr. PAREJA (Peru) said that the fundamental objective was to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the public information activities at the minimum cost. The recommendations of the Committee of Experts were obviously directed to that end. Equally obviously, however, the Secretary-General must be given all the latitude and authority he required. According to the Charter, he was the chief administrative officer of the Organization and it was for him to determine the structure and functions of the Secretariat. He (Mr. Pareja) was in entire agreement with the United States representative's remarks in that connexion.

57. The United States draft resolution would ensure the objectives his delegation sought, as operative paragraph 1 was designed to achieve maximum efficiency of the information services, while operative paragraph 2 implied the need for making all possible economies. The draft resolution refrained, however, from referring specifically to the ceiling of \$4.5 million, which would tie the Secretary-General's hands. For the moment, therefore, his delegation was inclined to support the United States draft resolution.

58. In conclusion, he emphasized that the United Nations Review should be kept as a monthly publication. It might be improved and made more dynamic, but if it were replaced by a quarterly it would lose most of its current interest.

59. Mr. ANDONI (Albania) associated himself with those speakers who had expressed appreciation to the experts for their valuable report, which gave an excellent analysis of United Nations public information services. All Members of the United Nations would agree on the need to improve and extend the public information services in the interests of international co-operation. At the same time, however, the Organization's financial possibilities must be borne in mind. The Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee had stated in the past that the level of expenditure on public information activities should be reduced and the steady increase in the budget made it imperative to fix a ceiling. He therefore supported the inclusion in the

French draft resolution of a reference to a ceiling of \$4.5 million.

60. The Committee of Experts had made valuable recommendations as to how United Nations public information activities could be most effectively conducted within budgetary limitations. The Office of Public Information must obviously rely on existing organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, and work through the Governments of Member States and selective groups of individuals and organizations. He fully agreed, therefore, with the Committee's recommendation for a shift of emphasis to the selective approach. He also agreed with the Committee's other recommendations, particularly those in paragraphs 227 and 259 of its report.

61. Particular attention should be given to ensuring the objectivity and impartiality of United Nations information. Greater emphasis should be placed on problems on which agreement had been reached and success achieved, rather than on controversial issues, which had to be treated with extreme caution. He doubted whether the cause of the United Nations could best be served by over-publicizing controversial issues on which much work remained to be done. He agreed with the Secretary-General that the United Nations should not indulge in propaganda for itself or for any of the positions taken within the Organization. He assumed from that statement that the Secretary-General intended to take personal control over the matter and that the mistakes perpetrated by the Office of Public Information in the past would not be repeated.

62. He fully agreed with the experts' recommendations on the Radio Service (para. 259). Every broadcast should be made in co-operation with and with the consent of the national radio network. Unrelayed broadcasts were a useless waste of money and labour and should cease.

63. In conclusion he said that the Committee must take some action on the report of the Expert Committee. In his view, it should endorse the Committee's recommendations and thank it for its valuable work.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.