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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) (continued)**

1. Mr. MARSCHIK (Austria) said that his delegation considered that United Nations information activities were of great importance to the work of the Organization as a whole, and was therefore grateful to the Committee of Experts on United Nations Public Information for having provided an extensive report (A/3928) to serve as a basis for discussion. The Austrian Government had previously informed that Committee of its view that the United Nations should pay special attention to the particular circumstances of the countries that information material was designed to reach, that that material should therefore be adapted to local conditions as far as possible, and that close contact with the Press was advisable not only at Headquarters but also in the countries concerned. The Committee appeared to share that view, since it recommended in its report the strengthening of United Nations information centres and the regional and local production of information materials (paras. 241, 259 (e), 271 and 274). It was also shared by the Secretary-General.

2. However, although there was no doubt that material produced regionally would generally be more effective, special care would have to be taken to ensure that it was completely objective. The Committee of Experts had stressed that point in its general recommendations (para. 227 (a)), but he considered that the Committee might have given it greater prominence in its specific recommendations. If, for example, the shift of emphasis recommended in paragraph 226 (b) and paragraph 214 of the report had the effect of substituting official channels for the media of mass communication, it might adversely affect the objective presentation of information, without necessarily leading to its more extensive dissemination.

3. He was glad to note that both the Committee of Experts and the Secretary-General, like his own delegation, attached particular importance to the work of the Information Centres. The network of information

centres should therefore be improved and extended, and special attention should be given to the qualifications of the staff. As the Committee of Experts stated in paragraph 191 of its report, it was clear that a centre director must have a basic understanding of the region concerned. That did not, however, imply that he must be a national of the country where the centre was situated, which might lead to national considerations interfering with the dissemination of objective information about the United Nations. For the same reason, it would be a mistake to make too great a reduction in the information staff at Headquarters, since even if regional production of information material was increased, the basic material would still have to be provided from Headquarters.

4. He wished to reiterate his delegation's plea that a United Nations information centre should be established at Vienna. The German-speaking region of Central Europe should be adequately covered by United Nations information activities, and such a centre would be particularly well situated at Vienna. The Viennese Press had a long tradition in Central Europe, Viennese radio and television services had considerable experience in programme exchange and in the production of joint international programmes, and Vienna was the centre of a highly-developed film industry. Moreover, close co-operation between an information centre at Vienna and the recently established International Atomic Energy Agency should be beneficial to United Nations public information activities as a whole. Austria was as yet the only German-speaking country that was a Member of the United Nations, so that if there was to be an information centre in the German-speaking region, it should be situated in the Member State. Those arguments had frequently been presented to the Secretariat, but so far without result.

5. With regard to the specific recommendations of the Committee of Experts, the Austrian delegation did not consider it advisable to suspend short-wave broadcasts to countries that were not willing to relay them; it was important that the United Nations should speak directly to the people of the world, and his delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the equality of all five official languages should be maintained.

6. The Committee of Experts had recommended in its report (paras. 51 and 52) a reduction in press releases on meetings of the General Assembly and its principal organs. It should be borne in mind, however, that many correspondents accredited to the United Nations, especially those representing smaller countries, also had to undertake assignments outside the United Nations; in view of the heavy burden of work of such correspondents, the Austrian delegation welcomed all the technical services and assistance provided for them.

7. His delegation would not object to the English and Spanish editions of the United Nations Review appearing quarterly, if the Fifth Committee decided that that would be advisable, but it was strongly in favour of continuing monthly publication of the French edition.

8. With regard to the administrative changes proposed in the Office of Public Information, his delegation had some difficulty in reaching a decision on that question, because of the highly specialized character of the offices concerned. Nevertheless, Austria would support the recommendations regarding the special qualifications of information staff (A/3928, para. 191) and those regarding greater flexibility and the rotation of staff between field offices and Headquarters (*ibid.*, para. 198).

9. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) said that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 595 (VI), his delegation considered that United Nations information activities must be carried out within the budgetary limitations imposed, and that any improvements based on the recommendations of the Committee of Experts should not result in any added financial burden for Member States, especially those that were under-developed, but should be financed by economies in the less important information activities. His comments on the report should be considered in the light of his observations at the 614th meeting (twelfth session), and of paragraphs 2 and 4 of the revised basic principles governing the information activities of the United Nations approved by the General Assembly in resolution 595 (VI).

10. His delegation attached great importance to radio broadcasts, and considered that the Arabic half-hour broadcasts referred to in paragraph 66 of the report should also be provided for Afghanistan, Iran and Ethiopia, since the broadcasts were made on the basis of language rather than of population. Although Afghanistan appreciated the daily programmes in Dari, it would like to receive broadcasts in its other official national language, Pushtu.

11. Films were a valuable means of information and education in all countries with a high level of illiteracy. According to paragraph 102 of the report, sixty-eight documentary films about the United Nations had been produced during the last twelve years, but paragraph 109 stated that they had not received effective distribution. If some of those films could be made available in the languages of Member States, he did not believe that there would be any difficulty in finding audiences for them. In the past Afghanistan had tried in vain to obtain such films; mobile cinemas existed in that country, and if local language versions were available, they could be shown widely both there and in many other countries.

12. Afghanistan supported the statement in paragraph 152 of the report on the importance of educating children about the United Nations. That was primarily the responsibility of Member States, but those States, especially the under-developed countries, would be greatly helped in that task if suitable materials could be prepared by the Education Section and distributed by the Information Centres. That branch of United Nations activity should be expanded with the advice and assistance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and in close co-operation with the ministries of education of Member States.

13. With regard to the Information Centres, in the light of the recommendations of the 1955 Survey Group referred to in paragraph 188 of the report and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1086 (XI), Afghanistan had asked that an information centre should be established in its territory. Information work in Afghanistan was at present carried out by the centre at Teheran. That centre catered only to the Persian-speaking population of Afghanistan, and not to either the 10 million people in Afghanistan or the over 5 million people of Afghan origin on the eastern and southern frontiers of Afghanistan who spoke Pushtu. If, for reasons of economy, it was not possible to open a new centre in Afghanistan, then the staff of the Teheran centre should be made available to Afghanistan on a system of rotation, since the Teheran centre had been established for Afghanistan as well as Iran. He hoped that the Secretary-General would take the necessary steps to meet the Afghan Government's repeated requests that the arrangements regarding information for Afghanistan should be improved. He believed that the delegation of Iran would endorse Afghanistan's views on that question.

14. His delegation in general supported the recommendations of the Committee of Experts, especially those on radio programmes in paragraph 259, on films in paragraph 272, and on information centres in paragraphs 238, 240 and 243. It also supported the proposals in paragraph 280 relating to the submission of annual reports by the Secretary-General and the establishment of an advisory group, but considered that the group should consist of between nine and twelve members.

15. Mr. RUEDA VARGAS (Colombia) said that he would refrain from commenting on any questions of policy raised in chapter VI of the report of the Committee of Experts, as a review of the basic principles had not formed part of the experts' terms of reference as set out in operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1177 (XII). He would confine himself to the organization of the public information services, on which the Committee of Experts had made a number of valuable recommendations. The implementation of those recommendations could be entrusted to the Secretary-General, acting in consultation with the advisory group recommended by the Committee of Experts and accepted in principle by the Secretary-General. The non-governmental organizations, both international and national, should be invited to co-operate in the group's work.

16. There was some divergence of view between the Committee of Experts and the Secretary-General on the Committee's recommendation that the Office of Public Information should work increasingly through Governments and select groups of individuals and organizations. It was obvious that the Office of Public Information had neither the budgetary resources nor the staff to provide all the peoples of the world with information on the aims and activities of the United Nations. Recourse must therefore be had to the goodwill and co-operation of individuals and of governmental and non-governmental organizations prepared to serve as rediffusion agents at the national and local level in conformity with the general policy and standards laid down by Headquarters and the Information Centres.

17. That system was already in use but it could be more effectively and intensively applied throughout the

world. He did not think that there was any danger that the individuals and organizations concerned would become "filters and transformers" or that the information supplied by the United Nations would lose any of its objectivity, impartiality or universality. There was no question of Governments being the sole agent for disseminating information about the United Nations, but merely of appealing to them to do more in that direction. Information policy would continue to be determined and basic materials prepared at Headquarters, but a certain degree of flexibility would be allowed in deciding how that general policy was to be applied in each particular country; the choice of information media, for example, could obviously be left to the diffusion agents. The Secretary-General feared such a policy "might leave it to each nation to emphasize the purposes and communicate the decisions of the Organization to the people in a way adjusted to the requirements of its interests" (A/3945, para. 7). As the Committee of Experts had found, in many cases the most effective means of informing the public about the United Nations was to let the people see the effect on their own lives of the activities, say, of the Technical Assistance Administration and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Once the individual became aware of what the United Nations was doing in his own country or his own community, he could gradually be brought to an understanding of the principles and purposes of the Organization and of the fact that its membership and benefits were world-wide.

18. The general trend of the Committee's report and of the discussion in the Fifth Committee was that the public information services should be more decentralized; the Headquarters Office should concentrate on giving general guidance and the Information Centres should assume greater importance at the national and regional level, working with governmental and non-governmental organizations, individuals and institutions. The number of information centres should be increased and there should be much more rotation of staff between the centres and Headquarters. It would appear from the Committee's report that the public information services needed revitalizing. That could be achieved, in part, by appointing officials with experience in the centres to policy-making posts at Headquarters; too many of the present higher-level staff at Headquarters had never served elsewhere.

19. The experts stated in paragraph 191 of the report that the qualifications necessary for centre directors had not always been given due weight and in paragraph 194 that there was a feeling among the information personnel overseas that their services' interests suffered by reason of their absence from Headquarters. General experience would seem to confirm those points of view.

20. In many countries the centre directors were regarded as the representatives of the Secretary-General or the Organization. Accordingly they should not only be able diplomats but they should also have great experience of information work together with an intimate knowledge of the language, customs and habits of the countries in their regions. He personally had had an opportunity to get to know several directors of the Information Centres and he wished to pay a tribute to the devotion with which they worked to supply complete, objective and impartial information about the United Nations.

21. One of the chief problems of the centre directors was their feeling that the staff at Headquarters did not fully understand local problems and based all their decisions on world considerations. He was sure that that difficulty would gradually disappear with the increased decentralization not only of the Office of Public Information but also of the other Departments in the Secretariat. The centre directors were also concerned about the load of administrative work they had to bear, the inadequate technical equipment at the centres, the lack of promotion opportunities while away from Headquarters, the fact that when new centres were established or vacancies occurred in existing centres, the posts were not always filled by personnel from the centres but sometimes by staff from other departments of the Secretariat with little or no experience in the field of information, and, finally, the entertainment expenses involved in their official position, a large part of which had to be met from their own pockets.

22. If the activities of the Information Centres were to be strengthened, the centres must have experienced and suitable staff. As matters stood, some staff members hesitated to accept the drawbacks of prolonged absence from Headquarters: the adjustment to foreign conditions for themselves and their families, educational problems, loss of contact with their country of origin and a heavy financial burden. The process of decentralization should therefore be accompanied by a rotation of personnel between Headquarters and the Information Centres and by the provision of some incentives, including more frequent promotion opportunities, to compensate for the disadvantages of service away from Headquarters.

23. It had so far been a general rule, subject however to some exceptions, not to appoint as centre directors nationals of the country where the centre was situated. In many cases a national of the country would have information and connexions that would enable him to do his work far more effectively. On the other hand, many countries would not grant to their own nationals the privileges and immunities granted to international officials from other countries. Furthermore, foreigners were immune from the type of criticism of their personal contacts and opinions, and particularly political opinions, which might be levelled against a national of the country. The Secretary-General should take a decision in the light of the debate and lay down a generally applicable rule on the nationality of centre directors.

24. It was regrettable that locally recruited staff at the centres did not always enjoy the best prevailing local conditions of employment, particularly in so far as social welfare was concerned. In Latin America, for example, a termination grant was generally paid to all employees who had completed one year's service. The Information Centres applied the Headquarters Staff Regulations and Rules to local employees rather than the local legislation. That had kept many excellent candidates from seeking employment with the centres and had given rise to various suits against the United Nations in the local courts. The negative publicity resulting from such cases could destroy the public information work of many years. Quite apart from legal considerations, therefore, the Information Centres should comply strictly with the local legislation in the treatment of locally recruited staff.

25. The experts' recommendations on the reorganization of the Information Centres were rather vague and fragmentary. The Secretary-General should therefore be asked to prepare a study on the planned development of the Information Centres, dealing in detail with the expansion of the existing centres and the establishment of new centres as well as with the staffing, functioning and specific purposes of each centre within the general programme of public information activities. The proposed increase of four in the number of Professional staff employed in the Information Centres (A/3945, annex, para. 7) did not indicate a marked trend towards decentralization and the Secretary-General should be asked to modify that figure in view of the need for a more rapid decentralization.

26. He attached the greatest importance to the Committee's recommendation that responsibility for liaison with the non-governmental organizations should be vested in the proposed Bureau of Planning and Co-ordination. He was glad to note that the Secretary-General was in agreement. The non-governmental organizations played a vital part in the process of informing the peoples of the world about the United Nations. In Colombia, those organizations, which had formed the National Committee for Co-operation with the United Nations, were not only disseminating information but had taken the initiative in organizing certain community development projects to which he would refer later. If those projects were to be successful, the non-governmental organizations must be able to count on the assistance, or at least the advice, of the United Nations Information Centres and the Fifth Committee should therefore perhaps consider what attitude the Office of Public Information should take towards such activities which were, strictly speaking, within the competence of other Departments of the United Nations Secretariat. Should the Information Centres, for instance, seek the co-operation of the substantive Departments in the Secretariat in connexion with such projects? He agreed with the observation reported by the Committee of Experts in paragraph 197 of its report that "the function of a centre... is to be a catalytic agent, and is to marry the interests of the specialists in the community with all the various interests which are being expressed in the different Councils of the United Nations". That might imply their participation in the sort of projects to which he had referred.

27. Everything possible should be done to strengthen the ties between Headquarters and the national and international non-governmental organizations on all matters of general policy; regional and national relations could be left to the Information Centres. Both types of contact could be achieved through regional conferences with the participation of non-governmental organizations. His delegation would also support any programme such as the Senior Study Programme which gave persons active in national and international non-governmental organizations an opportunity of spending a short time at Headquarters or at the Information Centres. In those countries where there was as yet no United Nations association, the non-governmental organizations should be invited to form such an association, as their efforts would be more effective if co-ordinated. That suggestion should initially come from the highest possible level at Headquarters. Once the suggestion had been made by

Headquarters, the Information Centres could help to carry it into effect.

28. He agreed with the Committee's recommendation that the production of pamphlets and publications, and particularly those dealing with United Nations Day, in the various countries should be entrusted to governmental and non-governmental agencies. That would lead to considerable savings. He also agreed with the suggestion that the officials responsible for maintaining contact with the Press should seek to interest correspondents in the economic, social, humanitarian and cultural activities of the United Nations, which were vitally important to the achievement of the objectives of the Charter, although less spectacular than political events.

29. The international news agencies with offices at United Nations Headquarters might co-operate with the Secretary-General in equipping a room with teletype machines transmitting news reports and in particular those from abroad. In that way delegations and information officers in the Secretariat would have access at all times to news reports from all parts of the world, which were not always published in full in the New York newspapers. He hoped the Secretary-General would give attention to that suggestion. The services offered to Press correspondents at Headquarters should be maintained at their present level, as the correspondents and news agencies were the main channel upon which the Organization must count for the daily dissemination of information on its activities to all corners of the world. If a new United Nations quarterly was to be substituted for the present monthly review, as suggested by the Committee of Experts, it should also be published in Spanish.

30. He agreed with the view expressed by three members of the Committee of Experts that direct broadcasts from the floor of the General Assembly and the Security Council should be retained (A/3928, para. 261). The production of recorded programmes might be decentralized and entrusted to the Information Centres, with corresponding savings.

31. There was no adequate textbook to serve as the basis for teaching about the United Nations in secondary schools. Various countries had included teaching about the United Nations in the official school curricula, but it had not been possible to carry that provision into effect owing to the lack of the necessary teaching materials. The Office of Public Information should continue to give that problem attention in consultation with UNESCO, national education authorities and the non-governmental organizations. Nor was there an educational film on the structure and functions of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the Radio and Visual Services Division should give priority to that project.

32. It was regrettable that the Committee of Experts had been unable to visit the United Nations Information Centre in Bogotá, which served not only Colombia but also Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. The development of United Nations public information activities in Colombia was an admirable example of how the dissemination of information about the United Nations could be expanded through the concerted action of the Office of Public Information, and the Information Centres on the one hand and national groups, mainly non-governmental organizations, on the other.

33. Up to 1951—that was to say as long as information about the United Nations had come only from Headquarters and through news agency cables—the information published had been virtually non-existent, but with the establishment first of all of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee and later, in 1954, of the Information Centre at Bogotá, the dissemination of information and teaching about the United Nations had steadily expanded and Colombia was now one of the Latin-American countries where public opinion was best informed about the United Nations. Since 1954, the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee had persuaded the Government to print the pamphlets and other material submitted by Headquarters free of charge for United Nations Day and that material was distributed throughout the country. It was noteworthy that there had been no question of "filtering" or "transforming", as the publications had been reproduced word for word from models supplied by Headquarters.

34. Once the non-governmental organizations in Colombia had established the machinery for disseminating information about the United Nations, they had turned their attention to activities more directly designed to promote the work of the United Nations. Examples of such activities were preparations for the UNICEF BCG-vaccination campaign, which was an example of tripartite co-operation between the people, the Government and the United Nations, and the pilot community development project at Tabio.

35. In conclusion, he analysed the three draft resolutions before the Committee to show that all three were designed to achieve the same objective and had many points in common. It should be possible to combine them into a single text, which should also include the other suggestions and recommendations made during the discussion.

36. Mr. SCHIVE (Norway) said that although the Committee of Experts had assembled valuable material and raised important questions, there was a lack of precision in some of its conclusions. Several speakers had minimized the importance of the change of policy recommended, but the Committee itself, in its letter transmitting the report, had said that it recommended significant changes in policy and organization. Changes in policy such as the shift of emphasis recommended in paragraphs 217 and 226 had led to practical proposals such as the proposal to discontinue unrelayed broadcasts in paragraph 260. As the Committee's recommendations had caused misgivings, the Norwegian delegation considered it vital that the General Assembly should reaffirm the basic principle that the United Nations should have the right to speak to the peoples of the world without the risk of interference from governmental or private agencies. That would not exclude the maximum co-operation with such agencies and with individuals. With regard to radio, if the United Nations broadcasts could not be heard, the transmissions should be improved. The right of the United Nations to approach all peoples directly was so important that some sacrifice to maintain it would be justified.

37. The Norwegian delegation had hoped that the Committee of Experts would give more specific indications as to how money could be saved without significant impairment of the services. He doubted whether the proposal that more of the burden should be assumed by governmental agencies was realistic, since

it was not certain that national budgets would permit any considerable increase in the activities of such agencies. According to the Secretary-General's financial analysis (A/3945, annex) of the Committee's recommendations, the savings that would result from their adoption were not substantial. Some speakers in the Fifth Committee had suggested how money could be saved, but others had made suggestions that would lead to additional expenditure. He was inclined to agree with the statement made by the representative of the Netherlands at the 685th meeting that a ceiling figures of \$4.5 million was unrealistic in the present circumstances.

38. He therefore considered that the best course would be to adopt a resolution stating the basic principles of policy and inviting the Secretary-General to make a careful study of the Committee's recommendations and the suggestions made during the Fifth Committee's debate, with a view to reporting to the General Assembly at its fourteenth session. If advisers were to assist the Secretary-General, such an arrangement should be as informal as possible. The comprehensive material made available by the Committee of Experts was being studied not only by the Fifth Committee, but by all who were working in an official or private capacity in the field of United Nations information, and it would hence be useful if public opinion, too, had the opportunity of making its views known after there had been sufficient time to study the Committee's report and the Fifth Committee debate.

39. The Norwegian delegation was at present generally in agreement with the United States draft resolution (A/C.5/L.527); it would not favour any resolution tending to bind the hands of the Secretary-General before he had considered the question further.

40. In the opinion of Mr. AL HAMDANI (Yemen), the approach to the task of the Office of Public Information proposed by the Committee of Experts was in essence largely a restatement of the Office's existing policy. Furthermore his delegation was not convinced that the Office could speak directly to the people throughout the world on a budget of \$4 million to \$5 million a year.

41. With regard to media recommended for the dissemination of United Nations information, the list of governmental agencies, persons and organizations given in paragraph 214 of the Committee's report should not be regarded as limitative. One contention advanced during the discussion, namely, that the Office should not depend on the services of governmental agencies, conflicted with the basic principle set out in paragraph 4 (b) of annex I to the Committee's report—that the Office should, *inter alia*, primarily assist and rely upon the services of existing official agencies of information; the considerations underlying that principle were still valid. Moreover, in view of the existing budgetary limitations, there was some conflict between the thesis that information should be imparted directly to the peoples and the view that the Information Centres should be strengthened otherwise than at the expense of Headquarters.

42. The Fifth Committee should ask the Secretary-General to implement in the coming year those of the Committee's recommendations which would ensure that media of information were used most effectively at the lowest possible cost. His delegation supported

the Committee's proposal (para. 280) for the establishment of an advisory group with the functions defined by the Secretary-General at the 682nd meeting.

43. Mr. CARRILLO (El Salvador) considered that the Committee's recommendations were sound, but that the Secretary-General should not be asked to put them all into practice before Governments had studied them fully. Other delegations had expressed doubts regarding some of the recommendations, and he shared those expressed by the French representative at the 684th meeting concerning the monthly reviews; his delegation had no objection to the institution of a United Nations quarterly (A/3928, para. 247), but the monthly reviews should be improved rather than discontinued.

44. His delegation was in favour of structural changes to improve the efficiency of the Office of Public Information, subject to the budgetary limitations in force. Most delegations would agree that, if the United Nations was to achieve its purposes, news of its activities must be broadly disseminated through all available media, and that every effort should be made to achieve maximum effectiveness at the lowest possible cost. On the other hand it was unwise to set an arithmetical limit to expenditure on public information, for, it must be remembered, whatever amount was fixed its purchasing power would fluctuate; the Secretary-General should be allowed some latitude in fixing the amount within the over-all budgetary limit set by the Committee.

45. It appeared from the annex to the Secretary-General's comments and recommendations (A/3945) that the Secretary-General agreed to the structural changes in the Office of Public Information proposed by the Committee of Experts, and the latter's recommendations regarding the Information Centres seemed likely to be accepted; according to paragraph 8 of the annex, they should produce a saving of some \$135,000 in direct staff costs. His delegation was ready to support a proposal to give effect to the recommendations, and the United States draft resolution was the most acceptable proposal so far presented.

46. He asked the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a United Nations information centre in the Isthmus of Central America; at present Latin America had only five such centres, four in South America and one in Mexico.

47. Agents and agencies for the sale of United Nations publications should be chosen from among those of recognized standing in their area of operation, and the arrangements made with them should be such as to encourage them to co-operate enthusiastically in the dissemination of United Nations information.

48. He supported the Tunisian representative's suggestion made at the 682nd meeting for the publication of press releases in French and asked the Secretary-General to study the possibility of producing them also in Spanish.

49. It was perhaps over-ambitious to envisage the formation of a world-wide list of subscribers to the Journal of the United Nations; it might, however, be worthwhile to consider the re-establishment of a fortnightly publication on the lines described by the Cuban representative at the previous meeting.

50. Mr. LILIC (Yugoslavia) observed that there was general agreement that the aim of the Office of Public

Information should be to give as many of the people of the world as possible the most objective possible knowledge of the purposes and activities of the United Nations, paying special attention to the needs of individual regions and using the appropriate languages. It was also generally agreed that the Office should remain within the budgetary limitations imposed.

51. The Committee of Experts had adhered to the basic principles laid down in General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI); his delegation strongly endorsed its general recommendations (A/3928, para. 227). The differences of view on methods, practice and organization which, during the discussion, had emerged between the Committee of Experts, the Secretary-General and certain delegations should not prevent the Committee from dealing constructively with the problem of public information; the statement by the Secretary-General at the 682nd meeting had been reassuring in that respect. His delegation favoured the establishment of the advisory body described in that statement; unlike the Committee of Experts, however, his delegation considered that it should have at least ten members.

52. All three draft resolutions called upon the Secretary-General to report at the fourteenth session on the progress made in implementing the Committee's recommendations. He appealed to the Chairman to use his good offices to reconcile the views of the sponsors of the three proposals, eliminating any controversial matter and introducing a provision for the advisory body already referred to. It was to be hoped that the resultant single proposal could be adopted unanimously.

53. Mr. LAWRENCE (New Zealand) felt that the representatives of the United Arab Republic, India and the United Kingdom had clearly demonstrated that the misgivings aroused by the report of the Committee of Experts among the representatives of various communication media had been unfounded, and that the Committee had kept within its terms of reference; they had also placed in perspective some apparent inconsistencies.

54. None would refute the right of the United Nations to communicate to all peoples a factual and objective presentation of the aims and achievements of the United Nations. Views differed, however, on the Committee's thesis (para. 260) that, in all cases where adequate information use would not be made of Headquarters radio transmissions by relaying, re-broadcasting or re-voicing, those broadcasts should be suspended. As the French and United Kingdom representatives had rightly pointed out, the proper criterion was that of realism. Attainment of the goal of reaching all the peoples of the world would inevitably take time and would depend, *inter alia*, on the improvement of educational and economic standards in various parts of the world; meanwhile the governing principle, as prescribed in General Assembly resolution 1177 (XII), should be a maximum of effectiveness at the lowest possible cost. If part of the appropriation for the Office of Public Information was not producing commensurate results, it should be diverted to more productive channels.

55. The Committee's recommendation in paragraph 226 (b) for a shift of emphasis from the mass approach to the selective approach should not be taken

to mean that the two approaches were mutually exclusive; they could more correctly be considered complementary. The relative effectiveness of either approach varied from country to country according to economic, social and educational development.

56. The Secretary-General had expressed general agreement with the Committee's recommendation of a greater role for the Information Centres and an interchange of personnel between Headquarters and field offices. His delegation endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 227 (1) that the possibility for the Office of Public Information to draw upon existing United Nations offices, office facilities and officials in the field should be fully explored; it would be recalled that the Secretary-General had been able to staff from existing resources the five new centres for which he had received authority at the eleventh session, and that at the twelfth session mention had been made of a possible duplication of effort by other agencies in centres such as London, Paris and Washington.

57. His delegation still had reservations about the immediate establishment of a television studio. If the advisory group proposed by the Committee of Experts (para. 280) was established, its terms of reference should be carefully framed to avoid any conflict with those of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. His delegation endorsed the general recommendations in paragraph 227 of the Committee's report.

58. With regard to the three draft resolutions, his delegation favoured the retention of an explicit refer-

ence to "a maximum of effectiveness at the lowest possible cost"; and preferred the positive approach made in the operative parts of the United Kingdom and French drafts (A/C.5/L.529, A/C.5/L.530). It felt that any reference to the figure of \$4.5 million should be made in the preamble, as in the French proposal, but was doubtful whether that figure was now realistic; the phrase "reasonable bounds" in the French proposal was not sufficiently definitive. At all events the Advisory Committee should be asked to re-examine the matter when it considered the budget estimates for 1960. It was to be hoped that the sponsors could agree on a single proposal.

59. Mr. RAEYMAECKERS (Belgium) said that his delegation, which had supported General Assembly resolution 1177 (XII), applied to the formation of information policy the same criterion as to other policy matters: conformity with the principles of the Charter; on that basis the recommendations of the Committee of Experts called for no comment. They appeared well calculated to assist the Secretary-General in his pursuit of the prescribed goal of maximum effectiveness at the lowest possible cost; it was to be hoped, therefore, that they would be implemented as fully as was desirable and as soon as possible. Of the draft resolutions so far laid before the Committee, his delegation preferred that of the United Kingdom.

60. The CHAIRMAN undertook to discuss with the sponsors of the proposals and other interested delegations the possible preparation of a joint text.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.