

and technical resources and services which they would be ready, in principle, to contribute to United Nations peace-keeping operations;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the responses by States to the questionnaire, to establish a registry, indicative in nature, of potential contributions by Member States of personnel, material and technical resources and services, and to invite Member States to bring their responses up to date as necessary;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to undertake a study to identify those tasks and services which could be performed by civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations and to inform the Special Committee of the conclusions of the study as soon as possible, taking into account the study requested by the General Assembly in resolution 43/230 of 21 December 1988;

5. *Encourages* Member States to exchange the experiences acquired through their participation in peace-keeping operations and encourages Member States and interested organizations to hold, in consultation with the Secretariat, as appropriate, regional and international seminars on peace-keeping operations;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to establish national training programmes for military and civilian personnel for peace-keeping operations and, in this connection, requests the Secretary-General to prepare training manuals, which Member States might wish to use as guidelines for their national or regional training programmes;

7. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure a secure and sound financial basis for United Nations peace-keeping operations;

8. *Urges* all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time and also encourages those States which can do so to make voluntary contributions that are acceptable to the Secretary-General;

9. *Urges* host countries of any United Nations peace-keeping operation and all directly interested parties to extend all possible support in order to facilitate the deployment and functioning of such operations;

10. *Considers* that status-of-forces agreements should be concluded between host countries of any United Nations peace-keeping operation and the United Nations and, to this end, urges host countries of any United Nations peace-keeping operation to conclude status-of-forces agreements with the United Nations as soon as possible after the establishment of the operation;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a model status-of-forces agreement between the United Nations and host countries, while maintaining the flexibility needed to encompass different possible operations, and to make the model agreement available to Member States;

12. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General in preparing standard operating procedures, and expresses the hope that this work will be completed as soon as possible and made available to Member States;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to publish an updated version of *The Blue Helmets* and to include therein a summary of the practice of United Nations peace-keeping operations, in time for the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly and, thereafter, to bring it up to date as necessary;

14. *Considers* it useful to have further discussions, in the appropriate forums, including the Special Committee, on the possible fields for peace-keeping and on the further development of peace-keeping operations;

15. *Urges* the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, to continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations in this field, taking into account the difficult financial situation of peace-keeping operations and the need for maximum cost efficiency;

16. *Decides* that the Special Committee shall accept the participation of observers of Member States, including in the meetings of its working groups;

17. *Invites* Member States to submit any further observations and suggestions to the Secretary-General by 1 March 1990 on peace-keeping operations in all their aspects, with particular emphasis on practical proposals to make these operations more effective;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, a compilation of the above-mentioned observations and suggestions and to submit it to the Special Committee during its session in 1990;

19. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects".

*78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989*

#### **44/50. Questions relating to information<sup>45</sup>**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on questions relating to information,

*Reaffirming* the mandate given to the Committee on Information by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/182 of 18 December 1979,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,<sup>46</sup>

*Also taking note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit<sup>47</sup> and the conclusions and recommendations therein concerning the reorganization of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, as well as the comments of the Secretary-General thereon,<sup>48</sup>

*Encouraging* the Secretary-General to continue necessary action in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Public Information, with particular emphasis on securing a co-ordinated approach to priority issues before the Organization,

*Further taking note* of the comprehensive report of the Committee on Information,<sup>49</sup> which served as an important basis and stimulated further deliberations,

<sup>45</sup> See also sect. X.A, decision 44/313.

<sup>46</sup> A/44/653.

<sup>47</sup> A/44/433.

<sup>48</sup> A/44/433/Add.1, annex.

<sup>49</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/44/21).*

## I

INFORMATION IN THE SERVICE OF  
MANKIND

Urges the full implementation of the following recommendations:

(1) All countries, the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and adhering to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, should co-operate and interact in responding to the call for the establishment of a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process, aimed at eliminating the existing imbalances between developed and developing countries in the field of information and communication, at reducing existing disparities in information flows at the international as well as the national level and at improving the media infrastructure and communication technology in the developing countries in order to increase their participation in the communication process, based on the free flow and wider and better balanced dissemination of information as well as on the meaningful and equal participation of all countries in the field of information and communication, ensuring the diversity of sources of and free access to information and intended to advance the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples through all means of mass communication as an important contribution towards strengthening international peace and understanding. The central role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in this regard, in line with that organization's strategies, should be reaffirmed;

(2) Fully aware of the important role that the media worldwide can freely play, the mass media should be encouraged to give wider and more objective coverage to the efforts of the international community towards global development and, in particular, the efforts of the developing countries to achieve economic, social and cultural progress;

(3) All countries are urged to assure to journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks; all physical attacks against them should be resolutely condemned;

(4) Aware of the existing imbalances in the international distribution of news, particularly that affecting the developing countries, it is recommended that urgent attention should be given to the elimination of existing inequalities and the reduction of existing disparities in information flows at the international as well as the national level, to the encouragement of the free flow and the promotion of wider and better balanced dissemination of information, without any obstacle to freedom of expression, and to the advancement of mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples through the diversification of sources of information, respecting the interests, aspirations and socio-cultural values of all peoples;

(5) The United Nations system as a whole, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the developed countries should be urged to co-operate in a concerted manner with the developing countries and their media, public and private or other, with a view to strengthening the information and communication infrastructure in the developing countries and promoting their access to advanced communication technology, in accordance with

their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by the developing countries, so as to enable them and their media to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and in the light of their social and cultural values, adhering to the principles of freedom of information and freedom of the press. In this regard, support should be provided for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries;

(6) Regional efforts and co-operation among developing countries, as well as co-operation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communication capacities and to develop further the media infrastructure in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information, should be enhanced so as to encourage the free flow of information and promote its wider and better balanced dissemination;

(7) In addition to bilateral co-operation, the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, should aim at providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public and private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including in particular:

(a) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(b) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public and private or other, by using their national and regional resources, to have the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

(c) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(8) Full support should be provided for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,<sup>50</sup> which should support both public and private media;

## II

UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC INFORMATION  
POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

1. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in respect of United Nations public information policies and activities, to implement the following recommendations:

(1) The United Nations system as a whole should co-operate in a concerted manner, through its information services, in promoting a more comprehensive and realistic image of the activities and potential of the United

<sup>50</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-first Session*, vol. I, *Resolutions*, sect. III, resolution 4/21.

Nations system in all its endeavours, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with particular emphasis on the creation of a climate of confidence, the strengthening of multilateralism and the promotion of the development activities in the United Nations system;

(2) Reaffirming the primary role of the General Assembly in elaborating, co-ordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information, the Secretary-General is requested to ensure that the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, as the focal point of the public information tasks of the United Nations, are strengthened and improved, keeping in view the purposes and principles of the Charter, the priority areas defined by the Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information, so as to ensure an objective and more coherent coverage of, as well as better knowledge about, the United Nations and its work. The Secretary-General should ensure that the Department of Public Information:

(a) Co-operate more regularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, especially at the working level, with a view to maximizing the contribution of the Department to the efforts of that organization in:

- (i) Encouraging the free flow of information, at the international as well as the national level;
- (ii) Promoting the wider and better balanced dissemination of information, without any obstacle to freedom of expression;
- (iii) Developing all the appropriate means of strengthening communication capacities in the developing countries in order to increase their participation in the communication process;
- (iv) Advancing the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples through all means of mass communication and, to that end, recommending such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image;

(b) Enhance its co-operation with news agencies of and in the developing countries, in particular the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, the Eco-Pool of the News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries and the Broadcasting Organization of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with other news agencies and intergovernmental and regional organizations;

(c) Continue to disseminate, in co-ordination with the information services of other relevant agencies, information about United Nations activities pertaining, in particular, to:

- (i) International peace and security;
- (ii) Disarmament;
- (iii) Peace-keeping operations;
- (iv) Decolonization and the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
- (v) The elimination of foreign occupation;
- (vi) Human rights;
- (vii) The elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;
- (viii) The advancement of the status of women and their role in society;
- (ix) Problems of economic and social development, as well as international economic co-operation aimed at resolving external debt problems;

- (x) The environment;
- (xi) The campaign against terrorism in all its forms, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 40/61 of 9 December 1985;
- (xii) The international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including adequate coverage of the special session of the General Assembly, to be held from 20 to 23 February 1990, to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs, with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such co-operation;

(d) Do its utmost to disseminate widely and to publicize the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990<sup>51</sup> 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;

(e) Strengthen its activities and the dissemination of information on United Nations activities against the policies and practices of *apartheid*, giving due attention to the unilateral measures and official censorship imposed on the local and international media with regard to all aspects of that issue; provide adequate coverage of the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly on *apartheid* and its destructive consequences in southern Africa, to be held from 12 to 14 December 1989, and report thereon to the Committee on Information at its twelfth session, in 1990;

(f) Continue to disseminate information about activities of the United Nations directed at a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of international conflicts by exclusively peaceful means;

(g) Continue to cover all United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East, and the question of Palestine in particular, and current developments in the region, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, and report thereon to the Committee on Information at its twelfth session, in 1990;

(h) Continue to disseminate information about Namibia, in particular the current independence process as provided for in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) of 29 September 1978; the Department should make adequate plans for the establishment of an information centre in Namibia, in consultation with the government of the new nation immediately after independence;

(i) Ensure the provision of coverage of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries, to be held from 23 to 27 April 1990;

(3) The Department of Public Information should continue its efforts in promoting an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations system among the peoples of the world and in strengthening the image of the United Nations system as a whole. The Secretary-General should ensure that the Department:

(a) Continue to maintain consistent editorial independence and accuracy in reporting in all the material it produces, taking necessary measures to ensure that its output contains adequate, objective and impartial infor-

<sup>51</sup> Resolution S-13/2, annex

mation about issues before the Organization, reflecting divergent opinions where they occur;

(b) In the context of the review of its role, performance and methods of work, continue to apply appropriate modern technologies for the collection, production, storage, dissemination and distribution of information materials, including the use of satellite facilities;

(c) Consider expanding the programme of telephone news bulletins that are paid for by its users;

(d) Continue its co-operation with those countries that have expressed readiness to assist the United Nations in resuming short-wave broadcasts through their respective national networks free of charge, and encourage expansion of that type of co-operation with those developed and developing countries having recognized capabilities in this field;

(e) Take adequate measures to resume taped radio programmes, which it has temporarily curtailed, if so requested by broadcasting stations;

(f) Continue its briefing, assistance and orientation programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries focused on issues related to the United Nations;

(g) Identify new forms of co-operation, at the regional and subregional level, for the training of media professionals and for the improvement of the information and communication infrastructure of developing countries;

(h) Co-operate with educational institutions of Member States and with educators and education policy-makers, informing them about United Nations activities;

(i) Ensure adequate daily coverage of United Nations open meetings in the two working languages of the Secretariat, reflecting the views of all delegations with accuracy and objectivity. The Department should also continue to co-operate closely with and provide assistance to members of the United Nations Correspondents Association, taking into account their needs and requirements, especially in the area of press releases, press conferences and briefings, which provide them with basic information for reporting;

(j) Use the official languages of the United Nations adequately in its written and audio-visual materials and make balanced use of the two working languages of the Secretariat;

(k) Ensure timely distribution of its materials to subscribers and to United Nations information centres;

(4) The Department of Public Information should produce and distribute its publications in a timely manner. In particular, the Secretary-General is requested to make further efforts regarding the timely appearance of the *United Nations Yearbook*. The improvement in format and printing of the *United Nations Chronicle* is welcome. The Department is encouraged to continue to consider the interests of specific target audiences as it formulates its editorial policies;

(5) The Secretary-General is urged to continue his efforts to secure a sound and stable financial basis for the publications *Development Forum* and *Africa Recovery*;

(6) It is recognized that United Nations information centres constitute an important means of disseminating information about the United Nations among the peoples of the world. In this regard, the centres should intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local media, information and educational institu-

tions and non-governmental organizations. The Department should arrange for periodic evaluation of the activities of the centres in this regard. Every effort should be made to establish close co-ordination with other field offices of the United Nations system, particularly those of the United Nations Development Programme, in order to avoid duplication of work, taking into account the functional autonomy that the United Nations information centres should have. A report should be submitted to the Committee on Information after the first year of the provisional understanding between the Department and the United Nations Development Programme, reached in accordance with recommendation 37 (3) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations.<sup>52</sup> The Department should provide open and unhindered access by all people to all United Nations information centres and to all materials distributed through the centres. It is also urged to accelerate the process of linking the remaining United Nations information centres that have not been linked with electronic mail;

(7) Stressing the need for co-ordinating the information activities of the United Nations system and recognizing the important role that the Joint United Nations Information Committee plays in that regard, the Department of Public Information is encouraged to continue its active participation in the work of the Committee;

(8) It is recognized that free distribution of materials is necessary in the public information activities of the United Nations. However, as demands increase and whenever it is desirable and possible, the Department of Public Information should actively encourage the sale of its materials;

(9) The Secretary-General is requested to ensure that the reorganization and restructuring of the Department of Public Information strengthen and improve the output of the mandated programmes and activities of the Department, taking into account, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter and of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the need for equitable geographical distribution of posts and especially keeping in mind the levels at which developing countries are underrepresented;

(10) In view of the importance of radio programmes in developing countries, the Secretary-General is requested to enhance the efficiency of and to ensure full programme delivery by all regional radio units, namely, the African, Asian, Caribbean, European, Latin American and Middle Eastern Units and the Anti-Apartheid Programmes Section, including production of radio programmes called for by the General Assembly in resolution 38/82 B of 15 December 1983;

(11) All reports of the Secretary-General, as well as reports by representatives of the Department of Public Information, to the Committee on Information and the General Assembly, in particular those on new programmes or on the expansion of existing programmes, should contain:

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

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

<sup>52</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A. 41/49)

- (c) Adequate information on target audiences, end-use of the Department's products and analysis of feedback data received by the Department;
- (d) A statement detailing the priority level that the Secretary-General has attached to current or future activities of the Department in documents dealing with such activities;
- (e) Evaluation by the Department of the effectiveness of its different programmes and activities, with particular reference to the need constantly to review internal programme elements and activities;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations relating to the activities of the Department of Public Information in accordance with the budgetary procedures as approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213, 42/211 of 21 December 1987 and 43/213 of 21 December 1988, and taking into account the priorities set by the Assembly;
3. *Supports* the Secretary-General in his continuing efforts to restructure and revitalize the Department of Public Information, based on the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213;
4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twelfth session, in 1990, on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations in the present resolution;
5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;
6. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;
7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

*78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989*

#### 44/51. Protection and security of small States

*The General Assembly,*  
*Reaffirming* its commitment to international peace and security,  
*Recalling* the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation

among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,<sup>53</sup>

*Conscious* that small States may be particularly vulnerable to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs and may have special needs consonant with the right to sovereignty and territorial integrity that they share with all nations,

*Concerned* at the danger that mercenaries can represent for small States,

*Recalling with deep concern* the various incidents in which groups of mercenaries have attempted to infringe upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of small States, including the attempted invasion of Maldives in November 1988,

1. *Recognizes* that small States may be particularly vulnerable to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs;
2. *Stresses* in this regard the significance of the obligation of all States to respect the principle of territorial integrity and the other principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
3. *Appeals* to the relevant regional and international organizations to provide assistance when requested by small States for the strengthening of their security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter;
4. *Urges* the Secretary-General to pay special attention to monitoring the security situation of small States and to consider making use of the provisions of Article 99 of the Charter;
5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to explore ways and means, within the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter, of preserving the security of small States;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold consultations with the members of the Security Council and interested Governments and to submit a report to it at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;
7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Protection and security of small States".

*78th plenary meeting  
8 December 1989*

<sup>53</sup> Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.