

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/4301  
25 November 1959

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fourteenth session  
Agenda item 52

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee

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1. At the 722nd to 732nd meetings, held from 16 to 29 October 1959, the Fifth Committee considered agenda item 52 on the public information activities of the United Nations. The basic documents before the Committee were a report of the Secretary-General (A/4122) setting forth the progress made in implementing General Assembly resolution 1335 (XIII) of 13 December 1958, and a report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions<sup>1/</sup> on the budgetary aspects of the action taken by the Secretary-General under that resolution.

2. An exhaustive review of the Committee's discussion is not attempted. What follows in paragraphs 3 to 69 below is intended as a synopsis of the main points to which the Committee addressed itself and of the main currents of opinion. The views of individual delegations are given in the records of the meetings.<sup>2/</sup>

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/4170), paras. 49-60.

2/ Some of the statements made before the Committee were circulated as documents of the Committee:

<u>Document</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
A/C.5/790	725th	Representative of the Secretary-General
A/C.5/791	726th	Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
A/C.5/792	727th	Secretary-General
A/C.5/793	727th	Representative of the Secretary-General

Scope of the Secretary-General's report

3. It was generally recognized that the report of the Secretary-General should be read as an interim and provisional submission. The task of fulfilling the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1335 (XIII) and reorganizing the Office of Public Information (OPI) was not one to be completed even between two sessions of the Assembly, and still less - since the report had been written in June 1959 - within a shorter period. Changes of policy and of organization were still in progress; their effectiveness had yet to be tested and appraised. Discussion in the Committee would none the less enable the Secretary-General to learn the views of Member States on what had already been done or was in prospect, so that future planning could be adapted to their desires.

Level of expenditure for information activities

4. As in past years, differing opinions were heard on the appropriate level of expenditure and, during the first phase of the discussion, they were reflected broadly in three main approaches to the problem.

5. First approach. The first approach was based largely on the proposition that the Secretary-General's budgetary policy, as outlined in the report (A/4122, paras. 18, 56-58), far from stabilizing expenditure in the sense intended by the Committee of Experts on United Nations Public Information,<sup>3/</sup> would have a contrary effect. It would stabilize the practice of progressively enlarging the information budget. The recommendations of the Expert Committee had been endorsed in 1958 by the General Assembly, and, had the provisions of resolution 1335 (XIII) been observed, the Secretary-General would have been able to fulfil at much lower cost the purposes defined in its preamble. The resolution laid stress on "the maximum of effectiveness" and "the lowest possible cost", but the Secretary-General's report was silent on the former consideration and afforded little

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3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Annexes,  
agenda item 55, document A/3928, para. 278.

satisfaction on the latter. A level of \$4.5 million<sup>4/</sup> for the total costs of public information had been endorsed by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee in 1956. More recently, the Committee of Experts (A/3928, para. 278) had termed that level "a reasonable basis for planning". Instead, the Member States had witnessed the curve of expenditure steadily rising to the level of \$5.14 million foreseen for 1960. In 1956, the Advisory Committee had spoken<sup>5/</sup> of attaining the target of \$4.5 million by means of "gradual and progressive adjustments".

6. The time had therefore come to apply to the information activities a limit of expenditure that would represent: (a) a reasonable proportion of the total budget in relation to the cost of other activities to which the Organization was committed under the Charter; and (b) a true stabilization expressed in financial terms and covering a stated term of years. To that end, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted at the 723rd meeting the following draft resolution (A/C.5/L.573):

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952, indicating the need for greater participation by Governments of States Members of the United Nations and non-governmental agencies of information in the programme for informing the peoples of the world about the United Nations and its activities,

"Referring to the recommendation approved by the Fifth Committee and included in its report to the General Assembly at its eleventh session (A/3550) concerning the stabilization of total expenditure on the public information activities of the United Nations,

4/ Figures of total expenditure cited in the present report cover all public information expenses with the exception of: (a) Visitors' Service; (b) Sales and Circulation Section; and (c) distributed conference service costs. Income as estimated under part C of the budget (for television services and film distribution) has been deducted in every case.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/3160), para. 116.

"Bearing in mind the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on United Nations Public Information (A/3928) of 28 August 1959,

"Decides:

"1. To limit total expenditure on the public information activities of the United Nations (excluding the Visitors' Service and the Sales and Circulation Section) in the years 1960 and 1961 to a level not exceeding a maximum of \$4.5 million a year;

"2. To recommend that the Secretary-General take the necessary measures arising out of operative paragraph 1 of the present resolution."

7. Second approach. The second approach, though based on a substantial measure of support for the Secretary-General's proposals (A/4122), looked to the possibility of a modest budgetary reduction for the two years 1960 and 1961, or, as alternatively suggested by some delegations, for 1960 alone. In adopting resolution 1335 (XIII) the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to give priority to the use of all media of information that would ensure maximum effectiveness at the lowest possible cost. For his part, the Secretary-General had laid emphasis in his report on three criteria: how much money to spend on information activities; how best to organize the information services; and how to ensure the effectiveness of the programme.

8. As regards the first of those criteria, the Secretary-General had rightly observed that the "level of expenditure ... must be one that the Member States are prepared to support" (A/4122, para. 13). Concurrently, however, delegations would wish to apply the criterion of "lowest possible cost" and, since the salary bill accounted for some 70 per cent of expenditure, to inquire into the staffing increases that had occurred since 1958; they might thus determine whether or not such increases were at variance with the desire which the Committee had long expressed for a reduction in expenditure.

9. The Secretary-General had proposed (A/4122, paras. 18, 56-58) a policy of budgetary stabilization which, though set within somewhat narrow limits, might be accepted subject to two reservations:

(a) The policy should be judged by reference to the views or recommendations of the Committee of Experts and the Advisory Committee. In 1958, the former body

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had suggested the level of \$4.5 million as a reasonable basis for planning (A/3928, para. 278). That figure might be deemed unrealistic, the Fifth Committee having, since the "base year" of 1956, concurred in successive budget increases. But in the present year the Advisory Committee had inclined (A/4170, para. 53) to a level of expenditure lower than that proposed by the Secretary-General;

(b) It would also be advisable to look closely at the area of "uncontrollable" costs. The Advisory Committee had indicated (A/4170, para. 54) that, in order to compensate for extraneous factors of increase, a stricter policy might have been applied to such costs, and particularly to the local costs.

10. In view of those considerations, the Committee might wish to recommend a slight reduction in the authorized level of expenditure, though without looking beyond the year 1961, and possibly even 1960. So far, with the process of reorganization still under way, only a progress report had been submitted. The situation would undoubtedly be clearer by the next Assembly session, when the Secretary-General would be in a position to present an integrated programme with well-defined targets and priorities.

11. At the 722nd meeting, the United Kingdom representative suggested, though without making a formal proposal, that for the years 1960 and 1961, efforts should be made to hold expenditure within a limit of \$5 million, that figure being exclusive of distributed conference service costs (estimated for 1960 at \$288,000) and net of income (estimated for 1960 at \$210,000). The suggested figure was therefore comparable to the target figure of \$4.5 million recommended in 1956.

12. Third approach. The views of delegations which gave support to the policy of budget stabilization defined by the Secretary-General (A/4122, para. 18) represented the third approach to the problem. The Secretary-General had done his utmost to achieve the objectives set out in General Assembly resolution 1335 (XIII). He had been requested to give effect, not to all the recommendations of the Expert Committee, but only to those which, in his opinion, would further the objectives in question. That was a distinction which the

Advisory Committee and some representatives appeared not to have marked. The latter Committee had envisaged an effective information programme costing less than \$5.14 million (A/4170, para. 53). But maximum effectiveness could not be achieved on those terms, for many services and activities which most Member States considered essential would have to be discontinued.

13. The choice lay between a system of ceilings as proposed in the USSR draft resolution (A/C.5/L.573) and a policy of budget stabilization in the form outlined by the Secretary-General (A/4122, para. 18). The Committee should no longer defer a decision. Over the years, OPI had been subjected to administrative reviews and surveys of an intensity and frequency not experienced by any other branch of the Secretariat. Despite that fact, it was now proposed to revert to the ceiling system. Maximum effectiveness would not be achieved by such measures at a time when, on the one hand, the membership of the United Nations, the demands for information services, and staff and supply costs were increasing, and, on the other, the resources at the Secretary-General's disposal were equivalent, in view of the rise in costs, to those authorized in 1955. It was not clear how, in those circumstances, a pre-determined ceiling or budget cuts additional to those already recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/4170, para. 55) would conduce to an effective programme.

14. Delegations which endorsed the Secretary-General's policy of budget stabilization included those of Colombia, Cuba, Peru and Venezuela, which submitted jointly, at the 724th meeting, the following draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576):

"The General Assembly,

"Noting with appreciation the Secretary-General's report on public information activities of the United Nations (A/4122), dated 16 June 1959,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952, setting forth the basic policy of the United Nations in its public information activities,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 1086 (XI) of 21 December 1956 relating to the establishment of information centres,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to give special attention to the importance of adequate regional representation in the policy-making and

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programme-planning levels of the Office of Public Information, in the structure and staffing of the External Relations Division, and in the distribution of information centres;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to establish new information centres by a further decentralization of Headquarters staff and services;

"3. Requests Member States concerned to give all possible facilities for the establishment of the new centres mentioned and to co-operate fully and actively in efforts to promote wider public understanding of the aims and activities of the United Nations;

"4. Expresses the hope that media of information and publicity, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions in all Member States will continue and expand their commendable activities on behalf of a greater understanding of the United Nations by fuller dissemination of accurate and objective information;

"5. Recalls General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 which envisaged the need for an advisory body in the field of public information, as well as paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/764) of 13 November 1958 which reiterates the above, and requests the Secretary-General to appoint an honorary United Nations Advisory Committee on Public Information composed of ten Member States from the main cultural and geographic areas to meet periodically at United Nations Headquarters with the Secretary-General to review and discuss information policies and programmes in order to ensure maximum effectiveness at minimum cost;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the above-mentioned Advisory Committee with necessary services and facilities including an officer of sufficient seniority and competence from the Office of Public Information to function as Secretary of the Committee;

"7. Requests the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to co-operate closely with the above-mentioned Committee;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, together with the comments of the Advisory Committee on Public Information, to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session."

15. Outlining his attitude towards a ceiling on expenditure (A/C.5/792, page 3), the Secretary-General said that at previous sessions of the Committee he had expressed doubts regarding the value of artificially imposed limitations. It would be deceptive to set a ceiling on information expenditure unless there was at the same time agreement on what particular activities should in consequence be cut. As the possibility of such an agreement seemed remote, an alternative method of keeping down the cost of the programme would be to add to the restrictive policy he had himself defined (A/4122, para. 18) a direct reduction in 1960 expenditure to the level suggested by the United Kingdom representative (para. 11 above), combined with a clear understanding as to the activities which would then be eliminated or curtailed.

16. Representatives of the Secretary-General, replying to questions put by delegations, pointed out (A/C.5/790, A/C.5/793) that, were either a \$4.5 million or a \$5 million ceiling to be imposed, substantial reductions in the professional establishment and in the programmes would have to be made. The United Kingdom suggestion would entail a reduction of \$138,000 in 1960, but, in view of the impact of "uncontrollable" costs, that figure would be higher in 1961. Existing arrangements in respect of staff and activities would necessarily have to be reviewed, and, while it was not possible, in advance of such a review, to indicate the precise distribution of a hypothetical cut, reductions, under a \$5 million ceiling, would probably be applied to section 6, chapter I; section 13, chapter IV; and section 14, chapter IV. Reductions would reflect such decisions as to discontinue the unrelayed broadcasts, to substitute a quarterly for the monthly United Nations Review, and to defer recruitment in certain cases. Alternatively, it was likely that any cut would be applied generally across items in sections 13, chapter IV, with the exception of the contractual engineering staff.

17. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions emphasized that the General Assembly had in 1958 assigned to that Committee a single, specific task: to comment on the financial implications of action to be taken by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 1335 (XIII). In its 1959 report (A/4170, paras. 52-54) the Advisory Committee had accordingly analysed the implications of the budgetary policy which

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the Secretary-General had formulated (A/4122, para. 18). That policy did not give rise either to a reduction in expenditure or to an immediate increase of any magnitude. But, inasmuch as the scope of the Advisory Committee's function had in that instance been strictly defined by the Assembly, the Committee had confined its examination to the financial aspects of the Secretary-General's approach including related administrative and organizational matters. In that context, the Advisory Committee had expressed the view, first, that a policy of stabilization, even such as the one proposed by the Secretary-General, could well have been related to a lower level of expenditure, and, secondly, that the Secretary-General's proposal in effect represented, at best, a possible slowing down of further increases of expenditure on public information activities. In any case, the substance of the information activities and the content of the programmes had come under review at the hands of an expert committee whose composition had been representative of Member States, and the findings of that committee had been fully discussed by the Fifth Committee in 1958. The latter would now doubtless consider in detail those aspects of the Secretary-General's report which concerned the programme content of the activities in question.

#### Priorities in the information programme

18. On the subject of priorities, to which there were numerous references throughout the discussion, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee traced the position taken by that Committee. For many years prior to 1956, the Advisory Committee had suggested that the cost of public information should be reduced and, to that end, had asked the Secretariat, as the organ responsible for designing the programme, to develop a system of priorities whereby the expenditure might be controlled. But as the Secretariat had not found it possible to work out such a system, the Advisory Committee had in 1956 recommended a new approach, in the form of a budget limit of \$4.5 million to be attained in 1959. In the following year, however, the Secretary-General had pointed out that even without any increase in the volume of activities he was finding difficulty in keeping to the current level of expenditure and a fortiori in moving towards the lower target of \$4.5 million. In view of that situation, there had been no alternative before the Advisory Committee but to recommend in 1957 that there should be an exhaustive survey of the entire programme.

19. The representative of the Secretary-General assured the Committee that OPI was conscious of the imperative need to apply priorities. So heavy was the demand for services that the Office had in any event to enforce priorities on a continuous, day-to-day basis. It was moreover to be noted that in 1958 the Secretary-General had himself requested the guidance of the Committee of Experts on the possible introduction of a priority system as an instrument of economy (A/3928, annex I, para. 7). The Committee had formed the opinion that priorities should not be regarded purely in the context of economy or be interpreted as a preference of one medium, one subject or one area to another. The Committee had then concluded that it would be possible, through a more restrictive and selective treatment of subjects, to apply an expenditure ceiling of \$4.5 million as previously suggested by the Advisory Committee. Although the Secretary-General still adhered to the opinion, which he had expressed at the previous session,<sup>6/</sup> that he could not, on the basis of the Experts' over-simplified approach, adequately fulfil his responsibilities in the sphere of information, he did, of course, recognize that a system of priorities was of fundamental importance to the purposes stated in his latest report (A/4122). The Fifth Committee had appeared to concur in 1958 in the Secretary-General's opinion since it had granted him discretion in giving effect to those of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts which would further the objectives set out in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 1335 (XIII).

#### The system of information centres

20. Of the many topics considered under the present agenda item, none received closer attention than the system of information centres. Delegations offered numerous suggestions or comments:

(a) The network of centres was wholly inadequate, as illustrated by the fact that since 1955 only four new centres had been opened, whereas the membership of the United Nations had risen in the same period from sixty to eighty-two States,

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<sup>6/</sup> A/C.5/764, Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Fifth Committee, 682nd meeting.

with further additions impending. Nor was the geographical pattern of the centres satisfactory. General Assembly resolution 1086 (XI) of 21 December 1956 had spoken of establishing centres on the basis of a regional and linguistic distribution and of providing for the needs of new Member States. At present, however, thirteen of the twenty-seven centres were situated in technically developed countries and only twenty-six of fifty-seven Professional officers working in information centres were assigned to the less developed areas. There were only two centres in the entire continent of Africa and only four in Latin America, while Europe had ten centres. Furthermore, the territory covered by some centres was far too large in relation to their budget or staffing resources; in other cases, the areas served, though geographically adjacent, were so disparate in language and culture that they could not effectively be served by a single centre, and particularly by one of small size.

(b) As regards the manning of the centres, most delegations felt that a just balance should be sought between the extremes, which several speakers deplored, of (i) staffing a centre exclusively with nationals of the country in which it was situated, and (ii) staffing it with officials not well versed in the language, traditions and culture of the country to which they were assigned.

(c) While it was generally agreed that it would be essential on budgetary, and desirable on administrative, grounds to draw largely on Headquarters for the manpower and funds with which to enlarge the network of centres, care should be taken not to carry the process of decentralization to the point of impairing the vital Headquarters services, which would always constitute the main source of information.

(d) Some representatives saw no sufficient justification for maintaining centres in London, Paris and Washington, or for maintaining them on the present scale. As regards the Paris Centre, information on the United Nations was being disseminated both by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and by the Geneva Information Services, while Washington was not only within easy distance of Headquarters, but also the capital of a country in which educational facilities were wide-spread and non-governmental organizations extremely active. Although the demand for information had hitherto been greater

in technically advanced countries where the media of information were highly developed, it was the function of OPI to take the initiative in stimulating, through its network of centres, similar demand in other countries, including the Trust Territories.

(e) Representatives welcomed the policy (A/4122, para. 37) already in force for a more systematic rotation of senior centre personnel; it would undoubtedly result in a more dynamic approach to programming. A similar policy should also be applied as widely as possible within Headquarters, through interchanges of staff between OPI and other departments or offices.

21. The representative of the Secretary-General said that, as his report (A/4122, para. 39) indicated, the Secretary-General was at one with the Fifth Committee in seeking ways and means of increasing the number of information centres and improving their regional distribution. Suggestions had already been made for nine additional centres and further requests would doubtless be received. The estimates, as submitted by the Secretary-General, provided for the opening of three new centres in 1960, but as the cost of maintaining a centre amounted to at least \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year, apart from the cost of supporting services at Headquarters, it would be illusory to expect that more than three centres could be established without additional funds, or that Headquarters resources could be diverted at will without impairing the central programmes and services.

22. It had also been suggested that more might be done for the less developed countries if staff and work programmes were scaled down in the larger centres serving the technically advanced areas. That proposition, though attractive at first glance, should be considered in a wider context. With specific objects in view, the General Assembly had approved the staffing pattern and work programmes of the larger centres, and more recently the Committee of Experts had likewise endorsed them. It was a vital interest of the United Nations that an awareness of its activities should spread among the general public, and to that end the Economic and Social Council had constantly pressed for action that would make its work better known. While OPI at Headquarters and the centres never attempted to assume functions that belonged to the mass media of information, it was required

to stimulate interest in the great economic and social programmes of the United Nations and to help in securing support for them. A considerable part of that responsibility fell on the centres in large capital cities.

#### Organization of the Office of Public Information

23. Most delegations felt that the Secretary-General's plan of organization, though departing at some points from that recommended by the Committee of Experts, was calculated to improve the co-ordination of services at Headquarters and strengthen operations in the field. The Secretary-General had made it clear in his report that the process of adjustment and change was still continuing, and it followed that a final judgement on his reorganization of OPI could not yet be attempted.

24. Much of the discussion had to do with the structure and functions of the External Relations Division of OPI. It was the opinion of some representatives that the Secretary-General's proposals failed to provide for a planning body of sufficient authority within the Office, and that inadequate emphasis had been placed on the activities of the External Relations Division. In that respect, the Division differed radically from the Bureau of Planning and Co-ordination recommended by the Expert Committee (A/3928, paras. 230-231). The Division had been organized on a functional rather than a regional basis, and too little attention had been paid to the needs of the under-developed areas. It would be advisable to aim instead at a purely regional structure. The Division might, for example, comprise, in addition to a Director and Deputy Director, four units covering the major regions of the world, with each unit manned by two Professional officers conversant with conditions and requirements in one of those regions. Such an organization would yield a saving of five Professional posts and, combined with similar arrangements in the service divisions, would strengthen the network of centres at no additional cost. It would also serve to accelerate the pace at which decentralization had so far proceeded.

25. The hope was also expressed that a broad interpretation would be given to the "further decentralization of Headquarters staff and services" mentioned in the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576). A mere physical displacement of

staff and services was not enough. The information centres should be enabled, by means of adequate resources and a reasonable degree of autonomy, to do really effective work, and be urged to seek out and exploit the available opportunities; in that way they would provide information of the type best suited to their area. That would represent the very antithesis of a routine function.

26. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that, although a functional rather than a regional pattern had been followed in the External Relations Division, the intention was to move gradually towards a system of regional desks. Too rapid a change would, however, disrupt the existing services since staff must not only be area specialists but have direct experience of information centre operations. The regional pattern had already been drawn, and as the reorganization proceeded, the selected officers would be in a position to give still closer attention to the needs of centres in the area of their competence.

27. It had rightly been assumed that the Secretary-General's proposals represented no more than initial steps in the direction set by the General Assembly, and while the Secretary-General adhered, as regards the possible establishment of a Bureau of Planning and Co-ordination, to the views he had stated at the previous session,<sup>7/</sup> he was still studying a number of other suggestions regarding organization made by the Committee of Experts and by representatives in the Fifth Committee.

#### Geographical distribution of the staff

28. Many speakers deplored the fact that an equitable geographical distribution of staff had not yet been achieved in OPI. None of the posts at the policy-making levels (Principal officer and above) was held by an Asian, African or Latin American staff member. Senior posts were filled preponderantly by staff belonging to a single language-group, which likewise accounted for the majority of the Professional category in OPI at Headquarters. It might perhaps be argued that what was important, in the matter of geographical distribution, was not isolated statistics pertaining to a single department or office but rather the

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<sup>7/</sup> A/C.5/764, Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Fifth Committee, 682nd meeting.

situation in the Secretariat as a whole. However, given the fact that the information programme of the United Nations was addressed to all the peoples of the world and not to those of any particular region or culture, that programme, to be persuasive, ought surely to be the work of persons intimately acquainted with the traditions and culture of the different regions. In the case of OPI, technical rather than political reasons spoke in favour of a broader distribution of staff, at least in a regional sense.

29. At the 727th meeting the Secretary-General (A/C.5/792) said that while it was, of course, his policy to seek the widest possible representation of traditions and regions among the staff of OPI, he was not disposed to pursue such a policy at the expense of other values that were essential in present circumstances. Three points should be borne in mind. First, in a period of transition, key posts had to be filled by those best qualified, of whatever nationality. Secondly, it was not possible, and in any case it would not be appropriate in terms of Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter, to put aside the most highly qualified members of the staff for reasons of geographical distribution. Thirdly, the Organization could not and should not disregard meritorious service. If, as a corollary, there was a lag in the geographical distribution of posts, that was due to the recruitment policy followed at a much earlier stage.

#### Press and publications

30. The Committee was unanimous in approving the Secretary-General's decision that the facilities at Headquarters for media representatives should be maintained at their present level. If, however, there was, as anticipated, an increase in the number of accredited correspondents, some addition to the facilities would have to be considered. Thought might also be given to the problem of improving the regional representation among the correspondents, most of whom represented publications or radio systems in highly developed areas.

31. On the subject of the OPI publications, the following were among the comments offered:

(a) The proposed provision of \$200,000 seemed low in relation to the total cost of information, and might perhaps be increased at the expense of less

productive services. The distribution of the sum between Headquarters (\$125,000) and the centres (\$75,000) might also call for an adjustment in favour of the latter.

(b) The distribution of publications in a multitude of languages, though undeniably useful, should not be pursued at the expense of direct contacts with working journalists.

(c) It might be advantageous to substitute quarterly for monthly publication of the United Nations Review. The English edition, which so far had been little changed, was too high in price. It should be printed in a more economical format, and preferably on paper suited to air-mail transmission.

(d) Annual editions of Everyman's United Nations should be issued and, funds permitting, Spanish versions both of that title and of the United Nations Yearbook.

32. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that in the first nine months of 1959, 80 per cent of the total OPI printing budget (excluding the provision for the Review, the Yearbook and Everyman's United Nations) had been allotted for publications produced by, or on behalf of, the information centres. As regards the frequency of publication of the Review, on previous occasions the Secretary-General had himself suggested the possibility of quarterly issues. At its 1958 session, however, the Fifth Committee had not concurred in such a change.<sup>8/</sup> Everyman's United Nations was a cumulative work published at intervals of two to three years. The sixth edition would be issued in English in November 1959, and in French and Spanish early in 1960. It was hoped to produce editions in other languages, possibly with the collaboration of Member States.

#### Radio services

33. As regards the radio services, the Committee devoted consideration to the problem of the unrelayed broadcasts. Support was given to the proposition that the United Nations was entitled to count on the co-operation of all Member States

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8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 55, document A/4062, para. 23.



in authorizing the relaying of its broadcasts. Some representatives suggested, however, that listener research should be undertaken in order to determine the degree of effectiveness of the unrelayed broadcasts. If the findings were adverse, the broadcasts should be discontinued and the related funds diverted to more productive uses.

34. It was argued, on the other hand, that a continuation of such broadcasts, which were expensive and reached relatively few listeners, could not in any event be justified. The Committee of Experts had expressed doubts regarding their effectiveness and had recommended that OPI should ascertain the desires of the Member States and their radio organizations in the matter (A/3928, paras. 85, 260). The unrelayed broadcasts should therefore be replaced by appropriate arrangements for the use of the national or regional systems of Member States. The broadcasts would thus be better attuned to local needs and local conditions.

35. More generally, the suggestion was made that due weight should be given to the medium of broadcasting in countries where the level of illiteracy is high. OPI should therefore concentrate on providing assistance to national broadcasting systems. Several representatives also requested that the programmes now being broadcast or recorded for broadcasting in their countries should be increased in number.

36. The representative of the Secretary-General made the following, among other, points. The shortwave unrelayed broadcasts consisted of a factual presentation of problems facing the United Nations. In the past, the General Assembly had approved the policy of making such broadcasts in the five languages of the permanent members of the Security Council and additionally (on a purely ad hoc basis) in the languages of other countries that were parties to questions before a main organ. The record of the discussion at the previous session showed that the majority of the Committee had been in favour of continuing that policy, and provision for the programme had accordingly been maintained in the 1960 estimates. It had been suggested that the criterion of listener research should be applied to the unrelayed broadcasts, but apart from practical difficulties, the suggestion raised certain questions of principle. The "universality of information", to which the Secretary-General adhered strictly, placed upon the United Nations the

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responsibility of ensuring that peoples in all parts of the world received, as far as possible on a basis of absolute parity, information that was objective and factually accurate. But in view of the divergent opinions expressed in the Committee of Experts and in the Fifth Committee, the latter might wish to take a clearly defined position on the matter, for the guidance of the Secretary-General.

37. Other broadcasting activities would likewise be continued at the present level. It was hoped that the volume of Headquarters production could eventually be reduced and, with that object in view, radio officers in the field were seeking to promote local production of programmes of an interpretative character adapted to national or regional idioms. Meanwhile, it would be unwise to discontinue the centralized production of programmes for, without careful preparatory work, the transition to locally produced material might be too abrupt and cause a loss of listener support. Evidence of that support was available: fifty-five Member States received and rebroadcast daily and weekly news broadcasts in twenty-five languages, while feature and documentary programmes were rebroadcast in thirty-one languages by arrangement with Member States, non-member States and territories.

#### Television services

38. Several delegations expressed satisfaction that the expanding demand for television material and other visual services was not confined to the North American continent; they took note in particular of the Secretary-General's statement (A/4122, para. 29) that fifteen countries in Europe had contributed to the demand, and that television programmes were carried regularly in seven Latin American countries and in Japan.

39. Opinions were, however, divided on the related question of the construction of a television studio. Representatives who concurred in the Secretary-General's view (A/4122, para. 30) were satisfied that the project was a wise and necessary investment. Not only were adequate control facilities indispensable for the production of programmes, regardless of where they would be transmitted, but the revenue from the programmes would, in turn, largely offset the construction costs. The need was reflected in the number of countries requesting material, and there seemed to be little justification for disallowing or deferring an expenditure that would yield an ample return.

. Other delegations, however, while agreeing that better facilities would have to be provided at some future time, considered that other more urgent projects qualified for prior financing. Television was still a medium of restricted scope, and the geographical area which it could serve was still disproportionately small in relation to the cost of the project. Furthermore, countries which, having television networks, would derive the benefit were precisely those in which the media of mass communication were most highly developed. It was also argued that commercial concerns could be counted on to cover United Nations proceedings that were of public interest, and, further, that the commercial networks would eventually arrange for complete coverage at no cost to the Organization. On all those grounds it would be wise to defer construction of the studio.

41. The representative of the Secretary-General submitted that the arguments advanced against the expenditure were not convincing when weighed against the resulting benefits. The potential audience for the United Nations television programmes was increasing yearly, and it was merely a matter of time before television services were established on a world-wide basis. Moreover, the cost of the programmes, financed in large part out of revenue, would not be entirely lost but would yield some savings on the film programmes when OPT's activities in the two media were consolidated (A/4122, para. 30). Television was a fertile field for inter-agency collaboration in promoting knowledge of the economic and social work of the United Nations family and of the needs of the under-developed countries. Such countries would not, as some delegations had suggested, be excluded from the benefits; on the contrary, support would be stimulated for the programmes of technical assistance by a medium which had an exceptional impact on mass audiences.

#### Film services

42. Some delegations, while suggesting that the benefits derived from the film programme were not commensurate with its cost, felt that there was too little evidence on which to form an authoritative opinion. The Secretary-General's report did not indicate to what extent he had been able to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee of Experts.

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43. Other speakers offered critical comment on the policy of OPI regarding the operation of film services. The Office was apparently aspiring to engage in large-scale film production in the "Hollywood" manner. In spite of the explicit recommendations of the Committee of Experts (A/3928, paras. 272-274), the film unit had produced during the year a ninety-minute documentary film entitled "Power among Men" at an outlay (exclusive of staff costs) of \$150,000, which would most probably not be recouped. It seemed unwise to devote so large a proportion of funds to a single experiment that made a dubious appeal to the public at large, and entailed an unwarranted concentration of expenditure. It was, moreover, questionable whether a production of that type, however excellent, came within the Office's province.

44. One delegation considered that the whole film programme had been misconceived. Assurances should be given that production funds would be used exclusively for short documentary films on United Nations activities and for educational film scripts; and further that there would be close co-operation with the specialized agencies as well as with Governments, non-governmental organizations and private industry in producing information films.

45. The representative of the Secretary-General observed that it was presumably not necessary for him to assure the Committee that OPI did not aspire to emulate Hollywood. A glance at the budget would dispose of that idea. Other points of criticism were, however, more serious as they carried the suggestion that officers responsible for planning the policy of film production or for its technical execution showed no regard for the aims and requirements of the programme. That suggestion had no foundation in fact.

46. Paragraph 27 of the Secretary-General's report (A/4122) contained an explicit definition of the policy governing the work of the Film Services. The production of large-scale films did not come within the compass of that policy. "Power among Men", which had been internationally acclaimed and was a continuing source of revenue, had been started in 1958 before the Committee of Experts had issued its report. As an example, it was not a valid criterion for the appraisal of the present policy. That policy was reflected in the 1959-1960 work programme, the main items of which could be summarized as follows:

(a) A series of short documentary films had been or would be produced, most of them in collaboration, substantive and financial, with interested specialized agencies. The series included four documentary films on the activities of the United Nations family of organizations in Asia, in connexion with which local production facilities would be utilized, if and as they were available.

(b) For 1960 a sum of \$90,000 had been earmarked for the production of films, comprising \$35,000 for Headquarters and \$55,000 for other areas.

(c) It was intended to build up a film library adequate to the needs of the non-governmental organizations and other institutions; the library would also provide material for preparing television programmes.

(d) It was further intended to continue the systematic planning of film production through the Visual Information Board, composed of representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

47. In film production, as in other fields, OPI had been urged, in the interest of economy, to rely on the co-operation of governmental and non-governmental organizations. It was therefore to be noted that, where films were concerned, OPI's production costs were in some cases lower than those incurred by external agencies. That was a consideration to which neither the Committee nor the Office could remain indifferent, and the matter was therefore being closely studied.

#### Establishment of an advisory body

48. The sponsors of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576) suggested that the establishment of an advisory body on public information, as proposed in paragraph 5 of their draft text, would: (a) ensure a better understanding of the Secretary-General's task; (b) provide a useful opportunity for discussion; and (c) lead to a greater effectiveness in the work of the Secretariat. In the sponsors' opinion, the proposal did no more than give effect to a recommendation already endorsed by the Secretary-General.<sup>9/</sup>

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9/ Ibid., documents A/3945, para. 17, A/3928, para. 280.

49. There was considerable support for the principle of setting up consultative machinery in a form to be determined by the Fifth Committee. The work of an advisory body would relieve the Committee of the time-consuming task of attempting an annual examination of OPI activities. The proposal accorded moreover with a principle which the General Assembly had laid down in 1946 (resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946). Had that principle been applied, the Committee might have been spared the long series of debates that had taken place since that time.

50. It was suggested that the advisory body should initially be set up for a trial period of two years. Its terms of reference should be so defined as to obviate any possible overlapping of functions with those of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and they should include the limiting stipulation that advice would be tendered only at the request of the Secretary-General. The views of the advisory body would, of course, not be binding upon him.

51. A revision of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.1) which was submitted at the 726th meeting of the Committee contained the following amended text concerning the establishment of an advisory body:

"5. Recalls General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 which envisaged the need for an advisory body in the field of public information, and paragraph 17 of the report (A/3945) dated 16 October 1958, in which the Secretary-General refers to such a body, and invites the Secretary-General to appoint a United Nations Advisory Committee on Public Information composed of ten Member States from the main cultural and geographic areas to meet periodically at United Nations Headquarters with the Secretary-General to review and discuss information policies and programmes in order to ensure maximum effectiveness at minimum cost."

52. At the 727th meeting, the Secretary-General defined his position on the four-Power proposal (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.1, para. 5) by referring to the statements he had made at the previous session.<sup>10/</sup> The value of the proposed arrangement

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<sup>10/</sup> Ibid., Thirteenth Session, Fifth Committee, 682nd and 689th meetings.

would depend on the quality of the representative members whom Governments were prepared to send. The members would be serving in the consultative capacity of advisers to the Secretary-General. The work would make heavy demands on their time for, without a conscientious study of the documents and of the questions at issue, they would not be in a position to tender useful advice. It was a highly specialized field and the members could not rely solely on the practical experience, however large, which they had gained in other parallel activities.

53. When the Committee came, at the 728th meeting, to a detailed consideration of the draft resolutions (see para. 70 below), the sponsors of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.1) accepted an amendment proposed by the representative of India for the replacement in paragraph 5 of the word "Committee" by the word "Board" or other appropriate variant.

54. The second revision of that draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.2) accordingly contained a paragraph concerning an advisory body which read as follows:

"6. Recalls General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 which envisaged the need for an advisory body in the field of public information, and paragraph 17 of the report (A/3945) dated 16 October 1958, in which the Secretary-General refers to such a body, and invites the Secretary-General to appoint a United Nations Advisory Board on Public Information composed of ten Member States representing the main cultural and geographic areas to meet periodically at United Nations Headquarters with the Secretary-General to discuss and consider information policies and programmes in order to ensure maximum effectiveness at minimum cost."

55. The United States representative entered several reservations to the revised proposal. The setting up of a board would tend to diminish the Secretary-General's responsibility. To whom would Member States address their criticism in the future? As constituted under the proposal, the board would inevitably have a political complexion. His delegation considered it preferable for the General Assembly to invite the Secretary-General to appoint a panel of qualified persons representative of the various geographical regions, which he would consult from

time to time. Such consultations would not necessarily be held in New York, and might even be conducted by correspondence. The United States of America accordingly submitted the following amendment (A/C.5/L.578) to paragraph 6 of the revised draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.2):

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint a panel of qualified persons representative of the various geographic areas and culture of the world and to consult with members of that panel from time to time on United Nations information policies and programmes in order to ensure maximum effectiveness at minimum cost."

56. At the 730th and 731st meetings the following oral amendments were proposed to the four-Power draft resolution and the United States amendment thereto:

- (a) Four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.2, para. 6)<sup>11/</sup>
- (i) Ethiopia: to transpose the words "geographic" and "cultural".
  - (ii) Ethiopia: to delete the word "periodically" and, in place thereof, to introduce the idea, suitably phrased, that meetings with the Secretary-General would be held as and when the latter deemed them necessary and useful.
  - (iii) Japan: to replace the words "to meet periodically at United Nations Headquarters with the Secretary-General to discuss and consider" by the words "and to consult with it whenever deemed necessary on major".
  - (iv) Japan: to delete the introductory clause, "Recalls ... refers to such a body, and"; the paragraph to open with the words "Invites the Secretary-General ...".
  - (v) Japan: to insert after the words "to appoint" the words "for a period of two years starting in 1960".
  - (vi) Canada: to insert after the word "composed" the words "of suitably qualified representatives".
  - (vii) Ukrainian SSR: to insert in the paragraph a statement to the effect that the establishment of the Advisory Board would not entail any additional expenditure.
  - (viii) Ethiopia: to insert at the end of the paragraph the phrase: "The Board is authorized to formulate its own rules, consistent with the policy defined in the present resolution".

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<sup>11/</sup> At the 731st meeting the Committee had before it revision 3. However, the text of paragraph 6 was identical in revisions 2 and 3.



(ix) Ethiopia: to provide for an uneven number of members of the Board, either nine or eleven.

(b) United States amendment (A/C.5/L.578)

(i) United Arab Republic: to insert after the word "appoint" the words ", in consultation with Governments of Member States,".

(ii) United Arab Republic: to insert the word "main" before "cultures".

The United States representative accepted both sub-amendments.

57. The form of the consultative machinery was further considered during the second stage of the Committee's discussion, at the 729th to 731st meetings.

58. It was argued in support of the four-Power draft resolution that it afforded the Secretary-General a practical method of enlisting the co-operation of Member States in the work of public information. States could doubtless be counted on to appoint to the Board representatives with the necessary qualifications. The Board members, familiar with the work of the United Nations and representing the main geographical areas of the world, could render assistance to the Secretary-General, especially in advising him on the needs of the areas they represented and on the programmes best fitted, in the light of available facilities, to those needs. In addition, the Board would be able to assist in appraising the information work being done by OPI throughout the world. An advisory body of the type envisaged by the four sponsors accorded with the recommendation of the Committee of Experts (A/3928, para. 280) in which the Secretary-General had concurred in 1958 (A/3945, para. 17).

59. Representatives favouring the United States amendment (A/C.5/L.578/Rev.1) based their support on the following reasoning. The panel of experts would be closer in nature and functions to the body proposed by the Secretary-General in 1958 (A/3945, para. 17). It would be of a less formal character than the Advisory Board, and would not detract, as the latter might do, from the administrative responsibility of the Secretary-General. The United States amendment also offered the advantage of greater flexibility: it left to the Secretary-General the detailed arrangements concerning the number of panel members and the form and frequency of meetings.

60. According to a third view, adverse to both draft texts, it was difficult to trace a similarity between the proposed Advisory Board and the standing advisory group which the Committee of Experts and the Secretary-General had contemplated in 1958. The Board would be empowered to "discuss and consider" but not to submit recommendations or reports. It would be free to address itself to a seemingly unlimited number of topics that now came within the purview of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The United States amendment, on the other hand, left to the Secretary-General the initiative for seeking advice, and though it was to be preferred on that ground, it failed, as did the four-Power text, to give a precise definition of the advisory function for which it provided.

61. Several speakers deplored the fact that cost estimates of the respective proposals had not been submitted, with the result that it had been claimed for each, on a conjectural basis, that it would be the less expensive of the two, or alternatively that it would cost nothing. Was it consistent for the Fifth Committee to dwell so long on the financial aspects of public information and so little on those of its own proposals?

62. When the vote was taken at the 731st meeting, the following draft texts for operative paragraph 6 were before the Committee:

Draft resolution submitted by Colombia,  
Cuba, Peru and Venezuela 12/  
(A/C.5/L.576/Rev.3)

"6. Recalls General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 which envisaged the need for an advisory body in the field of public information, and paragraph 17 of the report (A/3945) dated 16 October 1958, in which the Secretary-General refers to such a body, and invites the Secretary-General to appoint a United Nations Advisory Board on Public Information composed of ten Member States representing the main cultural and geographic areas to meet periodically at United Nations Headquarters with the Secretary-General to discuss and consider information policies and programmes in order to ensure maximum effectiveness and minimum cost."

63. As indicated in paragraph 78 below, the Committee decided in favour of the United States amendment (A/C.5/L.578/Rev.1).

Internship and fellowship programmes

64. As regards the operation of the two internship programmes and the fellowship (senior study) programme, reference was made to the importance of adhering to the recommendations of the Committee of Experts (A/3928, paras. 167-169)

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12/ At the 730th meeting Peru, one of the four sponsors, accepted the United States amendment.

United States amendment to the  
four-Power draft resolution  
(A/C.5/L.578/Rev.1)

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint in consultation with Governments of Member States a panel of qualified persons representative of the various geographic areas and main cultures of the world and to consult with members of that panel from time to time on United Nations information policies and programmes in order to ensure maximum effectiveness at minimum cost."

concerning: (a) an order of priority among the three programmes, and (b) criteria for the selection of candidates, preferably from the under-developed countries.

65. Some representatives were of the opinion that a term of eight weeks for the students' intern programme was inadequate; not even one Secretariat department could be thoroughly studied in that time. If budgetary reasons precluded an extension of the programme, it would be preferable to merge the three projects and provide, within the sum of \$83,000, for internships of nine months' duration, to be held by a smaller number of persons.

66. A suggestion was also put forward that, as regards the two intern programmes (students and civil servants), travel expenses should be borne by the United Nations so that persons of modest means would not be debarred.

67. The representative of the Secretary-General assured the Committee that, in selecting candidates and assigning priorities to the three programmes, OPI had followed closely the recommendations of the Committee of Experts. The fellowship programme had accordingly been enlarged, with increases both in the duration of the programme (increased from four to six weeks) and in the number of participants (increased from seven in 1958 to thirty-one in 1959).

68. Nominations for fellowships were made by a committee which, in addition to consulting the interested Governments, received recommendations from information centres of the United Nations and Resident Representatives of the Technical Assistance Board. A lower priority had of necessity to be given to the remaining programmes, both of which had been reduced in length (from six to four weeks) and in the number of participants. Preference was given in the three programmes to the under-developed countries.

#### Annual report on public information

69. Some speakers voiced their disappointment that the Secretary-General had not submitted, in accordance with a recommendation of the Committee of Experts (A/3928, para. 280), a "brief statement embodying an assessment of the previous year's work together with a plan of work for the following year". It was to be hoped that future reports would be more detailed and provide concrete information on the practical measures that might be taken and the savings, if any, to be

anticipated. The suggestion was also made that the reports should include a detailed analysis of expenditure under various heads, such as radio, television, films and publications, the analysis to show all staff costs, local costs, and direct expenditure on services and supplies. For comparison, the analyses of preceding years should also be given. Other representatives, however, pointed out that the Secretary-General had in 1958 entered an express reservation (A/3945, para. 17) to the proposal of the Committee of Experts. Care should therefore be taken, when specifying the desired form of report, not to encroach upon his administrative authority. The Secretary-General had stated his willingness to explain at any time the choices which for budgetary reasons he would inevitably have to make. But he had also rightly appealed to the Fifth Committee to permit those in charge of the Office to do their best for the purposes established by the General Assembly.

#### Action on the draft resolutions

70. At the 728th meeting the Committee began its consideration of the USSR draft resolution (A/C.5/L.573) and the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.1).

71. The representative of Indonesia proposed, as an amendment to the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.1) the addition in operative paragraph 2 of the words "and by giving priority to those regions where the media of mass information are less developed".

72. The representative of Peru introduced, on behalf of the sponsors, a revised version of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.2) embodying suggestions made, in the course of the general discussion, by various delegations. It read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting with appreciation the Secretary-General's report on public information activities of the United Nations (A/4122), dated 16 June 1959,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) dated 13 February 1946 and 595 (VI) dated 4 February 1952, setting forth the basic policy of the United Nations in its public information activities, as well as

resolution 1335 (XIII) dated 13 December 1958, relating to the implementation of that policy,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 1086 (XI) dated 21 December 1956 relating to the establishment of information centres,

"1. Approves the policy of budgetary stabilization set forth by the Secretary-General in paragraph 18 of his report (A/4122);

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to give continuing and special consideration to the importance of adequate regional representation in the Office of Public Information, particularly at the policy-making and programme planning levels, in the structure and staffing of the External Relations Division and in the distribution of information centres;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General within the afore-mentioned policy of stabilization to establish new information centres as appear necessary and practicable, particularly in those sections where mass information media are less developed, preferably by a further decentralization of Headquarters staff and services;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to enlist the co-operation of the Member States concerned in giving all possible facilities for the establishment of such new centres and in assisting actively in efforts to promote wider public understanding of the aims and activities of the United Nations;

"5. Expresses the hope that media of information and publicity, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions in all Member States will continue their efforts to expand their commendable activities on behalf of a greater understanding of the United Nations by fuller dissemination of accurate and objective information;

"6. Recalls General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 which envisaged the need for an advisory body in the field of public information, and paragraph 17 of the report (A/3945) dated 16 October 1958, in which the Secretary-General refers to such a body, and invites the Secretary-General to appoint a United Nations Advisory Board on Public

Information composed of ten Member States representing the main cultural and geographic areas to meet periodically at United Nations Headquarters with the Secretary-General to discuss and consider information policies and programmes in order to ensure maximum effectiveness at minimum cost;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the fifteenth session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the above recommendations and on the measures taken and planned for the further implementation of resolution 1335 (XIII)."

73. The representative of Indonesia proposed the deletion of the words "within the afore-mentioned policy of stabilization" in operative paragraph 3 of the second revision.

74. At the 730th meeting the following amendments were proposed to the second revision of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.2):

Preamble

(a) Romania: to insert, after the second paragraph of the preamble, the following two paragraphs (A/C.5/L.581):

"Recalling the resolution approved by the Fifth Committee in its report to the eleventh session of the General Assembly (A/3550) concerning the stabilization of the total expenditure for United Nations information activities,

"Considering the recommendations and observations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on United Nations Public Information (A/3928), of 28 August 1958, and the observations made by members of delegations in the general debate at the present session on the public information activities of the United Nations,".

(b) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: to insert the following text (A/C.5/L.579) as the fourth paragraph of the preamble:

"Noting the policy of budgetary stabilization set forth by the Secretary-General in his report (A/4122),".

Operative paragraphs

(c) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: (A/C.5/L.579):  
to omit paragraph 1 and renumber paragraphs 2 to 6.

(d) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
(A/C.5/L.579, para. 3): to insert after new paragraph 5 (see (c) above) the  
following new paragraph 6:

"Requests the Secretary-General, having regard to the afore-mentioned  
policy of budgetary stabilization and to all other means designed to ensure  
maximum effectiveness at the lowest possible cost, to plan the Public  
Information programmes in 1960 on the assumption that total net expenditure  
for the year shall be about \$5 million."<sup>13/</sup>

(e) Ethiopia, Indonesia, the Sudan: oral amendment to delete the words  
"within the afore-mentioned policy of stabilization" in paragraph 3 (amendment  
previously offered at the 729th meeting by India).

(f) Pakistan: oral amendment to omit from paragraph 2 the words  
"particularly at the policy-making and programme-planning levels, in the structure  
and staffing of the External Relations Division".

(g) Pakistan: oral amendment to insert in paragraph 3 the words "to the  
extent he finds possible" after the words "Headquarters staff and services".

The sponsors of the four-Power draft resolution accepted the amendments  
proposed by Pakistan ((f) and (g) above).

75. The Committee considered at the 731st meeting the third revision of the  
four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.3) reading as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting with appreciation the Secretary-General's report on public information  
activities of the United Nations (A/4122), dated 16 June 1959,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) dated 13 February 1946 & 1  
595 (VI) dated 4 February 1952, setting forth the basic policy of the United  
Nations in its public information activities, as well as resolution 1335 (XIII)  
dated 13 December 1958, relating to the implementation of that policy,

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<sup>13/</sup> As initially submitted at the 730th meeting the text ended with the words  
"shall not exceed \$5 million." The representative of the United Kingdom  
accepted a sub-amendment of the United Arab Republic proposing the variant  
shown above.



"Recalling General Assembly resolution 1086 (XI) dated 21 December 1956 relating to the establishment of information centres,

"1. Approves the policy of budgetary stabilization set forth by the Secretary-General in paragraph 18 of his report (A/4122);

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to give continuing and special consideration to the importance of adequate regional representation in the Office of Public Information and in the distribution of information centres;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General within the afore-mentioned policy of stabilization to establish new information centres as appear necessary and practicable, particularly in those regions where mass information media are less developed, preferably by a further decentralization of Headquarters staff and services to the extent he finds possible;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to enlist the co-operation of the Member States concerned in giving all possible facilities for the establishment of such new centres and in assisting actively in efforts to promote wider public understanding of the aims and activities of the United Nations;

"5. Expresses the hope that media of information and publicity, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions in all Member States will continue their efforts to expand their commendable activities on behalf of a greater understanding of the United Nations by fuller dissemination of accurate and objective information;

"6. Recalls General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 which envisaged the need for an advisory body in the field of public information, and paragraph 17 of the report (A/3945) dated 16 October 1958, in which the Secretary-General refers to such a body, and invites the Secretary-General to appoint a United Nations Advisory Board on Public Information composed of ten Member States representing the main cultural and geographic areas to meet periodically at United Nations Headquarters with the Secretary-General to discuss and consider information policies and programmes in order to ensure maximum effectiveness at minimum cost;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the fifteenth session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the above recommendations and on the measures taken and planned for the further implementation of resolution 1335 (XIII)."

76. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics withdrew its draft resolution (A/C.5/L.573) in favour of the proposal contained in paragraph 3 of the United Kingdom amendment (A/C.5/L.579).

77. The following oral amendments were proposed to the third revision of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.3):

(a) Guatemala: to insert in operative paragraph 2 the words "the policy-making level of" before the words "the Office of Public Information".

(b) Japan: to omit the words "distribution of" in operative paragraph 2 (amendment accepted by the sponsors).

(c) Belgium: to insert in operative paragraph 3 the words "with the agreement of the Government concerned" after the word "Secretary-General" (amendment accepted by the sponsors).

(d) Afghanistan: in operative paragraph 3 to delete the clause "preferably ..... to the extent he finds possible" and to substitute the following words: "and to continue at the same time the Headquarters services required by the under-developed countries".

(e) United Arab Republic: to insert after operative paragraph 5 a new paragraph to read as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report on OPI to (the General Assembly in every session outlines of the policy and programmes planned to be executed by OPI during the coming year with comments thereon;".

#### Decisions of the Committee

78. At the 731st meeting the Committee voted on the revised four-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.576/Rev.3) and the amendments thereto with the following result:

	<u>In favour</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
<u>Romanian amendment (A/C.5/L.581)</u>	15	16	35
<u>United Kingdom amendment for insertion of new preambular paragraph after third preambular paragraph (A/C.5/L.579, para. 1)</u>	34	8	23
<u>United Kingdom amendment to omit operative paragraph 1 (A/C.5/L.579, para. 2)</u>	34	15	17
Guatemalan oral amendment to former operative paragraph 2 for insertion after the words "representation in" of the words "the policy-making level of"	36	8	18
Indonesian oral amendment to former operative paragraph 3 for deletion of the words "within the afore-mentioned policy of stabilization"	25	18	22
Pakistan oral amendment to former operative paragraph 3 for the deletion of the phrase "preferably by a further decentralization of Headquarters staff and services to the extent he finds possible"	4	42	20
Amendment by the United Arab Republic for the inclusion after former paragraph 5, of a new operative paragraph 5	43	0	23
<u>United States revised amendment (A/C.5/L.578/Rev.1) to former operative paragraph 6</u>	32	15	19
<u>United Kingdom amendment for insertion after former paragraph 6 of new penultimate operative paragraph (A/C.5/L.579, para. 3)</u>	42	7	17
<u>Revised joint draft resolution as a whole</u>	64	0	3

Recommendation of the Committee

79. The Fifth Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

/...

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the Secretary-General's report on public information activities of the United Nations of 16 June 1959, <sup>14/</sup>

Recalling its resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952, setting forth the basic policy of the United Nations in its public information activities, as well as resolution 1335 (XIII) of 13 December 1958, relating to the implementation of that policy,

Recalling its resolution 1086 (XI) of 21 December 1956 relating to the establishment of information centres,

Noting the policy of budgetary stabilization set forth by the Secretary-General in his report,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to give continuing and special consideration to the importance of adequate regional representation at the policy-making level of the Office of Public Information and in the information centres;

2. Requests the Secretary-General with the agreement of the Governments concerned to establish such new information centres as appear necessary and practicable, particularly in those regions where mass information media are less developed, preferably by a further decentralization of Headquarters staff and services to the extent he finds possible;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to enlist the co-operation of the Member States concerned in giving all possible facilities for the establishment of such new centres and in assisting actively in efforts to promote wider public understanding of the aims and activities of the United Nations;

4. Expresses the hope that media of information and publicity, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions in all Member States will continue their efforts to expand their commendable activities on behalf of a greater understanding of the United Nations by a fuller dissemination of accurate and objective information;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report on the Office of Public Information to the General Assembly at every session outlines of the policy and programmes planned to be executed by the Office during the coming year, with comments thereon;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint, in consultation with Governments of Member States, a panel of qualified persons representative of the various geographical areas and main cultures of the world and to consult with members of that panel from time to time on United Nations information policies and programmes in order to ensure maximum effectiveness at minimum cost;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, having regard to the afore-mentioned policy of budgetary stabilization and to all other means designed to ensure maximum effectiveness at the lowest possible cost, to plan the public information programmes in 1960 on the assumption that the total net expenditure for the year shall be about \$5 million;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session on the implementation of the above recommendations and on the measures taken and planned for the further implementation of resolution 1335 (XIII).

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