



Sixth session

UNITED NATIONS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly at its fifth session adopted, on 12 December 1950, resolution 460 (V) in which it:

(i) Instructed the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of the proposals outlined in document A/1454 for a modified United Nations telecommunications system, provided that the capital expenditure involved did not constitute a net addition to the budget of the United Nations. The proposals in question dealt with the development of high-powered short wave radio transmitters for the United Nations.

(ii) Authorized the Secretary-General to accept for the above purpose such voluntary contributions and/or donations as would be appropriate and necessary to carry out the proposals in whole or in part, it being understood that any and all facilities or funds made available to the United Nations as a result of such voluntary gifts or contributions would become the exclusive property and be put under the sole control of the United Nations.

(iii) Requested the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the sixth session of the General Assembly.

2. During 1951, exploratory conversations have been undertaken with a view to ascertaining the possibility of securing such voluntary contributions and/or donations as would be appropriate and necessary to give effect to these proposals. The Secretary-General is unable at this stage to report any positive results nor does he anticipate further developments within the immediate future. Should, however, the situation change in this respect, the General Assembly will be informed accordingly.

3. While no developments can therefore be reported concerning radio broadcasting facilities, useful progress has been made, contrary to earlier expectations, in the development of point-to-point facilities. It has been found possible to establish such facilities between political missions in the field without additional expenditures, by making use of the control stations which the United Nations Field Service has already established for handling the local communications of the missions. The stations concerned are those of the following United Nations missions: Special Commission on the Balkans (Athens, established 1948); Conciliation Commission for Palestine (Jerusalem, established 1948); Commissioner in Libya (Tripoli, established 1951); Military Observer Group India and Pakistan (Srinagar (summer) and New Delhi (winter), established 1950); and Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (Pusan, established 1950).

4. It was further found possible to complete this system to the extent of establishing communication with Geneva and Bangkok by using equipment already in the possession of the United Nations, and by the transfer of personnel who, when not operating the station concerned, are employed on other duties.

5. Thus, by using normal commercial channels between New York and Geneva, a high proportion of United Nations traffic beyond Geneva with the above-mentioned missions in the field and with Bangkok is now being carried on a United Nations system, at a substantially lesser over-all cost that would otherwise have to be borne by the United Nations budget.

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