

opment of international law governing the exploration and use of outer space,

*Recalling* that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies<sup>24</sup> affirms that States Parties to that Treaty shall bear international responsibility for their national activities in outer space and refers to the State on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried,

*Recalling further* that the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects<sup>26</sup> establishes international rules and procedures concerning the liability of launching States for damage caused by their space objects,

*Noting* that to date thirty-five States have ratified or acceded to, and five more States have signed, the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space,<sup>25</sup> which was opened for signature on 14 January 1975 and which entered into force on 15 September 1976,

*Having considered* the item entitled "Question of the review of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space", as called for in article X of the Convention,

1. *Recognizes* that, in view of the considerable increase of activities in outer space, effective international rules and procedures concerning the registration of objects launched into outer space continue to be of great importance;

2. *Reaffirms*, in this respect, the importance of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space and the registration, pursuant to the Convention, of all objects launched into outer space;

3. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so, particularly those conducting space activities, to give urgent consideration to ratifying or acceding to the Convention in order to assure its broad application;

4. *Also urges* international intergovernmental organizations that conduct space activities to declare, if they have not yet done so, their acceptance of the rights and obligations provided for in the Convention, pursuant to article VII;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, a report on the past application of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space and to submit it to the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-sixth session, for the information of the Member States.

*95th plenary meeting  
3 December 1986*

#### **41/67. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965, 2053 A (XX) of 15 December 1965, 2249 (S-V) of 23 May 1967, 2308 (XXII) of 13 December 1967, 2451 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2670 (XXV) of 8 December 1970, 2835 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 2965 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3091 (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 3239 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, 3457 (XXX) of 10 December 1975, 31/105 of 15 December 1976, 32/106 of 15 December 1977, 33/114 of 18 Decem-

ber 1978, 34/53 of 23 November 1979, 35/121 of 11 December 1980, 36/37 of 18 November 1981, 37/93 of 10 December 1982, 38/81 of 15 December 1983, 39/97 of 14 December 1984 and 40/163 of 16 December 1985,

*Noting* that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations has not been able to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session,

1. *Reaffirms and renews* the mandate given to the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

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

*95th plenary meeting  
3 December 1986*

#### **41/68. Questions relating to information**

##### **A**

*The General Assembly,*

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

*Recalling* the recommendations of the Committee on Information approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/164 A of 16 December 1985 and annexed thereto, as well as the provisions of that resolution, and taking into account the views expressed by delegations at the fortieth session of the Assembly, on 16 December 1985,<sup>27</sup>

*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>28</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the comprehensive report of the Committee on Information,<sup>29</sup> which served as an important basis and stimulated further deliberations, and urges the full implementation of the following recommendations:

(1) All countries, the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned should co-operate in the establishment of a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process, and based, *inter alia*, on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information, guaranteeing diversity of sources of information and free access to information and, in particular, the urgent need to change the dependent status of the developing countries in the field of information and communication, as the principle of sovereign equality among nations extends also to this field, and intended also to strengthen peace and international understanding, enabling all persons to participate effectively in political, economic, social and cultural life and promoting human rights, understanding and friendship among all nations. The ongoing efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which retains the central role in this field, to eliminate gradually the existing imbalances in the field of information and communication and to encourage a free

<sup>27</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Plenary Meetings, 118th meeting.*

<sup>28</sup> A/41/562 and Add.1.

<sup>29</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/41/21)*

<sup>26</sup> Resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex.

flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information in accordance with the relevant resolutions of that organization, adopted by consensus, should be reaffirmed;

(2) Fully aware of the important role that the media worldwide can freely play, particularly under the present situation, it is recommended that:

(a) The mass media should be encouraged to give wider 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;

(b) 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 Nations system in all its endeavours, in accordance with the purposes 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;

(c) All countries should be urged to extend assistance to journalists for the free and effective performance of their professional tasks;

(3) 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 in and all other obstacles, both internal and external, to the free flow and wider and better balanced dissemination of information, ideas and knowledge by, *inter alia*, diversifying the sources of information and respecting the interests, aspirations and socio-cultural values of all peoples, as a step towards the attainment of a free and more balanced flow of information;

(4) The United Nations system as a whole, as well as the developed countries, should be urged to co-operate in a concerted manner with the developing countries towards strengthening the information and communication infrastructure in the latter countries, in accordance with the priorities attached to such areas by the developing countries, with a view to enabling them to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and in the light of their history, social values and cultural traditions, taking into account the principle of freedom of the press and information. In this regard, full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which constitutes an important step in the development of these infrastructures, should always be emphasized;

(5) It is recommended that the need be stressed to promote the access of the developing countries to communication technology, including communication satellites, modern electronic information systems, informatics and other advanced information and communication facilities so that they may improve their own information and communication systems in accordance with the specific conditions prevailing in each country;

(6) While satisfaction is expressed with the successful co-ordination and co-operation displayed by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat with the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with regional news agencies of developing countries, it is recommended that the Department of Public Information continue to strengthen this co-operation as

it constitutes a concrete step towards the elimination of existing inequalities;

(7) The Department of Public Information should continue to co-operate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in assisting the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as the regional news agencies of developing countries, by providing them with press releases and other materials and facilities for meetings on data and communication exchange of the public information bodies of the non-aligned countries;

(8) It is recommended that the Department of Public Information as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, should co-operate with the Eco-Pool of the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, which began its operation in September 1985 in order to receive and transmit daily economic information to relevant government, economic, banking and other institutions responsible for economic and social development, and which should help in promoting economic co-operation with and among developing countries;

(9) Reaffirming the primary role that the General Assembly is to play in elaborating, co-ordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information and emphasizing the central role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communication, it is recommended that the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned should be urged to give that organization adequate support and assistance in the field of information and communication. The Department of Public Information, in particular, should co-operate more regularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, especially at the working level, with a view to maximizing the contributions of the Department to the efforts of that organization in further promoting the attainment of a free and a more balanced flow of information;

(10) Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>10</sup> which provides that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, and article 29, which stipulates that these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, should be recalled;

(11) 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 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) Development of human resources as 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) Creation of conditions that will gradually enable the developing countries to produce, by using their own resources, the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, specifically for radio and television broadcasting;

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

(12) The Secretary-General should be requested to ensure that the activities of the Department of Public Information, as the focal point of the public information tasks of the United Nations, are strengthened and improved, keeping in view the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and along the lines established in the pertinent resolutions of the General 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, especially in its priority areas, such as those stated in section III, paragraph 1, of Assembly resolution 35/201 of 16 December 1980;

(13) The Department of Public Information should be requested to continue its co-operation with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations, and should monitor, as appropriate, important meetings of that Movement, as well as of intergovernmental and regional organizations, with a view to promoting a free and more balanced flow of information;

(14) In the light of the grave economic situation prevailing in Africa, the Secretary-General should be requested to ensure that the Department of Public Information does its utmost in bringing to the attention of the international community the real dimensions of the plight of the African people and the tremendous efforts of the African countries, with a view to increasing its contribution to alleviating this human tragedy. In this regard, the Secretary-General should be requested to ensure that the Department of Public Information does its utmost to disseminate widely and to publicize the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,<sup>30</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its thirteenth special session, on the critical economic situation in Africa, which was held from 27 May to 1 June 1986;

(15) The Department of Public Information should be urged to give the widest possible dissemination of information pertaining to acute world economic problems in general and, in particular, to the critical economic situation in Africa, the severe economic difficulties of the least developed countries and the external debt crisis and development, as well as to the adverse effect of the international economic environment on the developing countries;

(16) The relevant provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and those of the Concluding Document of the meeting of representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Madrid from 11 November 1980 to 9 September 1983, should be recalled;

(17) The relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace<sup>31</sup> should also be recalled;

(18) The final documents of the Conference of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 26 to 30 January 1984,<sup>32</sup> should be recalled;

(19) The Conference of Ministers of Information of States members of the Organization of African Unity, held at Addis Ababa in March 1985, which expressed its conviction of the importance of a new world information and communication order, should be noted;

(20) The relevant resolution on the question relating to information of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference, held at Casablanca from 16 to 19 January 1984,<sup>33</sup> should be recalled;

(21) The relevant section of the Political Declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986,<sup>34</sup> should be recalled;

(22) The Department of Public Information should be urged to continue to give appropriate support to the lasting values of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which were reconfirmed during the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations;

(23) The Department of Public Information should continue to maintain editorial independence and accuracy in reporting for all material produced by the Department and should promote, to the greatest possible extent, an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world, taking necessary measures to ensure that its output contains objective and equitable information about issues before the Organization, reflecting divergent opinions where they occur. The Department should ensure that there is open and unhindered access to all United Nations materials distributed through United Nations information centres;

(24) The assessment contained in the report of the Secretary-General relating to the acquisition by the United Nations of its own communications satellite<sup>35</sup> should be kept under constant review;

(25) In this regard, attention is drawn to the success attained by the ARABSAT, BRASILSAT, INSAT-1B, MORELOS and PALAPA satellite systems and the CONDOR project, designed to promote national and regional integration, and the improvement of communication infrastructures;

(26) In the light of the present financial difficulties of the Department of Public Information, it is recommended that the Department consider expanding the programme of telephone news bulletins. The Department is further requested to contact, in the immediate future, interested countries and radio broadcasting organizations in order to examine ways and means to resume, on favourable conditions for the Organization, short-wave broadcasting;

(27) The Department of Public Information should co-operate closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries to continue to organize a workshop in 1987 for the familiarization of news agencies of developing countries with modern technology of relevance to news agencies and for the standardization of teaching methods and syllabuses and to produce training manuals in various languages for the training centres of the Pool and should report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1988 on progress made to this effect. The Department of Public Information should, as a matter of priority, continue its annual training programme for journalists and broadcasters from developing countries.

<sup>30</sup> Resolution S-13/2, annex.

<sup>31</sup> Resolution 33/73.

<sup>32</sup> A/39/139-S/16430, annex.

<sup>33</sup> A/39/131-S/16414 and Corr.1, annex II, resolution 15/4-P(1S).

<sup>34</sup> A/41/697-S/18392, annex, sect. I, paras. 294-312.

<sup>35</sup> A/AC.198/95.

In this connection, the Department should continue to examine the possibility of allocating a week of the programme for a visit by journalists and broadcasters from developing countries to one of the developing countries that expresses readiness to receive them for the purpose of acquainting them with the ways in which information on the United Nations is received and utilized;

(28) In order to enhance awareness and understanding of the lofty objectives of the United Nations, the Department of Public Information should provide assistance, in an objective and equitable way, to educational institutions of Member States for teaching about the structure of the United Nations, as well as the principles and aims enunciated in its Charter. In order to implement this recommendation, the Department should continue to organize its fellowship programme for educators;

(29) Within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, the Department of Public Information should encourage coverage aimed at the promotion of a climate of understanding, confidence and co-operation, peace and development, and the enhancement of human rights;

(30) The Department of Public Information should be requested to continue to cover adequately and accurately all United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

(31) The Department of Public Information should continue its activities and dissemination of information on 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 this issue;

(32) The Secretary-General should be requested to intensify his efforts in order to alert world public opinion to the illegal occupation of Namibia and to continue to disseminate, with the full assistance of the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Department of Public Information and the United Nations system as a whole, information relating to the struggle of the oppressed people of Namibia for self-determination, national independence and freedom as well as to the need for the full and speedy implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia;

(33) The Department of Public Information should be requested anew to use the official languages of the General Assembly adequately in its documents and audio-visual documentation and to arrange accordingly for an appropriate number of staff in order better to inform the public about the activities of the United Nations. It should also make available to the French Language Production Section of the Press and Publications Division of the Department the means that will allow it consistently to produce and distribute press releases and "blue notes". With a view to assuring the best possible coverage of United Nations activities, the Department of Public Information should again be requested, in conformity with resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946 and the pertinent instructions of the Secretary-General, to make balanced use of the two working languages of the Secretariat in its written and audio-visual documents. In particular, the Department, within existing resources, should give to the concerned divisions the means to produce and distribute press releases and "blue notes" in the two working languages of the Secretariat;

(34) The Secretary-General should be requested to strengthen the Middle East/Arabic Unit as the pro-

ducer of Arabic television and radio programmes. The Department of Public Information should implement the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/82 B of 15 December 1983 on the Caribbean Unit. In view of the importance of United Nations radio programmes in the European region, the functions of the European Unit should not only be maintained, they should also be expanded;

(35) The unique function of United Nations information centres as one of the most important means of disseminating information about the United Nations among the peoples of the world is recognized. In this regard, United Nations information centres should continue to assist press and information media in their respective countries in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly and should intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local information and educational institutions in a mutually beneficial way, taking into account the areas of particular interest to host countries, with a view to the elimination of existing inequalities. 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. Co-ordination with these other offices should take into account the functional autonomy of the United Nations information centres;

(36) The Department of Public Information should promote to the greatest extent possible an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations and its contribution to the well-being of the peoples of the world. In this connection, coverage of United Nations activities in the area of social and economic development should be enhanced;

(37) The Department of Public Information should disseminate information concerning the decisions of the United Nations dealing with acts of terrorism in all its forms, with particular regard to General Assembly resolution 40/61 of 9 December 1985, which was adopted by consensus, as well as the relevant statements of the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General;

(38) The Secretary-General should continue to strengthen and accelerate his efforts to develop a system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the activities of the Department of Public Information, particularly in the priority areas determined by the General Assembly, taking into account the need to improve data collection procedures, analysis of feedback data and end-use of the Department's materials, and maximizing the efficiency of the operations in all their aspects;

(39) Future reports of the Department of Public Information to the Committee on Information and to the General Assembly, in particular on new programmes or on the expansion of existing programmes, should contain:

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

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

(c) More 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) The Department's evaluation of the effectiveness of its different programmes and activities, with particular reference to the need constantly to review internal programme elements and activities;

(40) The steps taken by the Department of Public Information in redressing the imbalance in its staff should be noted. The Department should continue its efforts to that end. The Secretary-General should take appropriate steps to increase the representation of underrepresented developing countries and of other underrepresented groups of countries, especially at the senior levels, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and to submit a report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1987;

(41) Member States should be called upon once again to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information;

(42) The assessment contained in the report of the Secretary-General<sup>36</sup> on the present system of charging Member States and the media for video tapes, audio tapes and news photographs of important United Nations events should be noted, and the Department of Public Information should report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1987 on that subject with a view to reducing appropriately the final cost of these materials and spreading overtime charges legitimately incurred in an equitable way so as to enable the media in the Member States to give wider publicity to the aims and activities of the United Nations. Every effort must be made to reduce the cost of this activity to the United Nations;

(43) It is again requested that the Secretary-General submit his final report on the role of the Department of Public Information as the focal point of all information activities of the United Nations, and it is recommended that no new information units independent of the Department be created in the Secretariat;

(44) Note is taken of the report on the implementation of recommendations to improve the distribution of taped radio programmes produced by the Department of Public Information in New York<sup>37</sup> and the Department is requested to take steps to improve their distribution, to examine its current effectiveness and to report to the Committee at its substantive session in 1987. In this connection, the Department of Public Information should review its decision to curtail certain radio programmes and explore ways and means to resume them as early as possible;

(45) Note is taken of the report on the programme and activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee,<sup>38</sup> and the Secretary-General is urged to continue his efforts to secure a sound and stable financial basis for *Development Forum*, the only inter-agency publication of the United Nations system that concentrates on development issues. The Secretary-General should continue to ensure that *Development Forum* retains its editorial policy of intellectual independence, thus enabling this publication to continue to serve as a world-wide forum in which diverse opinions on issues relating to economic and social development can be freely expressed;

(46) The quality, usefulness and coverage of the daily press releases and the weekly news summary issued by the Department of Public Information in all working languages should be further enhanced and improved in

view of the important public information tasks that they can perform. Services provided by the Press Section of the Department both for the media and the delegations should be improved. The Department should continue to co-operate closely with and provide assistance to the United Nations Correspondents Association;

(47) The Department of Public Information should improve the timely distribution of its materials to subscribers and United Nations information centres, particularly the *UN Chronicle*, a major source of information on the United Nations to its recipients, and to reassess the effectiveness of this publication and to report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1987;

(48) The Secretary-General should be encouraged to continue and intensify his efforts to explore all possibilities of securing the adequate resources for the continuation of the *World Newspaper Supplement* project;

(49) The Joint United Nations Information Committee, as the essential instrument for inter-agency coordination and co-operation in the field of public information, should be further strengthened and given more responsibility for the public information activities of the entire United Nations system;

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

(51) Note is taken of the report on the review of the distribution of photo materials produced by the Department of Public Information in New York<sup>39</sup> and the implementation of the recommendations contained in that report is urged;

2. *Requests* that the recommendations relating to the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat be implemented within existing resources;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information, at its substantive session in 1987, on the implementation of the above recommendations;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

95th plenary meeting  
3 December 1986

## B

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 34/181 and 34/182 of 18 December 1979, 35/201 of 16 December 1980, 36/149 A of 16 December 1981, 37/94 A and B of 10 December 1982, 38/82 A of 15 December 1983, 39/98 A and B of 14 December 1984 and 40/164 A and B of 16 December 1985,

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of the Declarations of the Seventh and Eighth Conferences of Heads of State or

<sup>36</sup> A/AC.198/106.

<sup>37</sup> A/AC.198/104.

<sup>38</sup> A/AC.198/111 and Corr.1 and 2.

<sup>39</sup> A/AC.198/109.

Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983<sup>40</sup> and at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986<sup>34</sup> as well as the final documents of the Conference of the Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 26 to 30 January 1984<sup>32</sup> and the relevant provisions of the Final Political Declaration adopted by the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Luanda from 4 to 7 September 1985,<sup>41</sup>

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its eighteenth ordinary session, held at Nairobi from 24 to 27 June 1981,<sup>42</sup> and the Conference of Ministers of Information of States members of the Organization of African Unity at its third ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa in March 1985, and at its first extraordinary session, held at Cairo in November 1985, especially those encouraging regional co-operation in the field of information,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and those of the Concluding Document of the meeting of representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Madrid from 11 November 1980 to 9 September 1983,

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>10</sup> which provides that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, and article 29, which stipulates that these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace,<sup>31</sup>

Conscious that, in order progressively to remedy existing imbalances, it is essential to strengthen and intensify the development of infrastructure, networks and resources in the communications field and thus encourage a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information,

Emphasizing its full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which constitutes an essential instrument for the development of human and material resources and communication infrastructures in the developing countries,

Recognizing the central role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communications within its mandate, as well as the progress accomplished by that organization in that field,

1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;<sup>43</sup>

2. Recalls the Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racialism, *Apartheid* and Incitement to War,<sup>44</sup> adopted on

28 November 1978 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

3. Considers that the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization represents a significant step towards the gradual elimination of existing imbalances in the field of information and communications and welcomes the decisions adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the Programme at its seventh session, held in Paris from 14 to 20 January 1986;

4. Expresses its appreciation to all Member States that have made or pledged a contribution towards the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication;

5. Again calls upon Member States and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as other international governmental and non-governmental organizations and concerned public and private enterprises to respond to the appeals of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to contribute to the International Programme for the Development of Communication by making financial resources available as well as staff, equipment, technologies and training resources;

6. Recalls resolution 4/22 of 27 October 1980<sup>45</sup> concerning the reduction of telecommunication tariffs for news exchanges, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and takes note of the efforts made by Member States in this respect;

7. Reaffirms its support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, its Constitution and the ideals reflected in it;

8. Invites the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue his efforts in the information and communication field and to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-second session, a detailed report on the application of the International Programme for the Development of Communication as well as on the social, economic and cultural effects of the accelerated development of communication technologies;

9. Reaffirms the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which retains the central role in the field of information, gradually to eliminate existing imbalances, particularly with respect to the development of infrastructures and production capacities, and to encourage a free flow and wider and better balanced dissemination of information with a view to the establishment of a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization consensus resolutions.

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3 December 1986

C

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the importance attached to questions relating to information,

<sup>40</sup> See A/38/132-S/15675 and Corr. 1 and 2, annex, sect. I, para. 173.

<sup>41</sup> See A/40/854-S/17610 and Corr. 1, annex I, sect. XXXIV.

<sup>42</sup> See A/36/534, annex II.

<sup>43</sup> A/41/582 and Add. 1, annex.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Records of the General Conference, Twentieth Session, vol. 1, Resolutions, pp. 100-104.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, vol. 1, Resolutions, sect. III.

*Taking into account* the request of the delegation of Malta to become a member of the Committee on Information, as conveyed by the Chairman of the Committee on Information,<sup>46</sup>

*Decides* to increase the membership of the Committee on Information from sixty-nine to seventy and appoints Malta as a new member.

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3 December 1986

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*As a result, the Committee on Information is composed of the following Member States: ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BENIN, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURUNDI, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, DENMARK, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUYANA, INDIA, INDONESIA, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, LEBANON, MALTA, MEXICO, MONGOLIA, MOROCCO, NETHERLANDS, NIGER, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SINGAPORE, SOMALIA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, YEMEN, YUGOSLAVIA and ZAIRE.*

#### D

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Charter of the United Nations, which sets out in its preamble the principles and purposes for which "we the peoples of the United Nations" are to strive,

*Reaffirming* that the United Nations cannot achieve the purposes for which it has been created unless the peoples of the world are fully aware of its aims and activities,

*Recalling* its resolution 137 (II) of 17 November 1947, in which, *inter alia*, the Assembly considered that the knowledge and understanding of the aims and activities of the United Nations are essential in promoting and assuring general interest and popular support of its work,

*Noting* that the World Federation of United Nations Associations, which commemorates its fortieth anniversary in 1986, was established by people from all parts of the world motivated by the ideals of the Charter, as a movement dedicated to the promotion of such understanding and support,

*Noting* that the Federation is the only international non-governmental organization which devotes itself entirely to building support for the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

*Acknowledging* with great satisfaction the efforts of thousands of individuals voluntarily working to promote the purposes and principles of the United Nations through United Nations associations around the world,

*Considering* the sustained programmes and numerous activities of the Federation and United Nations associations during the last four decades in pursuit of these objectives,

1. *Commends* the World Federation of United Nations Associations and United Nations associations for the valuable contribution they have made during the past forty

years through their activities in the mobilization of popular support for the programmes and work of the United Nations;

2. *Expresses* the wish that the Federation and United Nations associations will have continued success in their efforts to inform the general public about the United Nations at the national and international levels;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments and peoples to encourage and help the World Federation of United Nations Associations through their local United Nations associations to expand and develop the pursuit of the goals to which the Member States have committed themselves.

95th plenary meeting  
3 December 1986

#### E

#### FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 40/164 A and B of 16 December 1985, in which it reaffirmed its strong support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

*Considering* that the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, observed in November 1986, is an important event in international life,

1. *Reaffirms* its full support for and deep appreciation of the efforts that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has been exerting in the information field;

2. *Requests* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to pay particular attention to that event and to make broad use of that anniversary for the dissemination of information on the role of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the information field, and in all the fields of competence of the latter, namely education, science and culture.

95th plenary meeting  
3 December 1986

#### 41/69. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

#### A

#### ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE REFUGEES

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 40/165 A of 16 December 1985 and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

*Taking note* of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1985 to 30 June 1986,<sup>47</sup>

1. *Notes with deep regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) has not been ef-

<sup>46</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Special Political Committee, 20th meeting, para. 21.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/41/13 and Add.1).