

present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

*98th plenary meeting
15 December 1983*

38/81. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 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 December 1978, 34/53 of 23 November 1979, 35/121 of 11 December 1980, 36/37 of 18 November 1981 and 37/93 of 10 December 1982,

Taking account of the views expressed and issues raised on the question of peace-keeping during the debate on the item,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Conscious of the vital role played by United Nations peace-keeping forces in support of decisions of the Security Council in discharging its primary responsibility in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the presence of United Nations peace-keeping forces authorized by the Security Council in conflict areas demonstrates the common concern of Members of the United Nations in the preservation of stability and easing of tension in those areas,

Aware of the extremely difficult financial situation of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the light of the heavy burden incurred by troop contributors, especially those from developing countries,

Stressing the collective responsibility of Member States, in accordance with the Charter, to share equitably the financial burdens of such operations established by the Security Council, which should continue to be conducted with maximum efficiency and economy,

Urging, at the same time, that other areas of co-operation with and support for United Nations peace-keeping forces should be encouraged,

Recognizing the need to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations peace-keeping forces,

Commending the Secretary-General for the way he is carrying out peace-keeping operations of the United Nations decided upon by the Security Council,

Convinced that the importance of the issue of United Nations peace-keeping is such that the United Nations should continue to work for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects,

Taking note of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations,¹⁶

1. *Expresses its conviction* that peace-keeping operations of the United Nations, conducted with the consent of the host country and with respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, are an essential function of the United Nations, though not a substitute for the peaceful settlement of disputes and therefore of a temporary nature;

2. *Urges* all concerned to co-operate fully in the implementation of United Nations peace-keeping operations;

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

4. *Expresses concern* about the difficult financial situation of United Nations peace-keeping operations;

5. *Urges again* the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, in accordance with its mandate, to renew its efforts to work towards the completion of agreed guidelines that will govern the conduct of United Nations peace-keeping operations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and to devote further attention to specific questions relating to the practical implementation of peace-keeping operations;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations to submit a status report on its present situation, to determine the areas of possible progress and other areas where progress would be difficult to achieve or is still pending, and to consider proposals to reactivate and rationalize its work;

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

*98th plenary meeting
15 December 1983*

38/82. Questions relating to information

A

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 and 37/94 A and B of 10 December 1982,

Stressing anew the importance of the establishment of a new world information and communication order and, in this regard, recalling the relevant provisions of the Political Declaration of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983,¹⁷ as well as the relevant provisions of the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979,¹⁸ of the Declaration of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 9 to 13 February 1981,¹⁹ and of the fifth and sixth meetings of the Intergovernmental Council of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Georgetown in May 1981 and at Valletta in June 1982,

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 1981,²⁰

¹⁶ A/38/381.

¹⁷ See A/38/132-S/15675 and Corr.1 and 2, annex, sect. I, para. 173.

¹⁸ See A/34/542, annex, sect. I, paras. 280-299.

¹⁹ See A/36/116 and Corr.1, annex.

²⁰ See A/36/534, annex II.

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, on the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,²¹ its article 19, 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 resolutions 4/19 and 4/21 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session, held at Belgrade from 23 September to 28 October 1980,²² and resolution 2/03 adopted by the General Conference at its fourth extraordinary session, held in Paris from 23 November to 3 December 1982,²³

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace,²⁴

Recalling further the relevant resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers of Information of the members of the League of Arab States at its nineteenth regular session, held at Tunis on 9 and 10 October 1983,

Considering that international co-operation in the field of communication development should take place on the basis of equality, justice, mutual advantage and the principles of international law,

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

Conscious that the development of communication infrastructures, including national and regional capacity for indigenous message production and dissemination, is one of the important factors of genuine participation by a large majority of developing countries in international exchanges,

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 important step in the development of the infrastructures of communication in the developing countries and the establishment of a new world information and communication order,

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

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication and the establishment of a new world information and communication order, and on the impact

of current technological developments and practices and their application in the communication and information sector;²⁵

2. Underlines, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of 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 Racism, *Apartheid* and Incitement to War,²⁶ the importance of efforts made so far for its implementation;

3. Again calls upon all Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and professional organizations in the field of communication to exert every effort to make better known through all means at their disposal the issues underlying the demand for the development of communication capacities in developing countries as a step towards the establishment of a new world information and communication order;

4. Considers that the International Programme for the Development of Communication represents a significant step towards the establishment of a new world information and communication order and welcomes the decisions adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the Programme at its fourth session, held at Tashkent, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, from 5 to 12 September 1983;²⁷

5. Notes with satisfaction the co-operation existing between the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and all other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the International Telecommunication Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union, whose projects have been approved by the Intergovernmental Council of the Programme;

6. Expresses its appreciation to all Member States that have made or pledged a contribution towards the implementation of the Programme;

7. 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 Programme by making greater financial resources available, as well as more staff, equipment, technologies and training resources;

8. Notes with satisfaction the progress made under the Global Satellite Project for Dissemination and Exchange of Information, executed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in co-operation with INTELSAT and INTERSPUTNIK and with the regional radio broadcasting unions in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Arab States and supported by the Programme;

9. Notes that very few countries have responded positively to resolution 4/22 concerning the reduction of telecommunication tariffs for news exchanges, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session,²² and calls once again upon Member States to respond positively and effectively to that resolution;

²¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

²² See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-first Session*, vol. I, *Resolutions*, sect. III.

²³ *Ibid.*, *Fourth Extraordinary Session*, vol. I and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, sect. II.

²⁴ Resolution 33/73.

²⁵ A/38/457, annex.

²⁶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twentieth Session*, vol. I, *Resolutions*, pp. 100-104.

²⁷ See A/38/457, annex, sect. I.A.

10. *Reaffirms* its strong support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its efforts to establish a new world information and communication order, as well as for that organization's second medium-term plan for 1984-1989 and its stimulation of research with a view to meeting the challenges of accelerated technological development and the increasing role of communication in societies and cultures;

11. *Requests* 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 thirty-ninth session, a detailed report on the application of the Programme and the activities relating to the establishment of a new world information and communication order and, in co-operation with the International Telecommunication Union, on the effects of the accelerated development of communication technologies on societies and cultures.

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B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3535 (XXX) of 17 December 1975, 31/139 of 16 December 1976, 33/115 A to C of 18 December 1978, 34/181 and 34/182 of 18 December 1979, 35/201 of 16 December 1980, 36/149 B of 16 December 1981 and 37/94 B of 10 December 1982 on questions relating to information,

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,²¹ 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 articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,²⁸

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Political Declaration of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983,¹⁷ in which the importance of the establishment of a new world information and communication order was stressed anew, as well as the relevant provisions of the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979,¹⁸ of the Declaration of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 9 to 13 February 1981,¹⁹ and of the fifth and sixth meetings of the Intergovernmental Council of Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Georgetown in May 1981 and at Valletta in June 1982,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and

Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling 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 Racism, *Apartheid* and Incitement to War,²⁶ as well as the relevant resolutions on information and mass communications adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second sessions,

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 Madrid meeting of representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held from 11 November 1980 to 9 September 1983,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace,²⁴

Taking note of that part of the Programme of Action on Namibia of the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, held in Paris from 25 to 29 April 1983, relevant to the activities requested of the Department of Public Information to develop and further strengthen the dissemination of information regarding the struggle for independence of the people of Namibia, with a view to reaching the broadest possible public by means of a more systematic and better co-ordinated information campaign,²⁹

Taking note of the Geneva Declaration on Palestine and the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights, unanimously adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine,³⁰ in particular section II.D of the Programme of Action,

Conscious of the need for all countries, the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, to collaborate in the establishment of a new world information and communication order based, *inter alia*, on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information, guaranteeing the 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 understanding and friendship among all nations and human rights,

Reaffirming that the establishment of a new world information and communication order is linked to the new international economic order and is an integral part of the international development process,

Emphasizing the important role that public information plays in promoting understanding of and support for the establishment of the new international economic order and international co-operation for development,

Emphasizing the role that public information plays in promoting support for universal disarmament and in increasing awareness of the relationship between disarmament and development among as broad a public as possible,

²⁸ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

²⁹ Report of the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, Paris, 25-29 April 1983 (A/CONF.120/13), para. 238.

³⁰ Report of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, Geneva, 29 August-7 September 1983 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.1.21), chap. I, sects. A and B.

Reaffirming the primary role which the General Assembly is to play in elaborating, co-ordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information and recognizing the central and important role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communication,

Taking note of the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, on 1 November 1983,³¹ on the question of equitable geographical balance and professional requirements in reinforcing the staff of the Department of Public Information,

Taking note of its resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982 entitled "Programme planning",

Emphasizing the complementarity of the activities in the field of information and communication and the need to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that deal with different aspects of information and communication,

Emphasizing its full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication, which constitutes an important step in the development of the infrastructures of communication in the developing countries,

Conscious that the transfer of technology to developing countries is vital for the acceleration of the establishment of a new world information and communication order based on justice, freedom and equity,

Taking note of its resolution 37/92 of 10 December 1982 entitled "Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting",

Expressing its satisfaction with the work of the Committee on Information as reflected in its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session,³²

Expressing its appreciation to the Joint United Nations Information Committee for its efforts towards improving co-ordination of the public information activities of the various organizations of the United Nations system,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,³³

Also taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,³⁴

1. *Approves* the report of the Committee on Information³² and all the recommendations contained in paragraph 94 A, annexed to the present resolution, affirms the requests and appeals reproduced therein and urges their full implementation;

2. *Reaffirms* the mandate given to the Committee on Information by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/182;

3. *Requests* the Committee on Information, keeping in mind its mandate, the essential tasks of which are to continue to examine the policies and activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to continue to promote the establishment of a new, more just and effective world information and communication order and to continue to seek the co-operation and active participation of all organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Telecommu-

nication Union, while taking all possible steps to avoid any overlapping of activities on this subject;

4. *Reaffirms* its strong support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and for its efforts to promote the establishment of a new world information and communication order;

5. *Reiterates its appeal* to Member States, to the information and communication media, both public and private, as well as to non-governmental organizations, to disseminate more widely objective and better balanced information about the activities of the United Nations and, *inter alia*, about the efforts of the developing countries towards their economic, social and cultural progress and about the efforts of the international community to achieve international social justice and economic development, international peace and security and the progressive elimination of international inequities and tensions, such dissemination being aimed at achieving a more comprehensive and realistic image of the activities and potential of the United Nations system in all its purposes and endeavours;

6. *Requests* that the Joint United Nations Information Committee, as the essential instrument for inter-agency co-ordination and co-operation in the field of public information, be strengthened and made more effective and that its secretariat elaborate new methods of work and longer-term indicative planning and joint action, especially in the promotion of a new world information and communication order;

7. *Reaffirms* the importance of the rapidly increasing role of United Nations public information programmes in fostering public understanding and support of United Nations activities and requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the current activities of the Department of Public Information with a view to ensuring a better and more efficient use of its available resources in co-operation, as needed, with the Joint Inspection Unit;

8. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to contribute more effectively, through its training programmes, to the development of human, managerial and technical resources of the mass media from developing countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take urgent steps, within the next programme budget, to enable the Caribbean Unit in the Radio Service of the Department of Public Information to begin a meaningful work programme, as outlined in the relevant report of the Secretary-General,³⁴ in particular by the introduction of full programming in French/Creole and limited programming in Dutch/Papiamentu;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure that regional television news magazines are produced for national broadcasting organizations which request them and undertake to broadcast them on a regular basis, taking into account the priorities set by the General Assembly;

11. *Invites* the Department of Public Information, in view of the decision of the Government of Indonesia, to reopen, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Information Centre at Jakarta;

12. *Invites* the Department of Public Information to give a favourable reply to the request of the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon that the United Nations Information Centre at Yaoundé be strengthened and that a full-time director be appointed;

³¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Special Political Committee, 17th meeting, paras. 49-58.*

³² *Ibid.*, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/38/21 and Corr.1 and 2).

³³ A/38/387 and Add.1.

³⁴ A/AC.198/65.

13. *Invites* the Department of Public Information to give a favourable reply to the request of the Government of the Republic of Burundi that the United Nations Information Centre at Bujumbura be strengthened and that a full-time director be appointed;

14. *Invites* the Commission on Transnational Corporations, when exchanging information with the Committee on Information, as encouraged by recommendation 21 of the Committee annexed to the present resolution, to draw the attention of the Committee to documents produced by the Secretariat relevant to the Committee's mandate, in particular those of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, when they have been considered by the Commission, together with the Commission's comments on them, provided that care is taken to avoid overlapping or duplication of work between the two intergovernmental bodies;

15. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to cover adequately policies and practices which violate the principles of international law relative to belligerent occupation, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,³⁵ wherever they occur, especially those policies and practices which frustrate the attainment and exercise of the inalienable and national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

16. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the work of the Round Table on a New World Information and Communication Order organized jointly by the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, held at Innsbruck, Austria, from 14 to 19 September 1983, and its subsequent report;³⁶

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information, jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, convenes a second round table in 1985 in order to follow up in more detail the progress made towards the establishment of a new world information and communication order, in which professional journalists, decision-makers and researchers in the various disciplines concerned, representatives of the international media and professional organizations and associations would participate;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information, at its substantive session in 1984, on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the Committee's report;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution and, in particular, on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the annex to the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

98th plenary meeting
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ANNEX

Recommendations of the Committee on Information

1. The forty-three recommendations of the Committee on Information approved by the General Assembly in resolution 37/94 B of 10 December 1982, as well as all provisions of the resolution, are reiterated. Those rec-

ommendations pending implementation should be implemented in full, taking into account the views expressed by delegations at the 100th plenary meeting of the thirty-seventh session of the Assembly on 10 December 1982.

2. The mandate of the Committee on Information should be renewed as set forth in General Assembly resolution 34/182 of 18 December 1979 and reaffirmed in Assembly resolutions 35/201 of 16 December 1980, 36/149 of 16 December 1981 and 37/94 of 10 December 1982.

PROMOTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW, MORE JUST AND MORE EFFECTIVE WORLD INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ORDER INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND BASED ON THE FREE CIRCULATION AND WIDER AND BETTER BALANCED DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

3. All countries, the United Nations system as a whole, and all others concerned, should collaborate in the establishment of a new world information and communication order based, *inter alia*, on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information, guaranteeing the 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 understanding and friendship among all nations and human rights.

4. An appeal should be addressed to the international media to obtain their support for the efforts of the international community towards global development and, in particular, for the efforts of the developing countries for their own economic, social and cultural progress.

5. An appeal should be addressed to the whole United Nations system to co-operate in a concerted manner, through its information services, in promoting the development activities of the United Nations, in particular the improvement of the conditions of the lives of the people of the developing countries.

6. Such appeals should be aimed at achieving a more comprehensive and realistic image of the activities and potential of the United Nations system, in all its purposes and endeavours, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations.

7. The need should be noted for the creation of a climate of confidence in relations among States as a means of easing tension and, in this context, an appeal should be addressed to all States and mass media to help promote the purposes of strengthening peace and understanding.

8. Reaffirming the primary role which the General Assembly is to play in elaborating, co-ordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information and recognizing the central and important role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communication, the co-operation between that organization and the United Nations in promoting the establishment of a new world information and communication order should take more regular forms, especially at the working level, through which the contribution of the Department of Public Information to the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization should be maximized.

9. The Department of Public Information should disseminate as widely as possible information on the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the establishment of a new world information and communication order and on the work of the Committee on Information in that field.

10. The Committee on Information, noting the valuable effort of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of a new world information and communication order, recommends that the Department of Public Information take steps to avoid any overlapping of its activities on this subject with those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, while stressing at the same time the ever-growing significance of the close working co-operation between the United Nations and the latter organization.

11. All countries, the United Nations system as a whole, and others concerned, should be called upon to give the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization adequate support and assistance in the field of information and communication. The fifth anniversary of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to

³⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

³⁶ A/AC.1/198/70, annex.

the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, *Apartheid* and Incitement to War,²⁶ should be marked by the General Assembly.

12. The Secretary-General should be requested to present to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session the report of the Round Table on a New World Information and Communication Order, held at Innsbruck, Austria, from 14 to 19 September 1983.³⁶

13. An appeal should be addressed to the whole United Nations system and the developed countries to co-operate in a concerted manner towards strengthening the information and communication infrastructures of the developing countries in accordance with the priorities attached to such areas by the developing countries. In this regard, full support for the International Programme for Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which constitutes an important step in the development of these infrastructures, should be emphasized.

14. The Department of Public Information should further strengthen its co-operation with the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies, as well as with regional news agencies of developing countries, as this co-operation constitutes a concrete step towards a more just and equitable world flow of information, thus contributing to the establishment of a new world information and communication order.

15. The United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, should aim at the provision of all possible support and assistance to the developing countries with regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to actions already adopted within the United Nations system, including, in particular:

(a) Assistance to developing countries in training journalists and technical personnel and in setting up appropriate educational institutions and research facilities;

(b) The granting of favourable conditions to provide developing countries with access to such communication technology as is requisite for the establishment of a national information and communication system and correspondent with the specific situation of the country concerned;

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

(d) Assistance in establishing telecommunication links at subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries, free from any kind of conditions.

16. All the information activities of the Department of Public Information should be guided by, and carried out in conformity with, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the aspiration for a new world information and communication order, as well as conform to the consensus reached among States in resolutions 4/19, 4/21 and 4/22 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session.²²

17. 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, should be strengthened, 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, to ensure a more coherent coverage of, and a 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, including international peace and security, disarmament, peace-keeping and peace-making operations, decolonization, the promotion of human rights, the struggle against *apartheid* and racial discrimination, economic, social and development issues, the integration of women in the struggle for peace and development, the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order, the work of the United Nations Council for Namibia and programmes on women and youth.

CONTINUATION OF EXAMINATION OF UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES, IN THE LIGHT OF THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES, AND OF THE IMPERATIVES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND OF A NEW WORLD INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ORDER

18. The Department of Public Information should ensure that the daily dispatches of the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies which it

receives are appropriately utilized in the performance of the public information tasks of the United Nations.

(a) With a view to further promotion and development of functional and mutually beneficial co-operation between the Department and the Pool, the existing arrangements in the Department for the conduct of this co-operation should be established on a more regular basis;

(b) In view of the successful joint coverage by the Pool of important conferences and other events within the United Nations system, this practice should be continued and further strengthened;

(c) The Department should consider the possibility of utilizing the dispatches received from the Pool to establish a data base on the information and communication facilities in the non-aligned countries.

19. In connection with the training programme for journalists and broadcasters from developing countries that the Department of Public Information organizes every year, the possibility should be considered of allocating the last week of the programme for a visit by them to one of the developing countries for the purpose of acquainting themselves with the ways in which information on the United Nations is received and utilized.

20. The Secretary-General should be requested to make available to the Committee on Information, at its substantive session in 1984, a report on the outcome of the activities conducted by the International Telecommunication Union with regard to the World Communications Year.

21. The exchange of information between the Committee on Information and the Commission on Transnational Corporations in matters pertaining to the mandate of the Committee should be encouraged.

22. The Secretary-General should be requested to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session the final report on the acquisition of a United Nations communications satellite, in the manner outlined in paragraph 20 of Assembly resolution 37/94 B.

23. The Secretary-General should be requested to implement fully the request, in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 36/149 B, that present United Nations short-wave broadcasts over rented transmitters should be placed on a daily schedule throughout the year, to the extent that this can be accomplished through more effective utilization of existing resources.

24. The Secretary-General should be requested to continue the co-operation between the Department of Public Information and the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa, as well as with radio stations which are members of that Union, in order to broadcast United Nations radio programmes on those radio stations, and further requests the Secretary-General to co-operate with the national radio broadcasting organizations in Africa for wider broadcasting of United Nations radio programmes.

25. The Secretary-General should be requested to present to the substantive session of the Committee on Information in 1984 a comprehensive report on the viability of a world-wide United Nations short-wave network, taking into account the views expressed at the fifth substantive session of the Committee.

26. The Secretary-General should be requested to implement fully the proposals contained in his report regarding programming in the Portuguese language in the African Unit of the Radio Service³⁷ and to take immediate steps for the strengthening of programming in the French language.

27. The Secretary-General should be requested to maintain the functions of the Middle East/Arabic Unit as the producer of Arabic television and radio programmes, to strengthen and expand this unit through the redeployment of existing resources to enable it to function in an effective manner, and to report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1984 on the measures taken in implementation of this recommendation.

28. In view of the importance of United Nations broadcasting for the European region, steps should be taken to maintain and enhance the functions of the European Unit in the Radio Service through redeployment of existing resources.

29. The inclusion of Bengali and Indonesian among the languages of the Asian Unit of the Radio Service for the purpose of undertaking programming at a meaningful level, as approved in 1982, should be implemented in full and Bahasa Malaysia (Malay) should also be included among the languages of the unit through redeployment of available resources.

30. Whereas the French Language Production Section of the Press and Publications Division hardly has available the means to provide press releases in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of the numerous delegations from all geographic areas wishing to use French as their working lan-

³⁷ A/AC.198/64.

guage, the Committee on Information requests that the Secretary-General should provide that Section with the appropriate means through better and more equitable use of available resources. The Committee recommends to the Department of Public Information that it make appropriate use of the official languages of the General Assembly in documents and audiovisual materials, in view of the need to disseminate more broadly and effectively information on the activities of the United Nations to the greatest cross-section of the public, using the greatest number of communications media.

31. United Nations information centres should continue to assist press and information media in their respective countries, and, *inter alia*, promote the establishment of a new world information and communication order.

32. While co-operation between the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Development Programme in the field should be promoted to the maximum extent, it is also important to bear in mind the intrinsic functions of United Nations information centres as distinct from those of United Nations development activities. The United Nations information centres should redouble their efforts to publicize the activities and achievements of operational activities for development, including those of the Programme, taking into account the priorities determined by the General Assembly.

33. In countries where the size, population, the state of media and non-governmental and other organizations, or the role being played by their Governments in United Nations affairs warrant it, separate United Nations information centres should be established, as and when resources become available. In other cases, the resident representatives or resident co-ordinators of the United Nations Development Programme may be entrusted with being acting directors of United Nations information centres, provided that they are periodically briefed and evaluated by the Department of Public Information with regard to their information tasks and provided that appropriate local staff and equipment can be allocated to them within available resources.

34. The Committee on Information, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the study on ways and means to enhance the role of the United Nations information centres within the structure of the Department of Public Information³⁸ recommends that the effectiveness of United Nations information centres should continue to be improved:

(a) Through the continued review of the extent of decentralization which can be achieved within the overall guidance of the Department of Public Information;

(b) Through better training of centre directors and their personnel;

(c) Through an improved feedback and reporting system;

(d) Where appropriate, through reallocation of available resources for local reproduction and other necessary expenditures;

(e) Through appointing the best qualified persons with professional experience from all different geographical regions to the posts of centre directors, in view of the increased importance of the work of the United Nations information centres network, taking into account Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

(f) Through filling existing vacancies at the level of information centre director without further delay, in order to assure the continuation of the work of the centres under the necessary professional guidance of the Department of Public Information;

(g) Through enabling the External Relations Division of the Department of Public Information to fulfil its important role of management, guidance, supervision and monitoring of United Nations information centres in order to ensure that the universal character of the United Nations and the manifold mandate of the Department be duly reflected in the work of the information centres;

(h) Through strengthening the capacity of and improving the services rendered by the centres within the existing resources of the Department of Public Information, so that the centres can play their indispensable role of fostering an informed public opinion about the United Nations throughout the world.

35. The Department of Public Information should focus on, and give wider coverage to, economic, social and development activities throughout the United Nations system, with the aim of achieving a more comprehensive image of the activities and potential of the United Nations system, taking into account the priorities set by the General Assembly. The United Nations information centres, among others, should play an important role in this regard. The Department of Public Information should encourage the organization of round-table discussions between chief editors for press, radio and television services of different countries.

36. The Department of Public Information should promote an informed understanding of the work of the United Nations in the area delineated in General Assembly resolutions 34/146 of 17 December 1979, 36/109 of 10 December 1981 and 37/108 of 16 December 1982.

37. The Committee on Information takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the study on ways and means to enhance the role of the United Nations information centres within the structure of the Department of Public Information.³⁸ The Secretary-General should be requested to submit to the Committee at its substantive session in 1984 a detailed report containing concrete proposals in respect of the suggestions presented in paragraphs 44 to 46 of the report.

38. The Secretary-General should be requested to ensure that United Nations information centres orient their activities to disseminate information on questions according to the mandates and priorities of the Department of Public Information established by the General Assembly.

39. Urgent steps should be taken to ensure that the United Nations Information Service at Vienna give, as a matter of priority, adequate service in the German language in order to act as information centre for Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany. Such steps, which are to be taken within existing resources, may involve redeployment of posts, including those originally assigned to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization-United Nations Information Service. The Committee should be informed about the implementation of this recommendation at its substantive session in 1984.

40. Taking into account the request of the Government of Nicaragua for the opening of a United Nations information centre at Managua, the Secretary-General should be requested to take the appropriate steps for the prompt establishment of the centre, through the redeployment of existing resources.

41. The United Nations information centres should be requested to intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local information and educational communities in a mutually beneficial way, especially in areas of particular interest to host countries.

42. A detailed and well documented factual summary account of the coverage by widely representative world media of developments affecting the Palestinian people from June to December 1982, should be prepared, within existing resources, and be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

43. The Committee on Information, taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on the development of systematic evaluation procedures for the activities of the Department of Public Information³⁹ and on the in-depth evaluation of the work of the Department of Public Information,⁴⁰ encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to develop a system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the activities of the Department, particularly in the priority areas determined by the General Assembly. This systematic evaluation process should be pursued and a progress report should be submitted to the Committee at its substantive session in 1984. The Committee looks forward to receiving in due course the progress report on the implementation of decisions taken on the basis of the Secretary-General's report⁴⁰ which is to be presented to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth session.

44. 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 an analysis of feed-back data received by the Department;

(d) The Department's evaluation of the effectiveness of its different programmes and activities;

(e) A statement detailing the priority level which the Secretary-General has attached to current or future activities of the Department, in documents dealing with such activities.

45. The Committee on Information notes the steps taken by the Department of Public Information in redressing the imbalance in the staff of that Department, particularly in the Radio and Visual Services Division. The Department should continue to intensify its efforts to that end, and, until equitable geographical distribution is achieved, the Secretary-General

³⁸ A/AC.198/61.

³⁹ A/AC.198/60.

⁴⁰ E/AC.51/1983/7.

should take urgent steps to increase the representation of under-represented groups of countries, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 33/143, 35/201, 36/149 and 37/94 B; in this regard, the Secretary-General is requested to submit a report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1984.

46. Member States should be called upon to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information.

47. The General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on various aspects of the regionalization of the Radio and Visual Services Division of the Department of Public Information⁴¹ and examine it in the light of its resolutions 35/201 and 36/149 B.

48. The World Disarmament Campaign should give full consideration to the role of the mass media as the most effective way to promote in world public opinion a climate of understanding, confidence and co-operation conducive to peace and disarmament, the enhancement of human rights and development. Within the context of the World Disarmament Campaign and Disarmament Week, the Department of Public Information should fulfil the role assigned to it by the General Assembly by utilizing its expertise and resources in public information to ensure maximum effectiveness.

49. 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 which they can perform. The Department should continue to co-operate closely with and provide assistance to the United Nations Correspondents Association. Services provided at the Press Section of the Department of Public Information booth for the media and delegations should be improved.

50. The Committee recommends, in view of the importance of graphic presentation for a variety of public information activities, including posters, exhibits and publications, that the Secretary-General should consider redeploying a post of graphic designer from the Department of Conference Services to the Department of Public Information.

51. The role of the Department of Public Information, as defined by the General Assembly in several relevant resolutions, as the focal point for the formulation and implementation of information activities of the United Nations should be re-emphasized, and the Secretary-General should be requested to study the full implications of this matter and submit a report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1984.

52. The operations of the Non-Governmental Liaison Services (Geneva and New York), as inter-agency projects reaching specific target audiences in the industrialized countries on international development issues, should be continued on a stable financial basis through United Nations participation in these services. The Committee further recommends that the Secretary-General should be requested to urge all the specialized agencies to make long-term contributions to the financing of these services, thereby stressing their inter-agency character.

53. The Department of Public Information and the United Nations Development Programme, as important elements of United Nations information and development activities, should be requested to co-operate more closely with each other, both at Headquarters and in the field, in order to concentrate their resources, avoid duplication and effectively foster the process of development.

54. The Joint United Nations Information Committee, as the essential instrument for inter-agency co-ordination and co-operation in the field of public information, should be enhanced and given more responsibility, thus improving its co-ordination and cost-benefit efficiency of the public information activities of the entire United Nations system.

55. The Joint United Nations Information Committee should continue to strengthen its activities in the fields of development education and development-support communications.

56. The recommendations contained in the report of the Joint United Nations Information Committee on public perceptions of the United Nations system⁴² should be implemented. An appeal should be addressed to Governments and the mass media to transmit accurate information on major activities of the United Nations, especially those listed in Article I of the Charter of the United Nations.

57. The Joint United Nations Information Committee should continue to report on its programmes and activities to the Committee on Information for guidance and support.

58. Since *Development Forum* is the only inter-agency publication of the United Nations system which concentrates on development issues, the Secretary-General should continue, in accordance with pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, to support its publication from the regular budget while intensifying his efforts to secure a sound and independent financial basis for its continued publication. All the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system should be urged to contribute to the financing of this system-wide publication, thereby recognizing its inter-agency character.

59. Having taken note of the report on the relocation of *Development Forum*, the Committee on Information recommends that the Secretary-General should be requested to ensure that *Development Forum* will retain 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 related to economic and social development can be freely expressed.

60. The Secretary-General should be requested to submit a report to the Committee on Information on the current status of financial arrangements for the publication of the *World Newspaper Supplement* project.

61. In view of the fact that, as is pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the work of the Department of Public Information,⁴⁰ the production of the *UN Chronicle* is administratively separate from its distribution and sales, thus adding to the problem of its wider and more effective dissemination, it is recommended that the Secretary-General should consider transferring the sales activity of the *UN Chronicle* to the Department of Public Information.

62. The importance of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace⁴³ should be noted and Member States called upon to implement it.

38/83. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

A

ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE REFUGEES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/120 K of 16 December 1982 and all 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 1982 to 30 June 1983,⁴⁴

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 effected, that no substantial progress has been made in the programme endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 2 of its resolution 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952 for the reintegration of refugees either by repatriation or resettlement and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of serious concern;

2. *Expresses its thanks* to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

3. *Reiterates its request* that the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East should be relocated to its former site within its area of operations as soon as practicable;

⁴¹ A/AC.198/62.

⁴² See A/AC.198/68.

⁴³ Resolution 33/73.

⁴⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/38/13 and Corr.1).