

35/124. International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees

The General Assembly,

Gravely concerned over the increasing flows of refugees in many parts of the world,

Deeply disturbed by the human suffering affecting millions of men, women and children who flee or are forcibly expelled from their homelands and seek refuge in other countries,

Reaffirming the right of refugees to return to their homes in their homelands,

Commending the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for his untiring humanitarian and social efforts,

Commending also all Governments, United Nations organs, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which have provided aid for their contributions, and stressing the importance of their efforts in this field,

Noting that, in addition to creating individual human misery, flows of refugees can impose great political, economic and social burdens upon the international community as a whole, with particularly dire effects on developing countries with limited resources of their own,

Considering that massive flows of refugees may not only affect the domestic order and stability of receiving States but also jeopardize the stability of entire regions and thus endanger international peace and security,

Conscious of its duty to examine in depth all aspects of the refugee problem and to study the means and resources provided by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations in order to maintain international peace and security,

Reaffirming the inviolability of existing international norms and principles governing responsibilities of States, especially regarding the protection of refugees, and reaffirming the framework of competences of international organizations and institutions,

Reaffirming its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, by which it approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced, therefore, that the United Nations is called upon to consider, in addition to humanitarian and social relief, suitable means to avert new flows of refugees,

1. *Strongly condemns* all policies and practices of oppressive and racist régimes as well as aggression, alien domination and foreign occupation, which are primarily responsible for the massive flows of refugees throughout the world and which result in inhuman suffering;

2. *Invites* all Member States to convey to the Secretary-General their comments and suggestions on international co-operation to avert new flows of refugees and to facilitate the return of those refugees who wish to return;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, for its further examination and thorough study, the views, comments and suggestions expressed by Member States, together with those expressed on the item at its thirty-fifth session, including all additional contributions per-

taining to the matter which he may receive from other United Nations organs;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-sixth session the item entitled "International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees".

*92nd plenary meeting
11 December 1980*

35/201. Questions relating to information

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 and its other resolutions on the question of information, in particular resolutions 34/181 and 34/182 of 18 December 1979,

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,²³ 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,²⁴

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 recommendations on the question of information and communication contained in the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979,²⁵ which emphasized, *inter alia*, that co-operation in the field of information constitutes an integral part of the struggle for the creation of new international relations in general and of a new world information and communication order in particular,

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 adopted on 28 November 1978 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the resolutions on information and mass communications adopted by the General Conference at its nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first sessions,

Taking note of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975,

²³ Resolution 217 A (III).

²⁴ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

²⁵ See A/34/542, annex, sect. I, paras. 280-299.

²⁶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twentieth Session*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, pp. 100-104.

Recalling also the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace,²⁷

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 and in the implementation of the relevant decisions in this area adopted by the General Conference of that organization and of the relevant parts of the Assembly resolutions on the subject,

Considering that the publication of the final report of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems²⁸ is a valuable contribution to the study of information and communication problems and that the debate on the report could also help to stimulate the participation of Governments, professional circles and the public in the process of the establishment of a new world information and communication order,

Conscious of 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,

Recalling the need to strengthen the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with the other specialized agencies concerned, particularly with the International Telecommunication Union, in the field of information and communication,

Mindful of the need for all 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 the 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, and intended also to strengthen peace and international understanding,

Affirming 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,

Taking into account with satisfaction the report of the Committee on Information²⁹ and the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Committee annexed thereto,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,³⁰

Also taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,³¹

Further taking note with satisfaction of the establishment by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session of the International Programme for the Development of Communication,³²

Reaffirming the need to ensure a linguistic balance in the dissemination of information by the United Nations and an equitable geographical distribution of personnel, particularly with regard to the senior and decision-making posts of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations,

I

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the relevant resolutions as 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, in particular the resolution on the report of the Director-General on the findings of the International Commission for the Study of Communication;³³

2. *Takes note* of the invitation of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to take immediate steps to initiate studies with a view to drawing up the fundamental principles underlying a new world information and communication order and exploring the possibility and desirability of such studies serving as a basis for a Declaration on the Establishment of a New World Information and Communication Order;

3. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the establishment within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the International Programme for the Development of Communication, which constitutes an important step in the establishment of a new world information and communication order and which aims at the development of infrastructures of communications of the developing countries in order to contribute to narrowing the gap in the fields of information and communication between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries themselves;

4. *Invites* Governments, non-governmental organizations and other entities in Member States to extend financial as well as technical support for the development of communication structures in developing countries and, in particular, to the International Programme for the Development of Communication;

5. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to render full co-operation and support to the International Programme for the Development of Communication and to seek and encourage interagency co-operation and the participation of the agencies in the activities of the Programme and its Intergovernmental Council;

6. *Invites* Member States to facilitate the widespread circulation and study of the final report of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems,²⁸ to take into account its recommendations in the preparation and strengthening of their national communication capabilities and to include the questions relating to information and communication in their development strategy;

7. *Takes note* of the significant activities which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is undertaking with regard to the effects of the activities of transnational corporations in developing countries within the fields of its competence;

8. *Reaffirms* the vital need, at the operational level, for co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organiza-

³³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

²⁷ Resolution 33/73.

²⁸ Published in 1980 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization under the title "Many Voices, One World"

²⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/35/21)*.

³⁰ A/35/504 and Corr.1.

³¹ See A/35/362.

³² See A/35/362/Add.1, annex I.

tion and other organizations of the United Nations system that are concerned with the question of information and communication;

9. *Requests* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit a progress report on the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

II

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the work of the Committee on Information as reflected in its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;²⁹

2. *Approves* the report of the Committee on Information and the recommendations of its *Ad Hoc* Working Group contained therein;³⁴

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

4. *Decides* to increase the membership of the Committee on Information from sixty-six to sixty-seven, the new member to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly after consultation with the regional groups, as specified in the note by the Secretary-General dated 10 April 1980;³⁵

5. *Requests* the Committee on Information 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, in the fulfilment of its mandate;

6. *Expresses 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, and calls upon it further to improve and strengthen such co-operation and co-ordination by reporting through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Committee on Information regarding the extent of and prospects for such co-operation and co-ordination;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat has already established constructive relationships with specialized bodies for co-operation between the non-aligned countries in the field of information and communication, as well as with other international and regional information organizations which are, *inter alia*, disseminating or ready to disseminate information from United Nations sources, and requests the Committee on Information to continue to examine the co-operation of the Department with those bodies and organizations with a view to promoting and further developing that co-operation;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the contribution made by Governments, non-governmental organizations and other entities in disseminating material prepared by the Department of Public Information about the United Nations and its activities and requests that the Department should continue to examine ways further to utilize their contributions in this regard;

9. *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 review the current activities of the De-

partment of Public Information with a view to ensuring a better and more efficient use of its available resources;

10. *Reiterates* the recommendations of the Committee on Information that additional resources for the Department of Public Information should be commensurate with the increase in the activities of the United Nations that the Department is called upon to cover for the purpose of public information, recommends that the Secretary-General should provide such resources to the Department for this purpose and requests the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to review the relative growth rate of the Department and report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of the role played by *Development Forum* and its decision that the continued publication of that periodical as an interagency project is essential, and that the Secretary-General should continue his review of its financial status, continue to seek to ensure long-term financial support for that publication from the organizations of the United Nations system and report on this subject to the Committee on Information at its next session;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* of the report on United Nations information centres submitted by the Joint Inspection Unit,³⁶ as well as the comments of the Secretary-General thereon³⁷ for the purpose of making necessary improvements;

13. *Invites* mass media organizations in Member States to promote, in the context of the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order in keeping with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, understanding of the efforts of the United Nations system to achieve international social justice and economic development, international peace and security and the progressive elimination of international inequities and tensions;

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

III

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that:

(a) The Department of Public Information, both in regard to general information about the United Nations and the fundamental questions with which it is concerned, shall continue to orient its work towards dissemination of information mainly on problems concerning international peace and security, disarmament, peace-keeping and peace-making operations, decolonization, the promotion of human rights, the struggle against racial discrimination, the integration of women in the struggle for peace and development, the establishment of the new international economic order and the establishment of a new world information and communication order;

(b) Special attention shall be given to the activities of the United Nations against *apartheid* and the work of the United Nations Council for Namibia;

(c) United Nations efforts to provide broadcast media with programmes on women shall be continued;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Committee on Information, as approved by the Com-

²⁹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/35/21), annex, sect. V.

³⁴ A/34/853.

³⁶ A/34/379.

³⁷ A/34/379/Add.1.

mittee in its report³⁴, and to report on the progress achieved to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take urgent measures to redress the present geographical imbalance in the staff of the Department of Public Information in order to ensure equitable participation of personnel from all countries, especially from the developing countries, particularly in posts at the senior and decision-making levels, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and to submit a progress report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information on a plan for regionalizing the Radio and Visual Services Division in a manner that would permit each regional section to be responsible for all radio, television and film productions for their respective regions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Information an over-all plan on the system of United Nations information centres, focusing on the evolving relationship between the Department of Public Information, at United Nations Headquarters, and the centres;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the increased volume and complexity of the activities of the United Nations information centres, to improve:

(a) The network of information centres by reviewing their functions and role in the structure of the Department of Public Information and by establishing, to the extent possible within existing resources, new centres, where deemed necessary, in particular one in Zimbabwe and one in Bangladesh, taking into account, *inter alia*, the need to ensure regional balance;

(b) The capabilities of the centres by providing staff at a level commensurate with their increased responsibilities, particularly in the case of centres with large jurisdictions;

(c) The availability of technical equipment, including telex facilities, to the information centres so as to increase the dissemination of information on the United Nations system;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information shall remain the focal point for co-ordination and implementation of the public information activities of the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take immediately the necessary measures to ensure balance in the use of official languages in the publications and programmes of the Department of Public Information and to strengthen the effectiveness of the adaptation unit established for this purpose so that the best use is made of the resources for informing the public about United Nations activities;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to initiate, as early as possible, in-service training programmes, ranging from two to four months, for journalists and broadcasters from developing countries, as envisaged in his report to the General Assembly,³⁸ designed to benefit the maximum number possible of such persons, to coincide to the maximum extent possible with the sessions of the General Assembly;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures:

(a) To strengthen and improve the regional structure in the Radio Service of the Department of Public Information, paying particular attention to adequate programming in the various languages of the regions, and in this regard to provide the Committee on Information at its next session with a plan for the establishment, as a matter of priority, of a separate Caribbean Unit and for the expansion of the African Unit of the Radio Service;

(b) To make specific proposals to the Committee on Information to increase the present number of short-wave broadcasts of the United Nations in order to place them on a daily schedule;

(c) To prepare on an urgent basis, for consideration by the Committee on Information, the technical, financial and legal studies regarding international short-wave broadcasts by the United Nations using its own facilities and frequencies;

(d) To clarify, as a matter of urgency, with the host country the legal questions concerned with the proposal to introduce frequency modulation broadcasts by the United Nations in the Headquarters area, and to submit a report to the Committee on Information, including a detailed study on the technical and financial aspects of the question;

(e) To provide the Information Service at Geneva with the equipment necessary for the electronic recording and dissemination of visual information on United Nations activities, as far as possible from within existing resources;

(f) To provide adequate resources to the Department of Public Information to enable it to ensure full coverage, through press releases, of all important meetings and events at the United Nations;

(g) To ensure that adequate facilities, allowing for better coverage and transmission of news, shall be made available, to the extent possible within existing resources, to journalists, particularly those from the developing countries, during the sessions of the General Assembly;

(h) To allot permanent working space equitably at United Nations Headquarters to representatives of news media, giving special attention to the needs of those from the developing countries;

(i) To examine the possibility of strengthening the participation of the developing countries in the utilization of satellites for television broadcasting of United Nations programmes to the various regions, and to make recommendations to the Committee on Information in this regard;

(j) To initiate the production of television programmes in Spanish;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of increasing the number of United Nations radio broadcasts to southern Africa by utilizing the facilities of more Member States;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1979 report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities,³⁹ and requests the Secretary-General to continue the implementation of all those recommendations;

³⁸ A/35/603.

³⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/34/21 and Corr.1), annex III, sect. C.*

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of the thirty-sixth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

*97th plenary meeting
16 December 1980*

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At the 97th plenary meeting, following the adoption of the above resolution, the President of the General Assembly announced that, in accordance with section II, paragraph 4, of the resolution, he had appointed GREECE a member of the Committee on Information.

As a result, the Committee is composed of the following Member States: ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BENIN, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURUNDI, CHILE, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, 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, IVORY COAST, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, LEBANON, 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.