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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Co-ordination in the field of public information activities
among the members of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the comments of the Administration Committee on Co-ordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Co-ordination in the field of public information activities among the Members of the United Nations system" (A/36/218).

* A/37/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Co-ordination in the field of public information activities among the members of the United Nations system"

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit on co-ordination in the field of public information activities among the members of the United Nations system (A/36/218) addresses itself to a function that is gaining increasing importance at a time when the world Organization and its component parts, reflecting the prevalent political and economic tensions, are more than ever dependent on public understanding and support. The report therefore comes at a timely moment and usefully focuses on a number of key issues concerning interorganizational co-operation and co-ordination in this field.
2. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) shares the Inspector's view that a greater degree of rationalization and harmonizing of the public information activities of the United Nations system, particularly in the areas of production and distribution, would be desirable and should be vigorously pursued. Some pooling of resources might also undoubtedly lead to greater economy and efficiency in certain areas. At the same time, such an approach raises the broader question of the wide diversity of policies, programmes and perspectives within the United Nations system, and the constant and overriding demands on the information service of each agency to sustain its separate profile before the world community and to carry out the sectoral information requirements of its own organization, in accordance with the mandate and instructions given by its governing body and the requirements of their specialized audiences. In such a situation, the common goal can perhaps best be achieved by a diversity of action. A word of caution must be raised, therefore, about the extent to which integration can be practically pursued in view of the need for each organization to continue to direct its information activities to primary concerns.
3. Account must also be taken of the requirement for each organization to obtain the approval of its governing body in relation to joint actions which have budgetary implications. ACC will nonetheless continue through the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) to endeavour with determination to pursue specific areas of co-ordination.

II. COST OF PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. General remarks

4. The Joint Inspection Unit has drawn attention to the problems that have arisen in the past when attempting to estimate the cost of public information activities system-wide. The difficulty of arriving at a standardized format which will permit

a comparison of costs of public information activities in the United Nations system has been a major factor in this regard. ACC believes that, in spite of the efforts of the Inspector to obtain more detailed information from the members of the United Nations system, any conclusions drawn from these figures must be treated with caution, since methods for both the identification and costing of public information vary considerably from agency to agency.

5. Moreover, it is misleading to define "real activities of public information services" as distinct from staff and travel, or to draw the conclusion that one can only be developed at the expense of the other. All the components of an integrated public information programme are inextricably linked, and travel and liaison often result in considerable savings in production and distribution.

6. This is particularly true of information activities in the field, where a major responsibility of information officials is to maintain close contact with national and local authorities throughout their areas, to cover field projects, to lecture at academic institutions and to work with non-governmental organizations. These direct contacts by an energetic information officer, it must be stressed, are often far more effective than the mere distribution of large quantities of printed material; these wide contacts often help to generate the production and distribution by others of United Nations-related printed or audio-visual material, thus actually achieving a saving by promoting interest in and coverage of United Nations issues without the expenditure of "operational funds". Furthermore, directors of United Nations information centres or chiefs of information offices of other members of JUNIC which serve more than one country are expected by Governments, the media and non-governmental organizations to pay frequent visits to their area.

7. Similarly, the travel of staff members is often connected with the organization of journalists' encounters, seminars or symposia, or covering field projects to gather material for radio and television programmes or publications.

8. All these operations constitute "real activities of public information services" and cannot be undertaken without travel.

III. JOINT UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION COMMITTEE

A. General remarks

9. As the potential instrument for the co-ordination of efforts in the field of public information in support of global development objectives as envisaged by the new international economic order and towards the promotion of the establishment of a new world information and communication order, JUNIC has in fact made quite considerable progress. Common action through JUNIC has strengthened, in particular, international public awareness of a commitment to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the new international economic order and the promotion of the establishment of a new world information and communication order.

10. It is clear that since the image of individual organizations of the United Nations system is to a certain degree affected by the image of the United Nations system itself, JUNIC must be enabled to become an even more effective common instrument.

11. On the other hand, it is a fact that the United Nations system is made up of separate intergovernmental organizations, each mandated by its governing body to reflect a given sectoral range of needs and problems and to account for the funds provided for this purpose. Therefore, it seems inevitable that the primary focus of the information activities of various organizations of the system will continue to be on their particular programmes.

12. However, more joint action (and consequently larger joint expenditures) could be undertaken if the capacity of the secretariat of JUNIC to undertake longer-range indicative planning and proposals was enhanced. There is no doubt that a number of organizations of the United Nations system would find it easier to budget for a certain volume of joint activities if proposals for such activities were to be presented on time and especially before individual information budgets have already been committed for a given period.

B. Remarks on the functioning of JUNIC

13. The description of the functioning of JUNIC and of its subsidiary bodies which appears in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/36/218, sect. III) shows quite correctly how the Committee has been working since its establishment, and in particular since 1978 when it improved its co-ordinating function by drawing up a plan of action as a conceptual framework.

14. However, the report does not fully reflect the important changes in the approach of JUNIC. Even before a first attempt was made at systematic planning in the Committee through the conception of the Plan of Action, the Committee was much more than a forum for "exchange of information". Sessions of JUNIC provide a unique opportunity for the heads of information services of the organizations of the United Nations system or their representatives to meet regularly for a general and in-depth discussion on recent developments in the field of public information. On these occasions, senior staff members of the organizations of the United Nations system examine important issues of common concern and discuss how best to mobilize world public opinion for their solution. Thus, for example JUNIC held a number of meetings devoted to the crucial issue of the public perceptions of the United Nations and, as a result, is now in the process of submitting a report on the matter to ACC.

15. The report describes accurately the functioning of the ad hoc working groups and task forces of JUNIC. However, it does not indicate clearly that ad hoc working groups are concerned with ongoing issues of common interest and provide an opportunity for joint new approaches to common problems. Moreover, it does not fully take into account the fact that task forces are by nature of short duration, set up to provide, as needed, a temporary framework for co-ordination of

information programmes on an important international event. This would include the formulation and implementation of joint projects to supplement the individual programmes of each agency, thus avoiding costly duplication and enhancing the over-all impact of the system's action on a common problem. For example, it is as a result of the work of task forces for the International Year of the Child, the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, the International Year of Disabled Persons, the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the United Nations Conference on the least-developed countries that projects such as encounters for journalists, joint exhibits, United Nations family films, press kits, non-governmental organization activities, etc., have been jointly organized and implemented.

16. Among the ad hoc working groups of JUNIC that were particularly useful and creative was the one on audio-visual matters. It is through the combined efforts of a number of JUNIC members, under the leadership of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Audio-Visual Matters, that such projects as the comprehensive film catalogue listing all 16 mm. films available throughout the United Nations system has been published and distributed or the preparation of an agreement on common-pricing policy for all United Nations system films and of a common interagency system of classifying photos on development are being devised. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Audio-Visual Matters has also been instrumental in the successful development of a joint production involving a group of television organizations known as "Agenda for a Small Planet" as well as in the preparation of the second phase of this project.

17. The JUNIC Ad Hoc Working Group on Development Education continued its work towards providing a framework for the organizations of the United Nations system concerned with the subject of development education with a view to agreeing on a number of projects which have subsequently been carried out by individual organizations at the national and regional levels with the help of Governments, non-governmental organizations and development education groups.

C. Remarks concerning the planning process through JUNIC

18. With regard to the report's analysis of the planning process recently started within JUNIC, note should be taken of the fact that in this first attempt JUNIC has already made progress by targeting the Plan of Action to a limited number of selected projects for joint action. These projects are linked to issues or events to which legislative bodies, especially ACC and the Committee on Information of the General Assembly, have attached particular importance.

19. ACC recognizes that more could be done if the planning exercise were to take place early enough to allow individual organizations of the United Nations system first of all to take a more active part in the identification of joint projects and, secondly, to set aside funds for joint financing. In spite of each organization's own established priorities, discussions in JUNIC have shown that individual organizations are prepared to co-operate in joint activities provided these are clearly identified, well designed and presented in time for the necessary financial planning.

20. It should also be noted that, since the establishment of the Committee on Information, JUNIC has made an essential contribution to the work of this body. JUNIC has reported regularly to the Committee on Information not only on joint activities, but also on the development and evaluation of its planning process. In this connexion, it should be noted that the Joint Committee, following the guidelines provided to it by the Committee on Information in 1980 and 1981, has now embarked on a new aspect of its work in contributing to the promotion of the establishment of a new world information and communication order. JUNIC decided recently that this would now provide a new conceptual and analytical framework for its activities.

21. JUNIC has been clearly recognized by the Committee on Information as the essential instrument for interagency co-ordination and co-operation in the field of public information. The Committee on Information has in particular noted in its report to the General Assembly ^{1/} that JUNIC intends to continue the in-depth analysis of and research on the public information programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system with a view to drawing up the biennial conceptual framework of the Joint Committee, the JUNIC Plan of Action; to elaborate new steps to help JUNIC move towards longer-term indicative planning and joint action through selected projects jointly organized, financed and implemented; and also to elaborate new methods of work to adapt the Plan of Action to the new requirements imposed by the promotion of the establishment of a new world information and communication order, particularly in the following areas:

- (a) Strengthening information/communication capacity in developing countries;
- (b) Strengthening information/communication capacity among developing countries;
- (c) Strengthening balanced development information flow between the developing and the developed countries;
- (d) Strengthening the foundations of an understanding of the developing countries and of a new planetary perception of the future among the general public in industrialized countries.

IV. DEVELOPMENT FORUM

A. General remarks

22. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit acknowledges, on the one hand, the importance of Development Forum as the main publication of the system dedicated to mobilizing public opinion on behalf of development and, on the other, its precarious financial situation.

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/36/21).

23. Moreover, the report touches the crux of the problem when it notes the difficulty of devising - and imposing - an effective system of financing which will be acceptable to all organizations within the system, each with its own mandate, policies and financial resources.

24. ACC has taken note of the view of the Joint Inspection Unit that the members of JUNIC need to be provided with clear instructions and authority to commit their organizations. ACC has no difficulty with this proposal in principle since it is consistent with the objectives behind the restructuring of the subsidiary machinery of ACC. However, ACC will continue to retain its authority to review as appropriate the decisions of its subsidiary bodies in the interests of good management.

25. ACC does, however, fully concur with the view of the Inspector that, after a decade of existence of Development Forum and the repeated recognition by the General Assembly of its importance, a decisive step is required to maintain the publication and to secure its financial basis.

26. ACC notes that the Secretary-General for his part wishes to reiterate that the form and contents of the publication are kept constantly under review in an ongoing effort to enhance its impact, extend its outreach and make it more cost effective.

V. COMMON FACILITIES

A. General remarks

27. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit draws attention to the considerable duplication of information points in many cities and notes that, wherever possible, a pooling of resources is desirable.

28. It must be pointed out, however, that while there may be occasional overlap, this is true to a far lesser degree than might be assumed, since most information offices and their libraries have specific mandates and serve a specialized clientele. For the library of a United Nations information centre to carry all the documents, photographs and reports of such widely varying organizations as the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the World Bank, for example, would require an inordinate increase in space, staff, distribution and reproduction facilities, and even the maintenance of separate mailing lists.

29. With regard to the audio-visual libraries referred to in paragraph 86 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, it must be pointed out that in general terms 100,000 photographs is considered a relatively modest collection. Many of the photo libraries, such as that of United Nations Headquarters, are not only in daily use but also serve as an archival reference dating back to early United Nations days and even to those of the League of Nations.

30. On the matter of a common United Nations photo catalogue, an ongoing study through the United Nations Photo Editors' Conference has resulted in a common agreement that the only practical and feasible present method of such an exchange should be made through video disc. In the last Photo Editors' meeting (10-11 September 1981) at Vienna, a definitive report, including all financial and practical implications, was prepared by a United Nations photo librarian and distributed to all participants for appraisal with a definitive questionnaire. (The cost of the video-disc common photo-library system was submitted by the Photographs and Exhibits Section to be considered for inclusion in the 1982-1983 budget.)

31. The use of slides, about which the report expresses concern, has in fact met with considerable success. Slide sets for such events as Human Rights and United Nations Day and thematic subjects such as women, and the disabled, are routinely distributed in quantity. While it is true that slide projectors are relatively expensive and not available in profusion, nevertheless the use of slides on television, in magazine and other print media and in the form of microfiche for quick reference by editors and publishers is substantially larger than the use by United Nations information centres for schools or local projection.

32. Additionally, the transparencies are widely used for exhibits and black-and-white print conversion and reproduction.

33. As far as the United Nations Information Service at Geneva is concerned (A/36/218, para. 88), it must be pointed out that all accessions in colour and black and white by the United Nations Headquarters Photographs and Exhibits Section, including all cross-reference cards, log cards and captioned reference prints, are sent on a regular basis to Geneva, where a duplicate United Nations photo library is maintained and has been active for some 20 years.

34. The Inspector's report does not reflect the close co-operation that already exists in the field between United Nations information centres and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) field offices - a co-operation which is being further strengthened by means of a recently established joint Department of Public Information-UNDP task force.

35. As the report points out, JUNIC, to comply with an ACC request, (which itself was responding to Recommendation 19 of the JIU report on the regional structure of the United Nations system (JIU/RSP/15/2)), set up in 1976 an Ad Hoc Working Group on Co-ordination of Public Information in the Field. The pilot study undertaken in seven selected cities was presented to JUNIC at its fifth session in 1978, and though considered as a useful step in taking inventory of existing possibilities for co-ordination in the field, it was felt that it needed to be much more refined.

36. The Ad Hoc Working Group was therefore requested to continue its work with the help of this preliminary analysis. However, in the same year, 1978, the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities 2/ was

2/ Renamed "Committee on Information" by the General Assembly in 1979.

established by the General Assembly and subsequently began to examine, inter alia, the role of United Nations information centres. The Ad Hoc Working Group of JUNIC has therefore suspended its deliberations pending the outcome of the discussions in the Committee on Information.

37. In the meantime, however, efforts have been made on an ad hoc basis, both at the level of JUNIC and in the field, to co-ordinate and harmonize production and distribution facilities. These efforts will be continued and intensified on a more regular basis.

VI. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

Recommendation (1): "In order to give the Member States a full picture of expenditure on the public information activities of the system, JUNIC, in collaboration with the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ), should elaborate a standardized form of presentation of the funds spent on these activities."

Comment: The question of a standardized form of presentation of expenditures has been under study by CCAQ as a general subject, and there is no case for treating separately public information expenditures.

Recommendation (2): "The Secretary-General, as Chairman of ACC, should submit regularly to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and other committees concerned estimates submitted by the system for these activities. ACC should further explore ways of pooling the resources of the members of the system on public information in order to avoid duplication and to undertake joint system-wide activities."

Comment: ACC will respond, as in the past, to requests for information on estimates of information activities by the appropriate intergovernmental bodies. Efforts to explore areas where pooling of resources would be essential will be continued and intensified.

Recommendation (3): "Programme and budgets for the public information activities of the system of a co-operative or joint character should be submitted to CPC for its guidance."

Comment: It would appear that this recommendation does not take fully into account the existence of the Committee on Information. JUNIC reports to, and receives guidance from, ACC and the Committee on Information on all joint activities undertaken under the JUNIC Plan of Action.

Recommendation (4): "JUNIC, as the only subsidiary body of ACC in the field of public information, should be strengthened and made more

responsible. Sessions should be well prepared allowing sufficient time to enable the participating members to get clear instructions and the delegation of authority to commit their respective organizations."

Comment: ACC agrees that JUNIC should be strengthened. It is assumed that the words "made more responsible" should read "be given more responsibility". Documents for the sessions of JUNIC should be carefully prepared and be available on time and JUNIC members themselves should be more involved in their preparation.

Recommendation (5): "The programme and plan of activities of JUNIC and the report on programme implementation should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council through CPC."

Comment: JUNIC reports through ACC to the Committee on Information. It is for Member States to decide whether additional reporting is required.

Recommendation (6): "Sessions of JUNIC should be attended obligatorily by the heads of the information services of all members of the system. These sessions should be held primarily at the headquarters of the main organizations in order to avoid unnecessary travel expenditure."

Comment: (i) ACC agrees that, as far as possible, sessions of JUNIC should be attended by the heads of the information services, but this cannot be made compulsory. What is more important is that the representatives of the members of JUNIC attending the sessions of JUNIC should have enough delegation of authority to commit their respective organizations, especially in the selection and the implementation of joint projects.

(ii) Sessions of JUNIC should, as is the case for ACC, be held primarily at the headquarters of the main organizations.

Recommendation (7): "The staff of the Division for Economic and Social Information, which provides the JUNIC secretariat, should be strengthened to enable it to function properly and to carry out on a continuous basis and efficiently the many tasks involved in regular system-wide co-ordination. In order to help the secretariat of JUNIC in this task, JUNIC members assuming the over-all responsibility for a given joint project or projects should assign a specific staff member the responsibility of following this through and of providing an evaluation to the JUNIC secretariat. Furthermore, the composition of the staff should reflect better the composition of the membership of the organizations."

Comment: The secretariat of JUNIC should be reinforced in order not only to continue the the in-depth analysis of and research on the public information programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system with a view to drawing up the JUNIC Plan of Action but also to be able to elaborate new methods of work to help JUNIC move towards longer-term indicative planning and joint action, especially when considering the new requirements imposed by its increased role in the promotion of the establishment of the new world information and communication order.

Recommendation (8): "JUNIC, like other interagency bodies, should have a proper budget to be contributed by the participating organizations. Such contributions should come from the organizations' own funds for public information without for this purpose increasing these funds."

Comment: It is generally felt that the time has not yet come for JUNIC to have a budget of its own. However, most members of JUNIC realize the importance of joint financing if there is to be any effective and practical co-operation and seem to be ready to contribute more funds for specific joint projects within the JUNIC Plan of Action.

Recommendation (9): "Development Forum should be the only system-wide periodical in the field of economic and social development."

Comment: It should be noted that the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit reflects in fact the actual situation. The front page of Development Forum states "Development Forum is the single regular publication of the United Nations system in the field of economic and social development. It is published for the Joint United Nations Information Committee". Several agencies publish magazines or other periodicals but they are specialized and deal only with the main subject of concern of that agency.

Recommendation (10): "The financing of Development Forum should be on the basis of any of the formulas ensuring obligatory contributions by each organization in sufficient amounts subject only to the approval of funds by legislative bodies. Only on the basis of normal and regular financing can Development Forum become an efficient and representative tool of public information."

Comment: The financing of Development Forum has been the subject of discussions and recommendations at various levels. JUNIC proposed in 1980 that there should be a system of predictable voluntary contributions from the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the long-term financing of Development Forum.

ACC, by decision 1980/13, urged the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system in a position to do so to include an appropriate provision in their 1982-1983 budgets, taking into account the

proposal of JUNIC. In his report (A/C.5/35/52) the Secretary-General noted the JUNIC proposal and the decision of ACC, and requested approval by the General Assembly for a United Nations contribution of the order of \$200,000 per year for 1980 and 1981. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions did not object, but was of the opinion that there was a need for prior agreement among the participating organizations within the United Nations system as to the individual amounts they would contribute annually towards the long-term financing of Development Forum. 3/

ACC, by decision 1981/18, noted the support given by the Committee on Information to Development Forum as the only interagency publication of the United Nations system, and its appeal to the Secretary-General and the organizations of the United Nations system to secure its financial support on a long-term basis. By the same decision, ACC requested the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system in a position to support Development Forum to confirm the provisions made in their 1982-1983 budgets, and to reiterate their intention to continue to support the publication beyond the next biennium. Subsequently, the Advisory Committee again requested for 1982-1983 a report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the long-term financing of Development Forum. The report was submitted and \$400,000 was approved for Development Forum by the Assembly for the biennium 1982-1983.

Recommendation (11): "The professional staff of Development Forum should more accurately reflect the geographical representation of the United Nations system and should be composed of fully qualified professionals."

Comment: Efforts have been made to improve the geographical distribution of the professional staff of Development Forum and it is hoped that in 1982 the concrete steps initiated will come to fruition.

It should be noted, however, that efforts in this direction are hampered by the following factors:

(a) The total professional editorial staff is only four in number, and the turnover is extremely limited;

(b) ~~Because of the financial situation, it has not been possible in the past to offer appointments for more than one year at a time, and this acts as a deterrent to recruitment. For the first time staff members who have been with Development Forum for more than two years have now received a contract for the biennium 1982-1983;~~

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/35/7 and Add.1-32), document A/35/7/Add.19, paras. 10 and 11.

(c) The fellowship programme devised to train possible candidates from developing countries has been started, but at the moment financial constraints only permit two or three fellowships to be granted. The Department of Public Information is convinced, and the response to the publication bears this out, that the present staff is fully qualified. It should be noted that the General Service staff employed are also required to have some form of journalistic or editorial experience.

Recommendation (12): "The editorial advisory board proposed by JUNIC should be created immediately and composed of distinguished persons."

Comment: The Editorial Advisory Board has been created, is composed of nine prominent educators, media specialists and economists from different parts of the world, and had its first meeting in December 1981.

Recommendation (13): "The heads of the organizations and other top echelon staff and qualified experts should contribute articles regularly to Development Forum."

Comment: Articles by heads of organizations and other high-ranking staff are carried in Development Forum on appropriate occasions. However, the aim of Development Forum is to become a platform for dialogue rather than a vehicle for institutional news, a role which is assumed by the Chronicle and the various newsletters, press releases, etc. published by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. As the index of authors whose articles have been published in Development Forum shows, many articles are written by top experts in various fields and these authors have been drawn from all parts of the world.

Recommendation (14): "The United Nations information centres should become the only distribution centres in cities in which they are located and which do not have a headquarters or regional office of a United Nations organization."

Recommendation (15): "In cities where there are two or more information services, possibilities of pooling their resources should be explored with a view to carrying out public information activities jointly. The Secretary-General should prepare a report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the feasibility of merging or better co-ordinating information services located in one city, particularly in such cities as Geneva, New York and Bangkok."

Comment: The question of the merging or better co-ordination of regional offices and organizations of the United Nations system, the increased role of the United Nations information centres as distribution centres in cities in which they are located and which do not have a headquarters or regional office of the United Nations Organization, as well as the suggestion concerning joint mailing lists, are all issues relating to better

co-ordination of information activities at a national level among international organizations. The Committee on Information is fully seized with this question and ACC will continue to follow closely the progress of the Committee's work. In this context, ACC has taken particular note of the following recommendations of the Committee on Information at its 1981 session:

Recommendation (21): "Field activities of the United Nations offices should be better co-ordinated with those of other international organizations in the information area in order to promote the principles, objectives, activities and image of the United Nations system in each country and to achieve a concentration of efforts and resources and increased efficiency, particularly co-operation between the Department of Public Information and the field services of the United Nations Development Programme."

Recommendation (22): "In view of the particularly important role of the United Nations information centres as the decentralized part of the structure of the Department of Public Information and because they are in a unique position to co-operate directly with national media and disseminators of information in their areas:

(a) The Secretary-General should take the appropriate steps to strengthen the capacity of the information centres where needed;

(b) On the basis of consultation between the Department of Public Information and other concerned United Nations bodies, a study should be presented to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on ways and means to enhance the role of information centres within the Department of Public Information structure along policy guidelines set by the Assembly. The objective of such a study would, inter alia, aim at measures increasing the functional flexibility of the information centres, enabling them to consider the interests of the countries concerned."