NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Addendum

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PRESENTATIONS MADE TO THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Presentation by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

The participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations is surely one of the most original and promising innovations made by the United Nations Charter. In an almost prophetic manner, the founding fathers of the United Nations recognized the importance of this word "participation" which has become so fashionable in recent years. Indeed, this participation by non-governmental organizations has been organized in the United Nations in a very special and distinctive manner in that it has been organized within the framework of the principal organ entrusted - under the authority of the General Assembly, of course - with the task of considering problems of economic and social co-operation. I feel that this is most important, for where arrangements have been made for the participation of non-governmental organizations at the national level, this has not been done within the framework of the legislature itself but rather within legislative committees and other subsidiary bodies. When it was decided that, in the case of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations would have direct relations with the Economic and Social Council, that was a very useful step. At the same time, of course, this arrangement has given rise to extremely complex practical problems which we have not always been able to solve. In a system which is already extremely unwieldy and multifarious for a variety of reasons and which is characterized by the large number of meetings held and the huge amount of documentation produced, how is one to arrange for effective participation by a very large number of organizations all of which have a more or less direct interest in pursuing the goals of the United Nations? One of the instruments conceived for that purpose was this Committee, whose recent enlargement was designed to give it greater vitality and impact and to make it, in a sense, a focal point for organizing these relations between non-governmental organizations and the Economic and Social Council. Thus, at the present time, it would seem that this Committee must make an imaginative and constructive effort to find formulas which, without being too cumbersome, will make it possible to give those relations more substance and effectiveness than they have had until now. That is the first of the remarks I wish to make.

My second observation is that as we undertake this year the first exercise of review and appraisal of the Development Strategy in the decade of the 1970s, this participation by non-governmental organizations can, if effectively organized, obviously be of very great value.

Review and appraisal are the very essence of the Strategy, and this aspect of the document adopted in our twenty-fifth anniversary year is what gives the Strategy its dynamism, its potential for development and its ability to influence events. It represents for Governments a very important negotiating instrument...
which enables them to view a great many problems in a broad, coherent perspective, and for non-governmental organizations it is an instrument which should greatly aid them in the important task — which is largely incumbent upon them — of mobilizing public opinion in the various Member States in furtherance of the objectives of the United Nations.

I earnestly hope that the non-governmental organizations represented here will have every opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work that is being undertaken within the framework of this exercise of review and appraisal and that they will find in our documentation — which has been prepared this time with very special care — information that is not only useful but perhaps even digestible; that is not always true of the information provided by the United Nations, and I wish to say that we are making a very great effort in this regard. This information can be brought to bear on the various national chapters of the non-governmental organizations through machinery of dissemination which is in some cases very effective and in other cases perhaps less so but which should be re-examined for the purposes of this 1973 review and appraisal exercise with a view to determining to what extent it could be made more effective. I also feel that, in the matter of stimulating a political will, non-governmental organizations have very significant means of access to the authorities in the various countries in which they operate but should perhaps, in connexion with this Development Decade and this review and appraisal exercise, also give thought to methods by which they might be able to organize a kind of campaign to further these objectives and thus greatly enhance the effectiveness which they in many cases already possess. Some of them might wish to consider the possibility of making a concerted or joint effort at the local and national levels with a view to exerting greater influence on Governments and national authorities. I feel that it is most essential to be able to discuss these problems in this Committee and encourage non-governmental organizations to explore somewhat new modes of action. I believe that Mr. Akatani, when he speaks to the Committee, will certainly assure you that the United Nations Information Centres in the various countries are very alert to these different problems connected with the Development Strategy and possess necessary documentation which will enable them to play a very useful role in informing and aiding non-governmental organizations during the course of this year.

I spoke of the importance of the Development Strategy for the 1970s, and I should like to stress the point that the year 1973 is particularly important because it will witness — outside the United Nations, I might note — the start of extremely important negotiations which will have a direct and perhaps a major impact on international economic relations. I am referring to the trade negotiations which are to be held by GATT and the monetary negotiations which are already underway in the International Monetary Fund but will unquestionably not be completed by the end of 1973. I feel that these negotiations have a bearing on very important but limited aspects of the Development Strategy and that it is most important for Governments to recognize that there are many other questions which, while they may not be taken up in these negotiations, are nevertheless essential to the development and success of the global Strategy. That is where the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly will have a role to play this year.
although in the matter of bringing influence to bear on Governments, and that may also be where the non-governmental organizations will have a role to play. I am speaking now of immediate problems, and I should perhaps also say a word about the longer-term problems to which I referred at the beginning of my statement, namely, those relating to the machinery for organizing our relations with non-governmental organizations.

I feel that within the framework of this review and appraisal exercise and also, in a much more general way, with regard to all United Nations activities, the effects and consequences of what has been done up to now should be subjected to extremely critical examination. This would apply to the frequently very formal statements made in various bodies, the more technical and often productive relations between certain Secretariat units and certain organizations possessing knowledge which can be extremely useful to us, and, finally, certain possibilities for dialogue which have developed in the case of a very few non-governmental organizations and which may suggest an avenue that can be fruitfully explored.

In conclusion, may I say that there has unquestionably been a renewal of interest in consultative status as an instrument of co-operation. There has been a revival of interest in the non-governmental organizations within the Secretariat itself. This may be attributable to circumstances which are once again compelling us to reflect on the problems of participation, on the problems of mobilizing public opinion and on the reasons for the inability of United Nations governmental bodies to exert influence on Governments. It might have come about in any case, but it has been greatly stimulated by the presence in the Secretariat team of new personalities who are deeply convinced of the importance of this participation by non-governmental organizations and have worked extensively with those organizations in the past. The presence beside me of Mrs. Sipila is, I think, the clearest evidence that new blood has been brought into the Secretariat, as Mr. Waldheim had hoped to do when he assumed his post, and I know that you will have an opportunity to hear her speak at a later meeting.

I should also like to mention how very interested my colleague, Mr. Bradford Morse, is in these questions of relations with non-governmental organizations and how much dynamism he brings to them. I therefore feel that at the present time we have a combination of circumstances as regards non-governmental organizations which should enable us to make some progress and, in particular, to direct this immediate progress in 1973 towards the Development Strategy. That is why I am so happy, Mr. Chairman, that you have given me an opportunity to speak in this Committee, and I shall be pleased to reply to any questions that members of the Committee may wish to ask.

Presentation by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information

The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information said he regarded the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as one of the principal channels to inform and educate public opinion about international development efforts. Many organizations had the scope and resources to reach a world-wide audience running into the millions.
From the beginning, he continued, the Office of Public Information (OPI) had had a Non-Governmental Organizations Section and had worked with those organizations, national as well as international, to help make United Nations activities better known and understood. The role of OPI had been to provide those organizations with information about all aspects of United Nations affairs so that they could disseminate this information.

Commenting on "the need for better channels of communication with non-governmental organizations", he said he was pleased to note the strong support for the formation of national committees to co-ordinate action on world development problems. The formation of such committees - composed of representatives of government ministries, the mass media and organizations deeply concerned with development problems - had been a priority concern of the Centre for Economic and Social Information (CESI) of the Office of Public Information. CESI was also giving special attention to the involvement of youth through the formation of "youth coalitions for development".

The Assistant Secretary-General expressed the conviction that OPI's 52 Information Centres had a major contribution to make to the desired diversification of its output. On the other hand, he was already painfully aware that the OPI establishment in the field did not have meaningful financial and manpower resources.

Even within existing resources, he added, he was requesting Information Centre Directors to give a higher priority to their relations with non-governmental organizations, "and to take a more active and vigorous approach". He deeply believed in the value of personal contacts, and he was confident that through the Information Centres more meaningful and productive relationships with those organizations could be developed.

The Assistant Secretary-General went on to say that there was a growing interest in the United Nations system in more direct contacts with national non-governmental organizations. He intended to request Centre Directors in selected developing countries to develop a co-ordinated programme to strengthen the co-operation and involvement of influential national non-governmental groups. This initiative would be taken in close co-operation with the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other field offices.

Obviously, he added, OPI could never duplicate in the field all the services which were available to non-governmental organizations at Headquarters, but he thought OPI could do a better job in the field than it had done in the past.

He emphasized the importance of co-operation with non-governmental organizations at the regional level. He said he was in favour of a proposal to appoint non-governmental organization liaison officers to the major regional offices of the United Nations. He hoped that through periodic regional conferences and through personal contacts at the regional level, OPI would be able in time to provide better communications with these organizations. Those initiatives would inevitably require additional resources.
So far as information material was concerned, he stated, OPI was unlikely ever to have the resources to meet the needs of non-governmental organizations on a global basis. That was why its role had to be that of a catalyst, to provide the raw material, to encourage and stimulate the organizations to produce material of their own, and to relate United Nations programmes to the specific interests and concerns of each organization. In future, he believed, OPI would rely more on the provision of raw material for non-governmental organizations instead of finished products. At the same time, he recognized the need for OPI to produce at least a limited number of information items - light-weight, simply written, illustrated - which were suitable for non-governmental organization information and education purposes.

The Assistant Secretary-General said OPI also intended to give special attention to the more careful production of material in advance of information campaigns, including special years or special days, in which non-governmental organizations were asked to participate.

Presentation made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

The Assistant Secretary-General expressed to the Chairman of the Council Committee on non-governmental organizations her appreciation of his leadership and of her renewed contacts with the other members of the Committee.

She mentioned the various occasions on which she had had previous contacts with non-governmental organizations and her pleasure that the Secretary-General had given her a special responsibility for co-operation with the non-governmental organizations in all matters under her jurisdiction, especially in the field of social development. She stated that, inter alia, she had to work in close co-operation with those concerned with the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights from the point of view of human rights.

The Assistant Secretary-General said she was pleased to preside over the expert meeting in Geneva on non-governmental organization participation in development which examined how the relationship between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations could be improved in order to become a really useful dialogue and partnership, and how non-governmental organizations together with the United Nations family could best influence public opinion and political will globally for the fulfilment of the goals and objectives of the Development Strategy.

She stated that non-governmental organizations were an enormous asset in the promotion of the goals and objectives of the United Nations, i.e., those adopted by the Governments of Member States.

She said co-operation and partnership between the United Nations family of organizations and international non-governmental organizations was not of itself enough and stressed that the implementation of the International Development
Strategy has to take place mainly at the national level. The contribution of national affiliates of international non-governmental organizations and of other national organizations is of utmost importance and co-operation between the Government of the Member State, the local United Nations bodies and the national non-governmental organizations is imperative. Co-operation between the Governments at the regional level could also improve their co-operation with non-governmental organizations, if there were more participation by non-governmental organizations in intergovernmental co-operation in connexion with the regional economic commissions and other intergovernmental bodies.

The expert meeting in Geneva, the Assistant Secretary-General said, called for more partnership at every level between the United Nations, Member Governments and the non-governmental organizations, including planning and decision-making. Certain provisions and restrictions for this request exist in the Charter and the terms of reference of the various United Nations bodies. There are however examples of real co-operation and dialogue between representatives of Governments, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, e.g., at the meetings of some functional Commissions, but not at the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council. Despite this, non-governmental organizations can inform their national affiliates of items on the agenda of various United Nations sessions and can ask them to co-operate with their national Government, to influence decision-making by drawing the attention of the Government and its respective delegation to certain agenda items they consider important. Non-governmental organizations can thus participate in decision-making, when no possibility for more direct participation in it exists, either at the national or the international level.

Co-operation at the national level between Governments and non-governmental organizations could best take place if Governments would keep non-governmental organizations informed of their needs for voluntary contributions of various kinds in the development effort and would ask their co-operation. This kind of co-operation is actually called for in paragraph 84 of the International Development Strategy both in the developed and the developing countries. In the latter, the UNDP resident representatives and other representatives of the United Nations could be very important advisers and consultants and could act as catalysts, and the international non-governmental organizations should draw the attention of their national affiliates to this possibility.

Effective partnership and dialogue between the United Nations, Governments and non-governmental organizations calls for more co-operation among non-governmental organizations themselves, especially at the national level, where a great deal of expertise would be available from the voluntary community to serve the needs of the Governments and society as a whole, if there were better channels for communications between the Governments and the non-governmental organizations and more awareness of the benefits of such co-operation in all fields. Increased co-operation among the non-governmental organizations would strengthen their possibilities in the promotion of the aims and objectives of the United Nations, especially in the field of development and prevent needless overlapping and possibly less efficient, isolated efforts.
Presentation by the Director, Office for Science and Technology, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

In speaking to the Council Committee, the Director of the Office for Science and Technology remarked that science was now regarded as part of the broad subject of development. More and more, he added, it was apparent that the division of science into categories could not be maintained. To illustrate this point, he cited as examples the protein problem, the latest developments in space exploration and remote sensing of the earth as well as the influence of these fields on many areas of development. He added that the law of ecology that everything was connected with everything else was particularly relevant to the development of science and technology and its influence on mankind. In a sense, the Director continued, non-governmental organizations were much closer to encouraging the development of science and technology, while the United Nations must necessarily lag behind developments in individual countries. The non-governmental organizations, therefore, had a very important role to play, particularly in assisting the United Nations in this vital area.

Presentation by the Director, Centre for Economic and Social Information (CESI)

The Director began by noting that the organizations of the United Nations system, with CESI, had recently prepared a survey on the question of the mobilization of public opinion in the context of the exercise of review and appraisal of the Second United Nations Development Decade. It is based on the information in the possession of the United Nations family and the surveys prepared by certain Governments. He described the report as far from "glowing". He felt there had been a decline in public interest in international development in the industrialized countries, whose attention had tended to be diverted by their own national economic problems - inflation, unemployment, monetary difficulties etc. - and that this had been accompanied by a feeling of disenchantment and frustration in the developing countries.

In a recent speech, a delegate of the Netherlands had expressed the view that, in our world today, the media "would never be able, even if they were willing, to print, picture or voice, in their reportorial activities, the United Nations story.... This is not the way the media function... or ever could function". It was obvious, continued the delegate of the Netherlands, that for in-depth projection of the objectives, aims and programmes of the United Nations, "resort would have to be taken to many additional channels, instruments and techniques". The Director of CESI asked what were these additional channels, and expressed the view that one of the most important was the network of non-governmental organizations - not only the non-governmental organizations who had traditionally supported United Nations activities in so many spheres, but the other influential ones in their national context who could so powerfully affect the implementation of the Strategy.
The Director said that in his view the two kinds of non-governmental organizations should be brought closer together. He mentioned that the national commissions for the Second United Nations Development Decade, which had grown out of General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV), and towards which CESI was extending a greater effort, should be composed of just such a mixture of non-governmental organizations and should also include government participation. He mentioned a new publication of CESI - Development Forum - which, he felt, would prove useful in providing information to these national commissions.

At a recent Geneva meeting of non-governmental organizations, organized by CESI, regret had been expressed that important non-governmental organizations had not been consulted at the time the Strategy was delineated but yet were expected to aid in its implementation. The non-governmental organizations felt that some way should be found for consultation with them in the context of the review and appraisal exercise. The Director of CESI hoped that the Committee might find it possible to make some recommendation in this direction.

In conclusion, on the question of review and appraisal he noted that when Governments had replied to the part of the Secretary-General's "note verbale" which referred to the mobilization of public opinion for the Second United Nations Development Decade, no non-governmental organization or national commission which attended the Geneva meeting had been consulted by their respective Governments.

Presentation by the Assistant Director, Social Development Division, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

The work of the Division focuses generally on the well-being of people. It is concerned with the human aspects of development, especially for certain vulnerable groups, such as children and youth, aged and the mentally and physically disabled. In this connexion, the needs are so great that governmental agencies, national or international, alone cannot do that job. It is, therefore, essential that many organizations help. In the past, our relations with non-governmental organizations have been mutually helpful to us and to the non-governmental organizations, to the greater benefit of people generally. Co-operation with non-governmental organizations takes several forms: (1) working together on studies; (2) clarifying issues and promoting courses of action; (3) exchanging information; (4) providing technical assistance. Non-governmental organizations have participated and are participating with us in each of the above-mentioned activities. The following is one example of such co-operation. The International League of Societies for the Mentally Handicapped is co-operating with us on the study of the rehabilitation of the mentally retarded. With us they are designing a questionnaire to be sent out to several countries. They will be responsible for the final design, for sending out the questionnaires, and collating and analysing the responses. Together we will do a final analysis and make plans on further action based on the questionnaire. Our activities bring us into close contact with a variety of agencies concerned with social welfare policy and training, child welfare and adoption, the aged, the disabled, youth, as well as the offenders of society. In addition, we work very closely with the international non-governmental organizations in community development and in co-operatives. We look forward to continued co-operation.
The Deputy Director characterized as positive and constructive the relationship of the non-governmental organizations with the Commission on the Status of Women and the Secretariat working in this field. Twenty-five to 30 organizations regularly attended sessions of the Commission and sent observers to the seminars organized each year under the human rights advisory services programme. These included the women's organizations, trade unions, religious groups and organizations interested in general social and humanitarian questions. She described the collaboration of the non-governmental organizations as a two-way process: they brought their experience and ideas to the United Nations bodies and they assisted in giving effect to the recommendations of these bodies at the international, regional and national levels. The non-governmental organizations had made wide use of their right to submit both written and oral statements to the Commission on the Status of Women. An interesting recent development had been the use of joint written statements made on specific items on behalf of several organizations. The designation by the General Assembly of 1975 as International Women's Year was one concrete example of an initiative taken by several non-governmental organizations, acting in concert. The organizations had also shown their co-operation in furnishing information for reports and studies in answer to specific requests from the Commission.

Many of the organizations, especially the women's groups, made special efforts to adjust their programmes to parallel activities and concerns of the Commission on the Status of Women. They organized regional, national and international conferences, seminars and workshops on subjects which were under consideration by the Commission. Agenda for such meetings were often drawn up in consultation with the Secretariat. The organizations were extremely active also in spreading knowledge of the relevant United Nations conventions, declarations and other recommendations relating to women's rights. They were an integral part also of the reporting system on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The Deputy Director drew attention to the recent establishment of a working group of non-governmental organizations to concentrate on measures that would help to integrate women fully into the development process and noted that the Secretariat would work very closely with this group. She pointed out in this connexion that several organizations had practical programmes which offered training of various kinds for girls and women. She thought it would be beneficial if some of these programmes could be co-ordinated within countries and brought into closer co-operation with United Nations activities. She felt that the greater concentration on the integration of women in development and the growing interest of the interrelationship of the status of women and population questions would open up many new opportunities for close and effective co-operation with non-governmental organizations.
Presentation by the Deputy Director, Research and Development Branch, Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

In addressing the Committee, the Deputy Director said that his Branch had contacts with non-governmental organizations in professional fields, i.e., associations of architects, engineers, housing and town planners. He said co-operation with such organizations in the developing as well as in the developed countries was mutually beneficial and their expertise was frequently made use of. The Centre had daily contacts with the International Union of Architects with which it was working on basic housing projects and advanced blueprints for low-cost housing. He said that it was also important to have contacts with certain non-governmental organizations not yet in consultative status. He noted that in 1975 a United Nations Conference on Human Settlements would take place in Canada. The co-operation of non-governmental organizations would be most important in this instance to mobilize public awareness and to arouse world-wide conscience.

Presentation by the Director, Freedom from Hunger Campaign/Action for Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Director stressed that the aim of the relationships between FAO and non-governmental organizations was not FAO support for non-governmental organizations or vice versa but a partnership with a common purpose, i.e., rural development. Representatives from these non-governmental organizations often participated in important technical working groups and committees.

FAO recognized the importance of international relations but national action was of greatest importance which called for a flexible relationship with all kinds of international, national and local non-governmental organizations.

FFHC/AD recognizing special expertise contracted non-governmental organizations to carry out special studies for FAO. A system where non-governmental organizations seconded staff to work with FAO in fields of mutual interest was most successful.

The FAO Industry Co-operative Programme in which around hundred agro-business firms participate was another example of contacts with groups outside Governments.

Presentation by the Deputy Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Deputy Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme referred to UNDP's growing concern for establishing better relationships with non-governmental organizations. The UNDP's Administrator has stressed this in addressing regional meetings of the Programme's resident representatives as well as of inter-agency bodies and groups of non-governmental organizations.
To enhance co-operation between non-governmental organizations and UNDP at the developing country level, the Deputy Administrator explained, a survey had been launched with 17 UNDP field offices to ascertain past and current practices in practical collaboration. Results of this survey are due in mid-February, and it is hoped that a general set of guidelines can be drawn up for use by resident representatives to encourage greater communication and exchanges of information as well as facilitate mutual co-operation. Responses received to date from the inquiry suggest that although co-operation in the past has been somewhat sporadic, a wide range of possibilities exists for intensified collaboration between UNDP's field offices and the non-governmental organization community.

Presentation by the Director, Development Support Information Service, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Director, Development Support Information Service, UNDP, briefly outlined some of the specific ways whereby non-governmental organizations have assisted and are continuing to work in co-operation with UNDP. As he explained, they have provided assistance by including data on UNDP in their educational and informational activities; they have served as channels for the distribution and promotion of special UNDP publications and audio-visual aids; they have been provided technical assistance in the developing countries which has complemented UNDP's field endeavours and, in some cases, have even initiated efforts in economic and social development which have been adopted by Governments and now receive UNDP assistance. The Director concluded by expressing the conviction that these and other instances of fruitful co-operation signal the valuable potential in further developing and expanding mutual understanding and working relationships between UNDP and non-governmental organizations.

Presentation by the Secretary, UNICEF Executive Board and Chief, Non-Governmental Organization Liaison Office

Like other United Nations operating agencies UNICEF works primarily with Governments in its programme aid. UNICEF recognizes that government efforts can never be enough and that it is essential to involve voluntary action and non-governmental organizations, not only in extending coverage but in finding new ways to deliver services benefiting children and adolescents which are economical and simple, and give developing countries experience in approaches which can reach more children, more effectively and more quickly. Non-governmental organizations can play a key pioneering role in this, if they are willing to be innovative and assume risks, less likely to be assumed by government agencies, of experimentation and pilot projects. Non-governmental organization enthusiasm, concern and activities at the grass roots can be an important factor in preparing family and communities to use available government services and also develop their own intrinsic resources, capacities and common purpose.

Since UNICEF-assisted programmes are increasingly becoming integrated into the planning and financial machinery of national development, any non-governmental organization which relates its input to what we work out with the Government gets...
a kind of automatic assurance that what it is doing is welcomed by the Government. The non-governmental organizations' effort is not an isolated one but has possibilities of a long-term impact in relation to national development and to government priorities and commitments.

Non-governmental organizations are also working with us in developing a greater understanding of the need for services benefiting children and adolescents in ways which combine both humanitarian and development objectives. In the industrialized countries UNICEF has direct links with the public through its National Committees, many of which work closely with national non-governmental organizations.

Increasingly UNICEF is receiving from non-governmental organizations, opinion and advice in fields in which they have special experience and competence. This takes place not only in our Executive Board meetings but also at the Secretariat level.

The Assistant-Secretary-General for Public Information reported to the non-governmental organization committee on his plan to request Information Centre Directors in selected developing countries to develop a co-ordinated programme to strengthen the co-operation and involvement of influential non-governmental organizations. He also proposed that non-governmental organization liaison officers be attached to the major regional offices of the United Nations. The Assistant-Secretary-General of the Centre for Social and Humanitarian Affairs stressed the importance of United Nations/non-governmental organization relationship at regional and country levels. The Deputy Administrator (Programmes), UNDP, stressed the importance of a closer programme relationship with non-governmental organizations at the operational level. The Secretary-General of the International Council on Social Welfare, Mrs. Katzki, emphasized the need for non-governmental organizations at the national level to co-ordinate their efforts in action oriented programmes. All of this, if put into effect, would very much strengthen what we in UNICEF are working toward. To the extent that we can, we will gladly co-operate in helping these approaches become reality.

Presentation by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs

The Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs emphasized the critical importance of a close relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, and the increasing requirement for more active and creative co-operation among all international bodies, governmental and non-governmental, in order to meet the complex problems facing the global community.

Recognizing that many productive relationships already exist with non-governmental organizations, the Under-Secretary-General pointed out that new opportunities and new responsibilities for the United Nations and for these organizations require new and more flexible relations. Opportunities must be provided, he continued, to more effectively involve a larger number of organizations, international, regional and national, in the United Nations system, and to achieve better collaboration, both within the United Nations and within the non-governmental organizations. Only by joining forces, he said, can both groups effectively make use of their limited resources and hope to attain their shared objectives.
In conclusion, the Under-Secretary-General stressed the need to give people a real role in the work of the United Nations and to develop a truly effective global dialogue. He expressed his hope that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations would provide a forum for the exchange of viewpoints and the development of specific recommendations for increasing this involvement.
PRESENTATIONS MADE TO THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Presentation by Richard J. Harmston, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

1. Mr. Harmston said he would like to support the concept of partnership between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations and between Governments and non-governmental organizations and would like to share experience of the relationship between Government and non-governmental organizations that has been developed in Canada.

2. Now completing fifth year of a government programme of support to development projects of non-governmental organizations, administered by CIDA through its Non-Governmental Organization Division. It is a growing element of Canada's development assistance programme within the Second Development Decade and increases the ability of Canadian non-governmental organizations to form partnerships with non-governmental organizations and other institutions in developing countries.

3. The benefits from this co-operation are the following:

   (a) Releases the talents, energies and imagination of non-governmental organizations to operate on a wider plane for international development;

   (b) Allows a more efficient use of development assistance by helping people to work with people, mostly unencumbered by governmental machinery;

   (c) Forms closer partnerships among non-governmental organizations, encouraging important links at the popular level, necessary if development co-operation is to be a reality.

4. It is policy that between 5 and 10 per cent of Canada's official development assistance will eventually be channelled to non-governmental organization programmes.

5. Another experimental programme called Development Education Programme has begun recently to relate to the mobilization of public opinion for the Second Development Decade. It too provides assistance to non-governmental organization and community projects to encourage Canadians to be more aware of development and engage in actions to support development. It was created in response to the United Nations call for mobilization and to the urging of Canadian groups that wanted to generate activities of this sort.

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6. We concluded that by putting more resources in the hands of the non-governmental organizations we could stimulate innovation, imagination and variety in activities to support the Decade. The emphasis has been (1) local - reaching people in their own community and milieu, and (2) "new sectors" - parts of the public that have not related previously to international development.

7. The non-governmental organizations have made efforts to reach and involve schools, media, business, churches, labour, young people, among others. We have supported projects of animation, local resource centres, production of materials for use by different sectors, schools programmes, films, exchanges, and many workshops, seminars and conferences. We have tried to avoid propaganda and partisanship on issues and have tried to create forums where citizens can understand the many approaches to development and determine their own particular actions to support it.

8. Lessons learned from this co-operation with non-governmental organizations, both for development projects and development education are as follows:

   (a) Governments (and intergovernmental bodies) must meet the non-governmental organizations half way in this co-operation.

   (b) Although it might be theoretically possible for Governments and non-governmental organizations to exist separately, co-operation affords endless opportunities for mutual goals more effectively and efficiently and enriches the life and work of both.

   (c) Actions for development and public support for development are a national or even subnational experience. Therefore, we should try to reach people in their own milieu. This does not bypass or de-emphasize the role of international non-governmental organizations. In fact co-operation at many different levels will only increase the opportunities for participation and service by international non-governmental organizations.

   (d) Responsible actions of non-governmental organizations can be expected by governmental bodies when responsibility is shared. This includes co-operation in planning implementing and follow-up actions where both are involved.

Presentation by Angus Archer, Director, Canadian Council for International Co-operation

In addressing the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, upon its invitation, Mr. Archer said that non-governmental organizations had now emerged from a period of passivity. Mr. Archer said that he favoured untangling the "mess of structural relationships" between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations at the national level. In his view, he said, programmes on the national level were increasingly being drawn up without any co-ordination or guidance from the United Nations and that should be changed.
"I am speaking against the background of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, June 1972. There was an enormous interest in this Conference and many non-governmental organizations were very anxious to participate, but there were many hurdles to be overcome. The old attitude towards the non-governmental organizations, which has prevailed for many years at the United Nations, was that a governmental conference was not an occasion when non-governmental organizations should expect active participation. In spite of the Secretary-General, Mr. Strong's, open invitation to both international and national non-governmental organizations, there were endless difficulties put in the way of those who did wish to participate. The fact that a great number of non-governmental organizations were finally represented at Stockholm and succeeded in making a tremendous contribution to the climate of opinion within which the Conference succeeded, only emphasizes the fact that much better arrangements will need to be made in the future for open and free access to the secretariat of the Environmental Programme and for all parts of the United Nations. Experience has shown that what we need is a network within which non-governmental organizations can communicate with each other, reinforce each other's programmes and plans and provide the necessary expertise and citizen support needed by the United Nations.

The hazards which the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment encountered give us clues as to some of the hazards which must and can be avoided in the future. There were concerted attempts to divide the developing countries from the industrialized countries, and this division will be even more important in the question of population which is now coming up next year, where there are even more emotionally laden issues with strong political overtones. These conditions stress the importance of placing both the problem of the environment and the particular problems of population within the wider context of development. Treated as separate issues they can easily become detached from the over-all United Nations programme.

The organization of the Environment secretariat with headquarters in Nairobi and offices in New York and Geneva, gives us a new opportunity to revivify the whole relationship between the Secretariat of the United Nations, in all its aspects, and public opinion and scientific expertise all over the world. Unless the conflicts and structural competition within the United Nations can be resolved, the non-governmental organizations will be left frustrated and divided. The United Nations loses its constituency without which its many projects cannot survive.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that these discussions will lead to the development of a new network style, multi-access set-up, in which the dangers of bottle-necks take-over by small groups, and monopolies of input and output will disappear."
Presentation by Mrs. Kate Katzki, Secretary-General, International Council on Social Welfare

Mrs. Kate Katzki spoke of the importance of a co-operative role of non-governmental organizations in relation to the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of the International Development Strategy. She called attention to the activities of non-governmental organizations at Headquarters and regional levels by participation in expert groups and workshops and through the dissemination of information on United Nations objectives to the public.

It is at the national level that Mrs. Katzki believes non-governmental organizations can make their greatest impact on the public and on national Governments. International non-governmental organizations must find ways in which to stimulate, inform and assist their national affiliates to play their essential role in the Strategy. She thought that the national affiliates have been neglected and that they were ready and able to do more in the Second Development Decade if provided with the tools.

Pointing out that the National Committees of ICSW serve as co-ordinating bodies for the social welfare agencies within their countries, Mrs. Katzki said that she believed that the organization of national co-ordinating bodies of other related groups of non-governmental organizations would make possible joint and effective action in public information and in the development of political will.

Mrs. Katzki concluded by emphasizing the need to obtain the involvement and genuine participation of people in the Development Strategy. It is the job of the non-governmental organizations to contribute the will, the force and the knowledge to accomplish this goal.

Presentation by Mrs. John Sheppard, Chairman of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee of UNICEF

Speaking on behalf of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee of UNICEF, Mrs. Sheppard said that, within a framework of acceptance, the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee of UNICEF takes independent action in offering varied initiatives to assist the work of UNICEF, i.e., gathering non-governmental organization information related to the perspective study of the young child and its needs; editing and publishing the Non-Governmental Organization Newsletter and scheduling two workshops, the first a workshop with members of National Committees, the second a joint non-governmental organization sponsored UNICEF/UNDP Working Conference designed to work out realistic examples of the "country planning exercise" through the problem-finding and solving proposals and recommendations. Mrs. Sheppard again referred to those members of the UNICEF Non-Governmental Organizations Committee and stated that although they were in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council they found little recognition of their capabilities in other areas within the United Nations. She also said that more
substantive participation in the Development Strategy could be brought about by Governments and non-governmental organizations taking steps towards each other on every level to combine their strengths.

In concluding, Mrs. Sheppard said that UNICEF now has a workable process of bringing non-governmental organizations into close collaboration in its programming.

Presentation by Arthur Goldschmidt, Society for International Development

Mr. Goldschmidt said that the International Development Strategy was intended to galvanize not only Governments but people, too. He added that it was important that non-governmental organizations be extensively used in this respect. Their expertise and potential as moulders of public opinion must be recognized and utilized. Non-governmental organizations have an important role in making the aims and goals of the Development Strategy "accepted and known by the people".

Mr. Goldschmidt stressed the importance of applying additional pressure if there was to be effective implementation of the goals of the Development Strategy. Non-governmental organizations, with their constituencies in the trade unions, business, professional and technical organizations, as well as women, youth, churches and the many social welfare organizations, were in a position to apply that pressure. The problem for the United Nations was to find effective ways of having "a mutually productive relationship" with the non-governmental organizations. One way was to engage them in the review and appraisal process, especially at the national level. This was being considered in one country, the United Kingdom, and should be supported. The non-governmental organization input into the review and appraisal process should start at the national level but he emphasized that it should not stop there and that non-governmental organizations might make a contribution in the sectoral and regional reviews and particularly in a dialogue with the Committee on Review and Appraisal of the Economic and Social Council itself.

Presentation by Leon O. Marion, Executive Director, American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service

The history of the work of voluntary agencies operating overseas is not only impressive but involves organizations whose endeavours can be traced to the late 19th century and should not be confused with welfare groups whose major focus is on their own national domestic problems. The traditional humanitarian concerns of voluntary agencies operating overseas has naturally brought them into the sphere of international organization, usually at the operating field level. With the inception of the United Nations, voluntary agencies have had sustained relationships with its various programmes including IRO and UNRRA the precursors of the UNHCR and FAO/WFP, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF and UNRWA. Of more recent date these voluntary agencies have had the opportunity to co-operate with UNDRO, the ECA through its Voluntary Agency Bureau and welcome the possibilities of closer relationships with UNDP.
Contrary to misconceptions, voluntary agencies operating overseas are staffed with highly competent professionals having a vast array of expertise. This point is partially proven by the fact that personnel have been from time to time seconded to various members of the United Nations family. Some of the areas of their expertise include agriculture, community development, rural education, disaster relief, nutrition, medicine, medical care, family planning, engineering, social service, construction, education, vocational training, migration and refugee service, child care, administration and co-operatives. These agencies are working in over 100 countries; are making a concerted attempt to train and employ indigenous personnel; are part of a loose network of over 15 national councils of which the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service is only one representing over 40 overseas operating agencies; and for the most part operate overseas with permission, and often contractual agreements, of the host Government.

The financial capabilities of voluntary agencies are remarkable when one considers that for the most part, funds emanate mainly from private voluntary sources to support authentic people-to-people programmes. To assure an unbiased report on the overseas fiscal involvement of voluntary agencies allow me to quote government statistics concerning voluntary agencies of only one country, the United States. The Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid of the United States Government in its report for fiscal year 1971 indicated that overseas programme expenditures of voluntary agencies amount to $528 million. The record of distribution of these funds showed that 3 per cent were channeled to Europe, 10 per cent to Africa, 10 per cent to East Asia, 21 per cent to Latin America and 56 per cent to South Asia and the Middle East.

The role of voluntary agencies in disaster relief has been vital. One only has to recall the involvement of these organizations in the cyclone tidal bore disaster in the Delta Region of the Ganges in 1970 which included an expenditure of some $2 million by voluntary agencies; assistance to victims of floods in the Philippines and Korea in 1972; the massive involvement of voluntary agencies in the floods in Peru; and of recent date the involvement of voluntary agencies in Nicaragua as the result of the catastrophic earthquake which took place on 23 December 1972. In this last example 11 United States voluntary agencies were involved with needed assistance. As of 1 February 1973 assistance rendered to the Government of Nicaragua amounted to $2 million. This figure is to be compared with bilateral relief assistance emanating from 28 countries not including the United States and Canada which amounted to $2.5 million. Almost all the voluntary agencies will remain in Nicaragua to continue with the needed development assistance programme. In the matter of disasters, one of the strengths of voluntary agency involvement is the fact that in most instances personnel are already on the scene because of ongoing development assistance programmes.
Presentation by Mrs. Rosalind Harris, President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Speaking on behalf of those non-governmental organizations in consultative status under the provisions of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), Mrs. Harris emphasized their interest in those recommendations before the Committee which applied to a variety of fields of mutual interest. She said that development, decolonization, environment, racism and other major concerns of the international community involved a number of the international non-governmental organizations. These non-governmental organizations bring together the views of their members and affiliates in many countries thus serving as a channel of communication for concerns and activities that involve a broad constituency. Such information can be useful to the Secretariat as it correlates material for reports. We shall encourage the participation of non-governmental organizations in the review and appraisal process of the International Development Strategy, at all levels.

The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations assists its members to discuss and identify common concerns in order to present an even broader view to United Nations bodies. Several non-governmental organization ad hoc committees on specific subjects have been established for this purpose. We encourage all consultative non-governmental organizations to join, whenever appropriate, in written statements. Therefore, we ask the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to interpret Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) so as to permit the inclusion of non-governmental organizations on the Roster among the signers of joint statements for submission to Economic and Social Council bodies.

Mrs. Harris said that the non-governmental organizations are also interested in the development of relations at the regional level in order to provide opportunities for a larger number of non-governmental organization members to be involved in United Nations activities. She emphasized that services for non-governmental organizations, such as access to documents, briefings, physical facilities for meetings, lounges and so forth are important in facilitating their participation in the work of the United Nations. She said the non-governmental organizations hoped that the Headquarters, regional and local offices can increase such necessary services.

In conclusion, Mrs. Harris said that non-governmental organizations welcome the Council Committee's interest in exploring better communication, its "hearings" in Geneva last summer which the non-governmental organizations hoped will be an annual event. She added that the records of all the Committee's sessions, whether contained in summary records or in extended reports, are invaluable in reaching the scattered non-governmental organization community. They serve to communicate the ideas and comments to the many non-governmental organizations which cannot be present at certain of these meetings.

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The disappearance of territorial empires leaves a vacuum, and there is the danger that people liberated from these former empires may be enmeshed in a developing form of economic and cultural colonialism. From personal experience, I feel colonialism and racialism to be inseparable and we must therefore also fight racial discrimination against ethnic minorities as practised in most countries.

Experience has shown that United Nations resolutions are not always honoured. Governments have violated mandatory sanctions imposed on Southern Rhodesia and the embargo on the sale of arms to South Africa; they continue trading with South Africa and supplying arms to existing colonial Powers for use against liberation movements. In default of governmental support non-governmental organizations, therefore, must play a more effective role.

Opinion-forming non-governmental organizations, with the help of educational and religious bodies, should disseminate information and promote education on the evils of colonialism and racism, and campaign for their elimination. But opinion-forming is not quick enough. Suffering people need action to help change the thinking and the acts of those responsible in the territories concerned.

Liberation movements should be given financial and moral support not for subversion or violence but for the fight for their basic human rights as set forth in the Universal Declaration and the two Covenants of 1966.

Non-governmental organizations should: (a) promote recognition of the right of prisoners captured in wars of liberation to treatment in accordance with rules of the Geneva and Hague Conventions; (b) urge Governments to withdraw or reduce diplomatic missions to colonial Governments, in support of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice; (c) promote collection of funds, clothes and books for children of freedom-fighters whose education is being interrupted by their families' activities; (d) consider the important question of who should represent indigenous peoples in the United Nations and its agencies; (e) in the field of sport, ostracize teams from colonial territories selected on a racial basis; (f) ask churches to take a strong stand and refuse sacraments and services to their communicants practising racialism, in line with action taken against violators of the Sixth Commandment; (g) urge major trade unions, at their planned international conference against apartheid, to pass two resolutions, first, to discourage emigration of their semi-skilled workers to overseas Portuguese Territories, to Rhodesia or the Republic of South Africa, and second, to call on their members not to load or unload goods going to, or coming from these Territories.
Non-governmental organizations must realize that we are all in the political arena and that political action may be necessary. Through the medium of our consultative status with the Economic and Social Council we should endeavour to help change the attitudes which result in the continuation of colonialism and racial discrimination. There can be no Development Decade for all these peoples until they are free from colonial rule and treated with all the rights and freedoms of human beings.

Presentation by David Dull, speaking as representative of the "Youth Caucus"

Speaking to the question of the relationship of the United Nations to the international youth non-governmental organizations, Mr. Dull cited two instances in which the informal consultative relationship "that should exist between United Nations bodies and youth organizations" had broken down: (1) planning for the Symposium on the Participation of Youth in the Second United Nations Development Decade and (2) expenditure by the United Nations of $10,000 to commission a "youth mural" for Headquarters. Suggesting that an improvement in the informal relationship was vital to the future of the United Nations, he called upon the Committee to help by reviewing the failure of the consultative process in these two instances; asked that the Committee, and perhaps the Council, receive minutes of the informal youth meetings; invited the Committee Chairman to attend a future youth meeting in New York or Geneva; and suggested that the Committee be prepared to act as "a sounding board where difficulties are encountered in the relationship between the United Nations and the international youth non-governmental organizations".
I should like, first of all, to express my deep sense of appreciation for this opportunity of addressing the Committee in my capacity as the Chairman of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four in connexion with the Committee's consideration of the item relating to the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

As the item has been the subject of consideration by this Committee during the past two years, I am sure that it would not be necessary for me to dwell in detail on the various aspects of this question.

In brief, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2311 (XXII), declared that the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations should extend their full co-operation to the United Nations in achieving the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. At its twenty-fifth session - 10 years after the adoption of the historic Declaration - the General Assembly, in its resolution 2704 (XXV), affirmed that the recognition by the Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations bodies of the legitimacy of the struggle of colonial peoples to achieve freedom and independence entails, as a corollary, the extension by the United Nations system of organizations of all the necessary moral and material assistance to the peoples of those Territories and their national liberation movements, including especially the liberated areas of the Territories.

Under the terms of these and other resolutions, the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council have, during the past several years, examined appropriate measures for co-ordination of the policies and activities of the organizations concerned in implementing the relevant decisions of the United Nations in the field of decolonization.

This examination eventually led to the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of resolution 1651 (LI) of 29 October 1971, by which the Council instructed this Committee 'to study how non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council assist in the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly'. In this connexion, I have noted with great interest the nature of the responses received from a number of organizations to the questionnaire sent to them by this Committee, as well as the results of the consultations...
undertaken by the Committee Secretary, as reflected in the relevant conference papers placed before you. I wish to pay a particular tribute to the Committee Secretary for the work he has carried out and the assistance he has rendered to the Committee in this regard.

It is quite clear from these papers that the majority of the organizations are unable to relate in practical terms their own objectives with the aims and purposes of the United Nations in this field. As members are aware, the General Assembly has specified four areas of endeavour on the part of the organizations in assisting in the effective implementation of the Declaration:

First - extension of assistance to refugees from colonial Territories;

Second - extension of assistance to the peoples in Africa struggling for their liberation from colonial rule, their national liberation movements and particularly the populations in the liberated areas of the Territories concerned;

Third - discontinuance of all collaboration with the Governments of Portugal and South Africa, as well as with the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council; and

Fourth - establishing procedures for the participation, where necessary and appropriate, in the relevant proceedings of the agencies and other organizations concerned, of representatives of the national liberation movements of the colonial Territories in Africa.

In the field of refugee assistance, considerable progress has been achieved, particularly through the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the co-operation of several agencies and organizations concerned: over half a million refugees from colonial Territories are currently being assisted by the Office of the High Commissioner.

It is the second type of assistance, however, which requires the most urgent attention of the organizations. As members of the Committee are aware, the Special Committee of Twenty-Four has held in April last year a series of meetings in Africa and consulted with representatives of all the national liberation movements from the colonial Territories in that Continent. In addition, the Special Committee was able to dispatch a three-member fact-finding mission to the liberated areas of Guinea (Bissau), formerly under the administration of Portugal. The testimonies given to the Committee by these representatives, as well as the first-hand information collected by the Special Mission, all pointed to one singular course of action to be taken by the international community, as they patently revealed to the world that there exists an acute and grave need to furnish material...
assistance to these people in their fight against hunger, sickness and ignorance. Humanitarian considerations alone call for such action. Their primary requirements are, in the first instance, for staple foods, dietary supplements, medical and sanitary care, particularly maternal and child care, and medical supplies as well as educational and training assistance. Having witnessed at first hand incalculable hardship and suffering of these peoples, the Special Committee members were unanimous in appealing to all States, the specialized agencies and United Nations family of organizations to do their utmost to provide or increase assistance to the peoples concerned and to their national liberation movements. In view of the avowed responsibility of these organizations to combat poverty, deprivation and other basic human sufferings, the members of the Special Committee were convinced that no constitutional, legal or other arrangements which might exist in the relevant procedures of these organizations would stand in the way of a concerted action on the part of the world community to come to the aid of the struggling peoples of these Territories.

Members of this Committee will no doubt recall that in 1970 the World Council of Churches decided to grant $200,000 to 19 recipient organizations, including 9 liberation movements in southern Africa, to support the humanitarian programmes of those engaged in the struggle for their liberation from colonialist and racist domination. Similarly, as members will recall, the UNDP Governing Council approved, in early 1971, a project of assistance formulated by UNESCO involving some $360,000 of UNDP allocation and over $2.4 million of governmental counterpart contributions, which will directly benefit the colonial peoples and their national liberation movements. I am hopeful that the other agencies, such as WHO, ILO, FAO and WMO, all of which have recently dispatched special missions to Africa to consult with the Governments concerned, the OAU and the liberation movements, would soon come forward with concrete programmes of assistance also to these peoples. I have no doubt in my mind that, given the necessary commitment and determination, many of the non-governmental organizations will be able to extend assistance as called for in this regard.

The question of discontinuance of all collaboration with South Africa, Portugal and the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia calls for a further scrutiny on the part of the organizations associated with the United Nations. As has been repeatedly indicated in a number of United Nations resolutions, including those of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the primary aim here is the complete isolation of these authorities from the activities of the international community, so long as these authorities continue to pursue policies of colonialist and racist domination of the Territories. The recent withdrawal of FAO services from the Conference of the South-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission is a case in point exemplifying the course of action to be taken in this regard. Likewise, members of this Committee have no doubt noted with satisfaction the singularly
commendable action taken by UNESCO. During 1970 and 1971, UNESCO undertook an investigation of all international non-governmental organizations with branches, sections, affiliates or constituent parts in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia or Portuguese dominated African Territories and, on the basis of that investigation, decided to suspend relations with 42 non-governmental organizations, either because they failed to reply to the related questionnaires sent to them by its Director-General, or because it was unable to satisfy itself, from the information presented, that branches or members of these organizations in these Territories were not practising racial discrimination or co-operating with policies pursued by these régimes. I am sure that the example set by UNESCO will serve as an indication of the extent to which the non-governmental organizations in consultative status might be examined in so far as concerns their compliance with the related provisions of the United Nations resolutions in this regard. It is incumbent on this Committee to ensure that none of the related activities of these non-governmental organizations would in practice contravene the relevant provisions of the United Nations resolutions.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as regards the question of the participation of representatives of the national liberation movements, in an appropriate capacity, in the relevant proceedings of the organizations concerned, I would only recall the recent decision of the Fourth Committee adopted on my recommendation as the Chairman of the Special Committee, to invite them to take part as observers in its work. I would only express my earnest hope that the non-governmental organizations concerned will do their utmost to establish a close working relationship with the peoples of the colonial Territories and their national liberation movements by effecting their direct participation in the relevant proceedings.

During 1972, at the request of the Special Committee on Decolonization, I paid visits to headquarters of certain non-governmental organizations at their invitation to hold consultations with a view to strengthening further co-operation between the United Nations and those organizations. On the basis of the report submitted by me on these consultations, the Special Committee decided to seek the close collaboration of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization in order to enlist their support in the dissemination of the relevant information and in the mobilization of world public opinion in the cause of decolonization. To that end, the Committee decided to consider dispatching during 1973 a small group of members to hold further consultations with the organizations concerned at their respective headquarters. The Committee also suggested that the General Assembly should examine the possibility of holding, under the United Nations auspices, an international conference or seminar on decolonization aimed at exploring further measures, inter alia, (a) to co-ordinate the mobilization of world public opinion on colonial issues, (b) to intensify programmes of assistance to the dependent peoples and their national liberation movements in their struggle for liberation and (c) to discontinue all collaboration with the colonialist and racist régimes.
In addition to approving the above decisions of the Committee, the General Assembly, in a number of resolutions adopted at its twenty-seventh session, reiterated its recognition of the urgent need for the United Nations to continue to work closely with non-governmental organizations, particularly those having a special interest in the field of decolonization. I wish in particular to draw members' attention to the General Assembly's invitation to the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other organizations concerned to undertake, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and within their respective spheres of competence, the large-scale dissemination of information on

(a) the evils and dangers of colonialism,

(b) the continuing struggle for liberation being waged by the colonial peoples, particularly in southern Africa, and

(c) the efforts being made by the international community to eliminate the remaining vestiges of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

In the light of the foregoing, the Special Committee will continue its efforts to seek the increased co-operation of non-governmental organizations. It has already received invitations from some of the organizations to visit their headquarters for consultation. It might perhaps be possible and indeed desirable to combine our efforts in relation to the consultations envisaged by your Committee with certain non-governmental organizations and in conformity with the decision of the Special Committee to which I have referred, to dispatch a small group of its members to the headquarters of the organizations concerned.

I am confident that this Committee will, within its own sphere of competence, give serious attention to the consideration of the ways and means to assist the struggling peoples of the colonial Territories, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the United Nations resolutions in the field of decolonization."

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