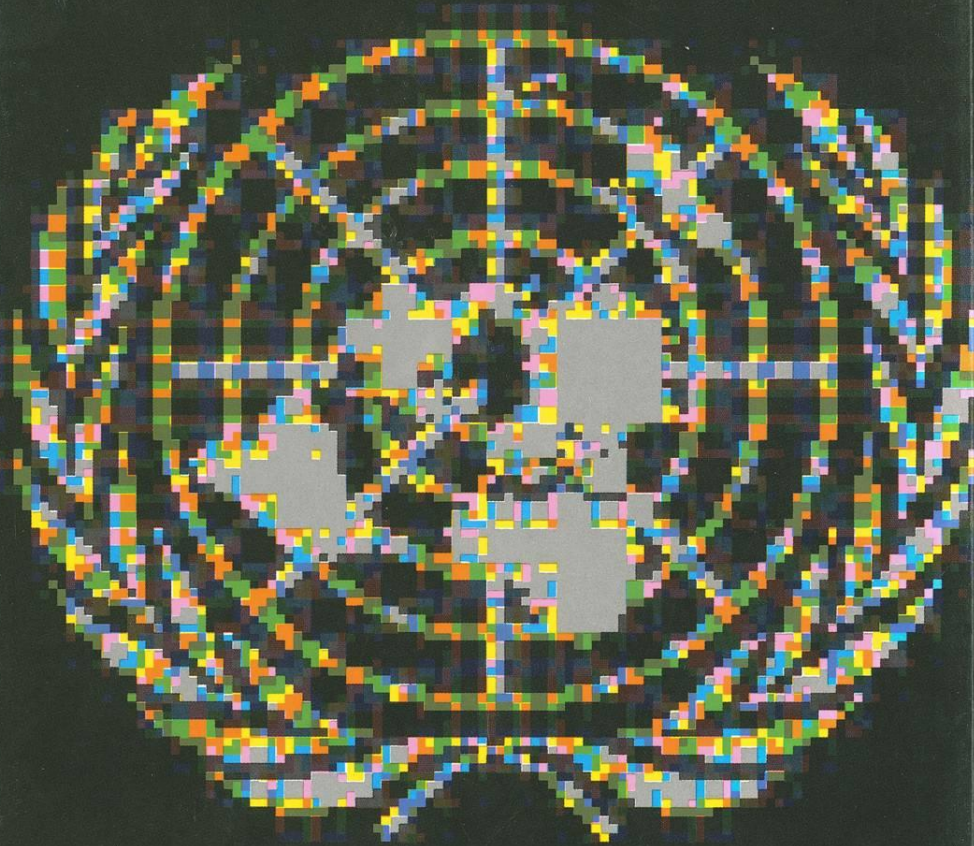


YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 1986

Volume 40

Yearbook of the United Nations



1986

YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS 1986

Volume 40

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PART ONE: United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Following is the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization, submitted to the General Assembly and dated 9 September 1986. The Assembly took note of it on 3 November (decision 41/410).

In 1985, the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations was marked with a far-reaching and rigorous examination of the role the Organization has played during 40 years of epochal change. While opinions differed as to the strengths and weaknesses in the performance of the Organization, there was notable unanimity in acknowledging the continuing validity of the principles of the United Nations Charter and the need to strengthen the United Nations so that it might better meet the needs of the future. In my own statement to the Commemorative Session I suggested that the impressive observance of the anniversary had set the stage for a fresh beginning in efforts to overcome stalemates on major issues and in strengthening that structure for international co-operation which is the United Nations. I cautioned, however, that devotion to the principles of the Charter needed to express itself in concrete action and not only in rhetoric.

Regrettably, in marked contrast to sentiments expressed during the fortieth anniversary, 1986 has witnessed the United Nations subjected to a severe crisis challenging its solvency and viability. Precisely at the time when renewed efforts have been called for to strengthen the Organization, its work has been shadowed by financial difficulties resulting primarily from the failure of Member States to meet obligations flowing from the Charter. It is essential to lift this cloud so that the United Nations can, both now and in the longer term, be that strong constructive force in world affairs that is vitally needed in our increasingly interdependent world. The strengthening and revitalization of the present structure of multilateral institutions is critical to the resolution of problems confronting the international community relating to peace, security and development. To ignore this necessity is to imperil the future prospects of a better world.

Various factors have contributed to the present difficulties of many multilateral organizations. We are still adjusting to the new and uneasy distribution of forces in the world resulting from the Second World War, from the revolution of decolonization, from demographic and technological changes, from the mixed patterns of global development and, of course, from the advent of nuclear weapons. The United Nations is representative of this complexity, often simplistically explained in terms of the "North" and "South", "East" and "West" or the "Third, Second and First Worlds". The United Nations should be, and is, a central element in bringing, through peaceful means, the necessary adjustments in the precarious relationships involved. The intractability of many problems, however, and the altered structure of the world community have given rise in some quarters to a sense of considerable frustration and even a misplaced nostalgia for earlier and simpler times. A trend has been evident towards unilateralism and away from the emphasis on multilateral problem-solving characteristic of the post-War period.

The United Nations system has not always been effective in counteracting such tendencies. Nor has there been the kind of intense international crisis, such as we last faced in 1973, which reminds Member States of the crucial value of the United Nations in times of Great Power confrontation. Yet in a world where the destinies of all countries are almost certain to become ever more closely linked, there can be no substitute for an effective multilateral system in the maintenance of international peace and security and in the co-operative management of global problems. It is in looking ahead at the characteristics of the future world society as they are now emerging that we can most clearly perceive the increasing need for effectively structured multilateral co-operation.

For this reason, I believe that the present time should be propitious for renewal and revitalization of the international system. The upheavals and fundamental changes of the post-War decades have begun to settle into a more discernible and coherent pattern. For all the differences of ideology and practice, we are witnessing the emergence of a widening constituency of basically pragmatic Governments with a firm grasp of the economic, social and technological characteristics of our time as well as of its more traditional political and military aspects. I believe that this constituency can, and will, play an important part in the rationalization and strengthening of the multilateral system. This, moreover, by unanimous decision of the General Assembly, is the International Year of Peace, a major purpose of which is to encourage the strengthening of the United Nations as a central element in assuring peace in the coming decades.

In this perspective, I believe it useful to look ahead, in this final report of my five-year term as Secretary-General, and to examine the performance and the potential of the United Nations in terms of those present problems which are likely to endure and of the new demands which the future will pose.

* * *

If we are to rise to the challenge of the future, it is surely of the highest importance to bring to an early end those conflicts which have long brought terrible tragedy to the countries and people directly involved and inhibited the growth of international confidence needed for the resolution of broader global problems.

Let us look briefly at the conflict situations of 1986:

In the Middle East, despite efforts from many sides to advance the search for a just and lasting settlement, there is at present an alarming absence of a generally acceptable and active negotiating process. Experience shows all too clearly that such a stalemate encourages resort to extremism and risks the recurrence of wider violence. A way must be found to initiate, as soon as possible, a negotiating process with the participation of all concerned. I still believe that the machinery of the United Nations, suitably adapted if necessary, can be a useful and acceptable framework for this purpose. There is now a wide measure of agreement that peace in the Middle East can best be achieved through a comprehensive settlement that would cover all aspects of the conflict, including the question of Palestine. This, and the common ground in the various proposals that have been made, should provide the basis for substantive negotiations.

The United Nations has, of course, been intensively engaged in the Middle East in an effort to maintain some degree of stability and thus promote the achievement of a settlement. This effort has not been without heavy cost. During the current year, the United Nations peace-keeping

force in Lebanon has pursued its duties under constant and growing danger. Brave soldiers have lost their lives as they carried out their mission of peace. I wish to pay tribute to the dedication, fortitude and discipline of the contingents of all the peace-keeping forces in the region and to express appreciation to all the countries that have contributed soldiers and logistic support to these operations. These forces serve a vital purpose: they serve to reduce and mitigate violence and to create, or preserve, conditions in which peace may be sought. Their sacrifices impose an obligation on all of the parties concerned to work constructively and compassionately for stability and peace in the region, an obligation that includes refraining from hostile actions and cooperating unreservedly with the peace-keeping forces in the service of the mandates entrusted to them by the Security Council. It is particularly important at this difficult time that these peace-keeping operations should continue to receive the support of the Security Council—in particular, of all its permanent members. I would add that the vital work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has also had to be carried out under extremely difficult circumstances. The work has gone ahead, however, as it must, and continues to merit, and need, the financial support of all States.

The United Nations continues to be engaged in intensive efforts towards a negotiated solution of the situation relating to Afghanistan. While valuable progress has been made, I must emphasize that delays in the successful conclusion of these negotiations can only aggravate the suffering of the Afghan people. Political decisions of considerable importance have to be taken if this diplomatic process is to yield positive results. Such results would also favourably affect a far wider range of international relationships.

The Secretary-General's long-standing good offices on the Cyprus problem have reached a critical stage. It has not been possible, however, to take the steps towards a settlement that were suggested in the draft framework agreement that I presented to the parties this past spring. Various recent events and the absence of forward movement have regrettably contributed to an increase of tension on the island. The United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus plays a vital role in keeping this under control. To assure this role as long as it may be required, it is essential that a satisfactory solution be found to the Force's financial difficulties. Meanwhile, I expect to meet with both sides during the forthcoming weeks and I sincerely hope that we will find a way to build upon the enormous amount of work devoted to the search for an overall solution of this problem.

The United Nations has also been extensively involved in the efforts undertaken at various levels to resolve the question of Kampuchea and improve the situation in South-East Asia as a whole. These efforts have not so far met with success, although the humanitarian assistance extended by the Organization has done much to alleviate the plight of the Kampuchean people. Last year, I visited the region with the objective of encouraging progress towards a comprehensive political settlement. Since then, some convergence has emerged on the basic objectives of such a settlement, but significant differences persist on the ways to achieve them and on the procedure for negotiations. I believe that there can be no military solution. Confrontation must ultimately give way to a process of genuine negotiations without pre-conditions. I am also convinced that, with the co-operation of those concerned, the good offices of the Secretary-General can be used to facilitate the initiation of this process and contribute to the restoration of peace and stability in this region that has endured such long suffering.

The situation in Central America has steadily deteriorated with the increasing intrusion of conflicting ideologies, the attempts to impose unilateral solutions to the problems of the region and

the resort to force. The tireless efforts of the Contadora Group, with the more recent backing of the Support Group, have helped in preventing the outbreak of a generalized conflict, but agreement which would bring peace to the region is yet to be achieved. I believe that only by insulating the Central American situation from the East-West conflict and seeking a Latin American solution that takes account of the economic and social needs of the area can a genuine settlement be achieved. This requires the support of all countries with interests in the region.

The prolonged war between Iran and Iraq, with its mounting and fearful toll of young lives, is a source of deep distress and of perilous tensions in the region. It poses, too, an ever-present risk of expansion. The United Nations has been able to lessen to some extent the cruellest aspects of this conflict. It has not, however, found the means to bring the war to an end. I recall with gratitude, in this connection, the dedicated service of the late Olof Palme who did all in his power as representative of the Secretary-General to restore peace. Unflagging efforts must continue towards that objective, but far-sightedness on both sides constitutes a decisive and inescapable condition for the success of such efforts.

The United Nations is frequently criticized for failing to prevent or end the conflicts I have mentioned, as well as the many others that have broken out since its establishment. Such criticism often fails to take account of the most useful work done by the United Nations in helping to limit the expansion of conflict and in providing the possibility for negotiations or debate, which can reduce the inclination towards armed exchange. Still, there is no doubt that the inability of the United Nations to avoid, or resolve, many of the armed conflicts between Member States seriously affects the credibility of the Organization in the eyes of the public on whose support the vitality of the United Nations ultimately depends. No serious assessment of the potential of the Organization for the future can omit this basic shortcoming and the reasons for it.

I have sought in my previous annual reports to the General Assembly to suggest measures which might make the United Nations—and one must speak in this regard primarily of the Security Council—more effective in dealing with the threat, as well as the reality, of armed conflict. Essentially two requirements must be met: first, the permanent members of the Security Council, especially the two most powerful, must perceive that, notwithstanding bilateral differences and distrust, it is in their national interest to co-operate within the Security Council and, within this framework, to apply their collective influence to the resolution of regional disputes. Secondly, all Member States must perceive in far greater measure that the existence of an authoritative and representative international organ capable of maintaining peace and security is in their individual as well as the common interest and that, therefore, its decisions must be respected.

Both of these aims, of course, would be achieved through universal compliance with the provisions and intent of the Charter. We have thus seen the fortunate outcome when, recently, two Member States, France and New Zealand, in faithful accord with Chapter VI of the Charter, turned to the United Nations Secretary-General for assistance in resolving a dispute that had seriously disrupted their relations. Earlier, in the spirit of this same Chapter, two permanent members of the Security Council, China and the United Kingdom, in statesmanlike fashion, reached a far-sighted agreement on the future of Hong Kong. I believe, too, that the co-operative efforts of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations in seeking a settlement to the Western Sahara problem, as recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 40/50 of 2 December 1985, show the value of expanded collaboration between regional organizations and the United Nations in dealing with regional disputes.

The General Assembly, of course, also has an important role in developing the conditions for regional and global peace. In order to enhance its effectiveness in the years that lie ahead, some modification in the Assembly's own working methods may be desirable. It is, I believe, the general experience that the important purposes of the Assembly under the Charter are seldom served by intemperate rhetoric or excessive repetition. The Presidents of the General Assembly who met on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary agreed on most practical suggestions which the Assembly should seriously consider and act upon.

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The common well-being of the world's population will depend heavily in the remaining years of this century on the success achieved in global development and in the reduction of the disparity in the conditions of life within the international community. The adverse effects of inadequate development will not be limited in the future to the poorer countries. It will be increasingly universal. For instance, we see at present the wide impact of the external debt problem. Solutions are needed in the interest of creditor and debtor nations alike. The problem has unavoidable human dimensions in both. To take another example, it is already evident that high population growth in areas of limited employment opportunities will encourage, and even impel, massive migration to areas offering better expectations. In an eventuality of this nature the stability of the developing and developed countries become ever more interdependent.

As this interdependence is increasingly recognized, it has resulted paradoxically in some ambivalence with regard to multilateral economic co-operation. Many countries feel that greater interdependence results in diminished control over their own destinies. The balance of interests among domestic groups can be, and has been, disturbed by the very rapidity with which interdependence has grown. These currents are reflected in the difficulties being encountered by multilateral organizations in dealing with the very serious problems of the global economy. But the problems of interdependence will neither go away nor lend themselves to unilateral handling. If the world economy is to return and hold to the path of healthy and well-spread growth and development, policy and systemic measures are necessary in the interrelated areas of money, finance, debt and trade.

These measures can only be successfully planned and implemented on a multilateral basis. Therefore the role of multilateral organizations is bound to be of critical importance. This imposes on them a heavy responsibility to combine their capacities in co-ordinated programmes. The Economic and Social Council, in accordance with its mandate under the Charter, needs to take the lead in assuring the co-ordinated application of resources to the most urgent economic problems on both a global and regional basis. I would emphasize in this connection that, while there are specialized forums to deal with sectoral issues, the role of the United Nations is unique and important: it provides a universal forum in which these issues can be considered in an interrelated manner within a comprehensive context; and it can provide, if correctly utilized, the necessary political impulse for concerted action by States.

In order to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to exercise clear leadership in the economic area, it would be extremely helpful if Member States could agree on a practical means of identifying those issues which are relatively more important and timely for intergovernmental consideration. In this way the dissipation of attention and resources that occurs at present in re-

petitive deliberations in the United Nations on an ever-expanding range of issues could be avoided. I would suggest, with this in mind, that consideration be given to convening a short ministerial session of the Economic and Social Council to identify the subjects in the economic field that should receive priority attention during a given period of time. Should such a meeting be held, I believe it will be useful to keep in mind the large degree of consensus which now exists on practical ways of revitalizing development and accelerating growth. Specific policies and measures which would achieve these objectives should be identified and agreed upon. In this regard, I am gratified to note that Governments are proceeding constructively in preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The recent special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa showed in a most positive way the results that can be achieved through multilateral co-operation when commonly agreed objectives are brought into a cohesive multilateral approach. The necessary follow-up action to this session must be pursued energetically by Governments as well as intergovernmental bodies. If this is done, there is every reason to expect that the present disparity between growth rates in Africa and the other regions of the world will be substantially reduced before the end of the century. In opening up this prospect the United Nations has decisively demonstrated both the special potential of multilateral co-operation on a broad problem transcending national boundaries and its capacity, as a universal organization, to mobilize such cooperation now and in the future.

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The continuing technological revolution has brought change to almost all aspects of human existence. It provides hope that the essential global development to which I have alluded can be achieved. But it also raises the profound question of whether the international community has the aggregate ability to manage safely, and to common advantage, the inventions of the human mind. The United Nations needs here to pursue three broad objectives: to assist in bringing the relevant new technologies to all countries where they can be of use in promoting development; to encourage the widest possible co-operation in dealing with the dangers as well as the advantages inherent in technological advances; and to provide the multilateral structure for the management of possible adverse consequences of the new technologies, which may affect the international community as a whole. There have been promising multilateral achievements in each of these areas. They should be pursued and expanded.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, which throughout its existence has demonstrated the effectiveness of multilateral co-operation in promoting and monitoring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, this year is playing an essential role in enhancing international co-operation in the field of nuclear safety to prevent nuclear accidents or mitigate the effects should such an accident occur. Government experts completed by consensus this August two draft conventions on early notification and emergency mutual assistance for adoption at a special session of the General Conference of IAEA. There have been suggestions that the role and activities of IAEA in nuclear safety be strengthened and expanded. I believe this merits early, positive consideration. Not unrelated is the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, which will take place in March of 1987 under the favourable auspices of recently intensified contacts on this subject.

New technologies have brought with them the reality of human activities in outer space and on the deep sea-bed, which until recently were largely isolated from human use. The very absence of national borders affords a special opportunity for multilateral understandings on the peaceful utilization of these vast areas in ways that will serve the common good. It is noteworthy in this connection that this year, for the first time in several years, substantial progress was made in the development of an international political and legal framework for using outer space for global development. The set of legal principles relating to remote sensing from space, which will be before the present session of the General Assembly for adoption, should promote the use of space technology for developing and protecting our natural resources and ensure that all countries have access to that technology for their own economic and social advancement. This agreement represents a small but encouraging step towards a spirit of co-operation in a field which has been primarily a scene of confrontation and distrust for some years.

In a comparable way, the International Sea-Bed Authority, for which preparations are going forward, can make possible the utilization of new technology for the future exploitation of the mineral resources of the deep sea-bed to the common global advantage.

Outer space and the deep sea-bed have until now been kept free from nuclear deployment. This is a major achievement of multilateral diplomacy and, I would add, of human wisdom. It should under no circumstances be jeopardized.

The operational agencies of the United Nations, while generally experiencing reduced resource availability, have continued to bring the benefits of technology to the developing countries. The significant increase in the number of development programmes and projects executed at the request of Member States by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, especially in areas at the frontier of technology, is a welcome indication of the importance attributed by Member States to moving ahead in this area. It is generally recognized, I believe, that transnational corporations can also play a positive role in bringing advanced technology to developing countries. There continues to be a need, however, for a multilaterally agreed code of conduct to assure that the interests of the host countries as well as of the corporations are protected. Member States are now close to agreement on a text. I would urge that the necessary final effort for agreement be made quickly on a fair and mutually advantageous basis.

These examples of United Nations activity relating to modern technology suggest its future potential in accomplishing the three objectives I have listed. Our purpose must be sustained and unswerving: technological advances must be so used as to serve peaceful ends and to meet the widest possible human needs.

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The advent of nuclear weapons very evidently represents something more than one aspect of a technological revolution. Nuclear weapons have defined a new age of profound anxiety. As long as they exist, nuclear weapons will entail the risk of totally unacceptable destruction to life and to human achievement. The goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, on which all Member States have agreed, must be upheld and energetically pursued. Pending its realization, the risk inherent in the existence of nuclear weapons must be progressively decreased through drastic reduction in the numbers and destructive content of nuclear arms; through limitations on their deployment and further development; and through the complete prohibition of nuclear testing.

It is evident that only the nuclear-weapon States themselves, especially the two most powerful, can take the basic decisions required for the limitation and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons. Through the possession of these weapons, they have assumed a grave responsibility towards humanity as a whole, which, through their use, could be destroyed. I believe that, in welcoming the continuing high-level discussion between the Soviet Union and the United States on various aspects of nuclear disarmament, the international community can justifiably expect that they will be pursued with a full sense of this awesome responsibility.

Given their importance for the entire world community, issues of nuclear disarmament also require multilateral study and negotiation just as do those in the non-nuclear field. The question of nuclear testing, in particular a comprehensive test ban, must continue to be dealt with on a priority basis in the Conference on Disarmament. Negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on the complete prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons merit, and are, I believe, receiving high priority. I shall not review here the many other disarmament questions of vital importance that are on the Conference's agenda. Rather, I should like to put forward for the consideration of the Assembly the following points with regard to the role and capacity of the United Nations over the coming years in this most crucial field:

The Conference on Disarmament affords a uniquely representative negotiating forum, which is essential for the completion of multilateral disarmament agreements. It will serve the world well in the future, as it has in the past, if it continues to receive the high-level attention and expert participation of Member States.

The work of the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs in defining common attitudes, mobilizing support and providing analyses in the disarmament field will also remain of high importance. There is, however, a risk to which I have pointed before, that the impact of the Assembly's efforts will be reduced through lack of focus and inadequate economy in their execution. The United Nations influence will be enhanced if discussions in its various disarmament forums can be so organized as to minimize duplication and reduce the number of resolutions.

As indicated in my last annual report, the ability of the Organization to assist in verification and compliance arrangements should be explored both in the nuclear and non-nuclear fields. As a related step in the interest of international security, I would suggest that consideration be given to the establishment of a multilateral nuclear alert centre to reduce the risk of fatal misinterpretation of unintentional nuclear launchings or, in the future, the chilling possibility of isolated launchings by those who may clandestinely gain access to nuclear devices.

Finally, a further means of achieving practical disarmament is through agreements on the expansion of denuclearized areas and of areas not used for military purposes. Any moves in the opposite direction, which would bring military deployment where it does not now exist, can only have adverse implications for disarmament prospects and for international security.

* * *

When the United Nations was founded, the majority of the world's population was still under colonial rule. Now only a tiny minority remains in this status. The United Nations, throughout its history, has done much to facilitate the decolonization process and to assist the newly independent countries to assume control of their affairs and to begin the demanding tasks of social and

economic development. Through the Trusteeship Council the United Nations has, additionally, presided over the self-determination of 10 Trust Territories. I hope that it will be possible for the eleventh and last to emerge soon from trusteeship.

The task of decolonization is thus well advanced, but still not complete. Some of the remaining colonial Territories are, or could become, the cause of serious international conflict. In cases where bilateral negotiation does not succeed, the United Nations will continue to afford the best means of resolving differences, working as appropriate with the relevant regional organization.

The most urgent remaining problem of decolonization is certainly that of Namibia, for which the United Nations bears direct responsibility. All the conditions for implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia laid down by the Security Council have been met. The United Nations has long been prepared to carry out its extensive role in the transitional arrangements. Yet, Namibia is still unjustly denied the right of self-determination because of illegal perpetuation of control by South Africa, which continues to insist on the extraneous linkage to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. A concerted effort needs to be made to gain the co-operation of South Africa in the immediate implementation of the United Nations plan. The problems of southern Africa are deep and varied. The United Nations will need to assist in their alleviation for many years to come. The particular problem of Namibia, however, is ripe for solution now. Delay can only increase instability and violence in the region and unnecessarily prolong the suffering of Namibia's inhabitants.

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The first task of the United Nations in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms as called for in the Charter was to define these rights and freedoms in authoritative form. This process has been extraordinarily comprehensive and successful. The focus of United Nations activities in this field has gradually moved from definition to the promotion of respect for the rights as defined. It must be expected that this movement will continue and expand during the remaining years of the century. With the coming into effect of the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and on Civil and Political Rights (the latter with its Optional Protocol), the capacity of the United Nations to pursue this sensitive but important task has increased substantially. I believe that a human rights mechanism that will be able gradually to bring wider respect in practice for the rights which Member States have, de jure, long accepted is now functioning within the United Nations.

I am pleased to note in this connection a slowly growing tendency towards co-operation by Governments within the framework of the emerging supervisory system. Two recent positive steps warrant mention: the adoption in 1984 of the Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment providing, as it does, for an additional monitoring mechanism; and the taking root of the institution of special rapporteurs appointed by the Commission on Human Rights to look into specific country situations and alleged violations such as disappearances, summary executions, torture and religious intolerance. For example, a Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance has been charged to examine in all parts of the world incidents inconsistent with the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief. This is the direction of the future.

For the present, however, we still face the reality of widespread and egregious infringement of human rights, a reality that casts shame on our era. No form of infringement is more widely encompassing or abhorrent than that of apartheid.

Apartheid is, in reality, far more than a problem of human rights abuse. It is a problem with tenacious racial, political and economic roots—one that jeopardizes the stability and security of an entire region. Only the total elimination of apartheid will restore peace to South Africa and to southern Africa as a whole. The General Assembly and the Security Council have on many occasions advocated practical measures to accelerate the process of dismantling apartheid. While some progress has been made, it is far too slow and restricted. The United Nations as an organization, and its Member States individually, need to exert every possible influence to persuade the South African authorities that time is running out for a negotiated settlement which could serve the best interests of all the inhabitants of South Africa and, indeed, of that region as a whole. In the meantime, not surprisingly, the demand for additional measures, including sanctions, has gained momentum. A process of consultations has begun in this connection in the United Nations. It is essential for the international community to intensify the pressure for peaceful change. Additionally, there is need to strengthen, through concerted action, the States of the region that are victims of South African acts of harassment and destabilization. They must be helped to overcome their vulnerability and reduce their economic dependence on South Africa.

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The emergence of a new distribution of forces to which I referred at the beginning of this report has brought with it the need and opportunity for profound social adjustment as well as the social tensions associated with societies in flux. The United Nations throughout its history has been deeply involved in encouraging recognition of emerging needs—to protect the environment, to respect the equality of women, to recognize and respond to the needs of children, to develop a global perspective on population growth. In the coming years the United Nations will be challenged to sustain the leadership it has provided in these areas and to further the very substantial progress that has been made. There will need to be continuing investment in the skills, institutions and processes that can enable us to cope with complexity and rapid change. Within the Secretariat some structural adjustment may need to be undertaken to tighten management and coordination of programmes in the social area.

The refugee flow has been a particularly disturbing result of the political, economic and social changes of recent years. At present, over 10 million refugees remain under the care or protection of the United Nations. This is a mammoth service to desperately needy people and to international stability as well. As political systems mature and regional conflicts are resolved, I would hope that the number of refugees will decline. Even if the refugee problem abates somewhat, however, the United Nations may well be called upon to deal with new problems connected with mass migration for economic and related reasons to which I alluded earlier. Intensified, well-directed development strategies now, of course, could lessen the likelihood of this eventuality or reduce its potential dimensions.

While neither terrorism nor illegal traffic in narcotics is new, both problems have assumed proportions that reflect extreme societal tensions. Both result from a profound confusion of moral values and are encouraged by disorientation in a world made insecure by conflict and deprivation

of rights, by poverty and despair. They threaten not only the health and safety of individuals but also the stability of governmental structures and the very fabric of societies. Not all the causes of these two grave phenomena can be dealt with by multilateral means. Yet they are both problems that transcend frontiers and have direct relevance to international security. They are accordingly being addressed with increased attention within the United Nations.

During the past year both the Security Council and the General Assembly took the very important step of condemning terrorism in all its forms, thus authoritatively denying to it any justification under any circumstances. These resolutions express authoritatively a universal consensus against the victimization of innocent people, involved in no way as partisans in a political struggle, through cruel, unjustifiable and counterproductive acts. Continuing and intensified international co-operation will be needed, however, to combat this evil. I would again, in this connection, urge all Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the conventions adopted in the United Nations on particular aspects of terrorism, such as the taking of innocent hostages and to continue to build on, and widen, the basis for action.

The United Nations has also taken important steps to combat drug abuse and illicit traffic in drugs. There has been a heartening response to my proposal that the United Nations convene, in June 1987, the first global conference to deal with all aspects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Preparatory work is under way to ensure that agreement is reached on practical and concerted action to be taken by the international community, Governments, nongovernmental organizations, communities and even individuals. Some steps have already been taken. In July, the United Nations convened the first interregional meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies dealing with drug-related problems. The draft of a new convention, aimed at improving international co-operation and filling existing gaps in international law to combat illicit trafficking in drugs, has been completed by the competent unit of the United Nations and is now in the hands of Governments. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control is rapidly expanding its assistance to Member States and international agencies in their efforts to combat cultivation, traffic in, and abuse of illegal drugs. This scourge has become so deadly and widespread that further forms of co-operative international efforts may well be needed. While I fully recognize the sensitivities involved, I wonder, for example, if Member States have yet adequately considered the possibilities of a strengthened global enforcement capability, which might reduce the need for Governments to rely on other types of control.

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In the preceding sections of this report I have described the contribution I believe the United Nations can make to solving the problems we shall face as we move into the next millennium. If the United Nations is to make that contribution, it will have to have a solid foundation of commitment and support from Member States. The intergovernmental machinery and the secretariat which services it must be structured and administered in a way to maintain the confidence of Member States. The Organization must be financially sound and provided, in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Charter, with the resources needed to implement the mandated programmes.

These conditions are not met at the present time. This year the United Nations has confronted the most severe financial crisis in its history, the immediate cause of which is the failure of a number

of Member States to meet their financial obligations under the Charter. It is not yet clear whether the United Nations will remain solvent throughout the remainder of the year. If it does, this will in no way mean that the financial crisis will have been overcome. On the contrary, it must be anticipated that 1987 will begin with a larger accumulated deficit than 1986 and with reserves still depleted.

It is, I believe, necessary to look squarely at the underlying causes of the financial problem. They are first and foremost political and for this very reason have implications for the Organization far beyond the state of its finances. Differences of views concerning programmes of work of the United Nations have prejudiced not only the budgetary process but also the readiness of some Member States to place reliance in the United Nations as a major instrumentality for positive regional and global change. The resolution of serious political conflicts long on the United Nations agenda, to which reference has been made earlier, would serve greatly to reduce the differences with regard to the budget. In the absence of such basic political change, Member States need to make greater efforts, in a manner consonant with the Charter, to accommodate differences through compromise and restraint in reaching broad agreement on budget programmes and priorities. Any change in procedures related to the budget that might facilitate such broad agreement encompassing, also, the amount of resources required, would be a major step towards assuring the capacity of the United Nations to deal effectively over the coming years with the broad range of problems that can only be resolved through multilateral means.

While the underlying causes of the budgetary problem of the United Nations are political, the structural and administrative efficiency of the United Nations is also unquestionably an important factor. There have been frequent allegations that the Organization is too large, unnecessarily complex and excessively expensive. The General Assembly at its fortieth session established the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to conduct a thorough review of the administrative and financial matters of the United Nations with a view to identifying measures for further improving the efficiency of its administrative and financial functioning, which would contribute to strengthening its effectiveness in dealing with political, economic and social issues. The analyses and recommendations of this Group will certainly receive the careful attention of the Assembly and will, I hope, lead to a stronger Organization enjoying wider confidence among Member States. For my part, I believe that at the present time, when the future of the United Nations so evidently depends on greater support, commitment and utilization by all Member States, certain points need to be made:

A functioning world organization exists. It consists of intergovernmental machinery and an international secretariat to service it. The intergovernmental machinery has grown and become ever more complex in response to new global problems. The Secretariat has also grown, primarily as a result of the demands of the more extended intergovernmental machinery it must service. This growth has been rapid and, to an extent, excessive both in numbers and rank. Some orderly reduction at all levels is needed. Beyond that, however, unless there is some parallel consolidation and rationalization of the intergovernmental machinery and a dearer sense of priorities in mandated programmes, reduction of Secretariat staff cannot but have an adverse effect on the services expected by intergovernmental bodies and the membership as a whole.

The Secretariat embraces a remarkably integrated international staff that has repeatedly shown the capacity to meet the most demanding situations and to provide, on a sustained basis, highly competent service to the Organization. During the past year staff members have demonstrated

loyalty and fortitude in accepting economy measures directly affecting their well-being. To maintain the effectiveness of the United Nations over the coming years, I consider it crucial to maintain employment conditions that will allow the United Nations to attract and retain employees of the highest competence, efficiency and integrity. To seek to solve the Organization's financial difficulties at the expense of staff entitlements would be extremely short-sighted and counter-productive, and would have widespread adverse implications for the common system. The mandate of the International Civil Service Commission to advise the Assembly on the conditions of service throughout the system should be respected.

Respect for the status of international civil servants is essential to a Secretariat that will enjoy the confidence of Member States. There should be no distinction among staff members based on nationality. As provided in the Charter, staff members, in turn, must refrain from any action that might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the Organization.

There is need for improved management of the Secretariat at all levels. A principal task for the Secretary-General in the coming years will be to assure that management skills are given high priority in recruitment and in training.

Good management will require greater mobility of staff, and an effective system of career development. This must be accompanied by improved prospects for women in the Secretariat. The General Assembly has set the goal that, by the year 1990, 30 per cent of professional posts subject to geographic distribution should be occupied by women. At present we have reached just under 25 per cent. Progress towards the 30 per cent goal has been made more complicated by the financial necessity to freeze recruitment and defer promotions, but its attainment must be seen as a matter of high importance for the future.

It will be of much importance to maintain a constructive relationship between staff, through their elected representatives, and management, and a climate of mutual confidence. This is of special value in a period of difficult financial retrenchment.

The re-examination of structure, staff and procedures, which is taking place, should be carried forward with these points in mind. If this is done, there is a good prospect of a tighter, less costly Secretariat in the years ahead. Member States, for their part, will need to act to rationalize the intergovernmental machinery and the application of priorities; they will also need to accept the implications of any staff reduction. The present year has demonstrated anew and in very stark terms, however, that the overriding element in the financial, as well as political, viability of the United Nations is compliance by Member States with the provisions of the Charter. For a good many years, the financial situation of the United Nations has been difficult because of the failure of a number of Member States to meet the financial commitments that are an inherent and binding part of United Nations membership. The debilitating effect of this long-lasting emergency was not seen as critical because, until this year, to the extent that it applied to the regular programme budget, the deficit could be covered by reserves. This year the very operation of the United Nations has been placed in jeopardy because, with reserves depleted, it has been confronted with the likelihood of the withholding by the principal contributing State of a substantial portion of its assessed contribution to the regular budget. From the experience of the present year it is all too evident that without a strong and reliable financial foundation, anchored in respect for the Charter, the United Nations can be crippled in meeting the needs and opportunities of the coming years. This would surely be contrary to the interests of the entire membership and of the peoples of the world.

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I should like to conclude this report with some personal observations on the role of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the post which I have been privileged to occupy during the last five years, and on the Organization itself.

It is the Secretary-General's duty to offer guidance and assistance in all the areas discussed in this report. He must try to present concepts and approaches that will evoke a convergence of views among Member States on political issues and be active, through the various forms of good offices, in seeking to prevent conflicts and to resolve disputes. In the vast field of global economic and social problems, the Secretary-General should project a vision of the future and indicate the priorities by which that vision might be made a reality. He must seek to bring about the implementation of the relevant decisions of the various intergovernmental bodies. As Chief Administrative Officer, he must guide and control the Secretariat so as to provide the best possible service to the Organization and its Member States.

In these manifold activities, the Secretary-General needs not only to be guided, himself, by the principles of the Charter; he must also uphold them publicly as spokesman for the concept of a just and peaceful world which the United Nations embodies—a world in which States will act within an accepted legal order with respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law. He needs either to speak out publicly or to work through quiet diplomacy, as most useful in his judgement, on those issues which can prejudice the goals established by the founders of the United Nations. In all situations, the Secretary-General has to proceed with and through the Member States, which alone can provide him with the political support and authority he needs to operate effectively.

In my years in this Office, I have had the deep satisfaction of receiving strong and consistent support from the membership. Many tasks accorded to me imply a high degree of confidence in the role of the Secretary-General. I believe that some positive results have been obtained although not, certainly, to the extent I would have liked. I feel compelled, however, to express some concern over a tendency to view the Secretary-General in some circumstances as somehow separate and apart from the rest of the Organization. To express full confidence in the Secretary-General while failing to give the necessary support to the Security Council or to work constructively in the General Assembly to bring conflicting positions into greater consonance is fundamentally contradictory. Such a dichotomy cannot be conducive to the realization of the full potential of the Secretary-General's position or, far worse, that of the Organization as a whole. I am convinced that the continuing and enhanced effectiveness of the United Nations depends above all on the readiness of Member States to see the whole of the United Nations as the necessary structure for dealing with the transcendent problems of an interdependent world.

For my part, I have found in the countries and cities, in the academic institutions and the public organizations that I have visited as Secretary-General, truly remarkable support for the United Nations and faith in its purposes. There is an evident longing that it succeeds in its mission of peace. I have found at the same time that the extent of knowledge of the activities in which the United Nations is engaged is insufficiently appreciated and that there is sometimes a distorted image of the manner in which the Organization operates. Persistent, tendentious criticism of the United Nations by relatively small groups has affected confidence in the effectiveness, if not the goals, of the Organization. There is today a need for a more vigorous and determined defence by those who believe, as I firmly do, that the complex problems of an increasingly interdependent world can only

be solved with the help of effective multilateral action— that the safety net which the United Nations constitutes for the world's security should not be allowed to become tattered. If the hopes and aspirations which the peoples of the United Nations enshrined in the Charter are to be fulfilled, multilateralism, as embodied in the United Nations, needs its champions; they must speak more boldly and knowledgeably. Such champions are to be found not only amongst the Governments of Member States. They exist in all walks of life, including academic institutions and the world media. I wish, in this connection, to refer specifically to the many non-governmental organizations which share the goals and, in many instances, the work of the United Nations. I am convinced that, in the coming years, the United Nations will need to place even greater emphasis on close communication and co-operation with these organizations. They constitute an essential extension of the capacity of the United Nations to reach its global constituency.

In ending this closing report of my term, I would like finally to state that the United Nations system, while imperfect as any human undertaking must be, offers almost unlimited potential for the creation of a strong and durable foundation for peace and for the well-being of the world's population. I believe it to be of the utmost importance for all nations that this instrumentality be constructively supported and wisely utilized, and that the provisions of its Charter be universally respected, in the interest of a safe and harmonious passage to the next millennium.



Javier PÉREZ DE CUÉLLAR
Secretary-General

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter I (pp. 13-90)

Disarmament

GENERAL ASPECTS, 13. COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES TO DISARMAMENT, 16: UN disarmament bodies and their activities in 1986, 16; Follow-up to the General Assembly's special sessions on disarmament, 21; General and complete disarmament, 28; Comprehensive programme of disarmament, 31; Proposed world disarmament conference, 32. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, 33: Prevention of nuclear war, 34; Climatic effects of nuclear war, 37; Nuclear-arms limitation and disarmament, 38; Cessation of nuclear-weapon tests, 42; Nuclear-weapon freeze, 49; Strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States, 51; Nuclear non-proliferation, 53. PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF OTHER WEAPONS, 61: Chemical and biological weapons, 61; New weapons of mass destruction, including radiological weapons, 65; Conventional weapons, 68; Arms race in outer space, 73. OTHER DISARMAMENT ISSUES, 76: Reduction of military budgets, 76; Disarmament and development, 77; Economic and social consequences of the arms race, 79; Military research and development, 79; Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, 80. INFORMATION AND STUDIES, 82: World Disarmament Campaign, 82; Disarmament Week, 86; Disarmament studies and research, 88; Parties and signatories to disarmament agreements, 90.

The year 1986 was marked by intense disarmament activity, both within and outside the United Nations, largely continued from the previous year, or earlier in the case of most international and multilateral efforts.

For its part, the General Assembly adopted 65 resolutions and two decisions on arms limitation and disarmament, deciding to convene in 1988 a third special session on disarmament.

The International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, which was to have met in Paris in July/August 1986, was rescheduled for New York in 1987. In September, at Geneva, the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction reaffirmed the significance of the instrument.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa became operational in 1986, and the Assembly decided in December to establish a regional centre in Latin America in 1987.

Major disarmament bodies continued work on much the same topics as in previous years. The Conference on Disarmament, the 40-nation disarmament negotiating forum at Geneva, continued work on, among other things, a comprehensive programme of disarmament and prevention of an arms race in outer space. The Assembly, in December, requested the Conference to commence negotiations on a draft convention on the non-use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances and to establish a subsidiary committee to carry out multilateral negotiation of a treaty on the complete cessation of nuclear-test explosions. The Disarmament Commission, a deliberative body composed of all United Nations Member States, formulated draft guidelines on confidence-building measures and made progress in its work on a set of governing principles in freezing and reducing military budgets.

Outside the United Nations framework, the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe agreed in September on ways to improve confidence-building. The USSR and the United States held a summit meeting in October at Reykjavik, Iceland, where they agreed in principle on a number of aspects, but not on the entire package, regarding nuclear and space arms issues.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter II (pp. 91-101)

Peaceful uses of outer space

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND LAW, 91: Space science and technology, 91; Space law, 94. SPACECRAFT LAUNCHINGS, 100.

In 1986, the General Assembly adopted principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from space—a set of 15 legal principles governing remote sensing activities for the benefit of all countries in improving natural resources management, land use and environmental protection (resolution 41/65).

The Assembly urged, in resolution 41/64, that all countries have the opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in space, that an international space information service be established, and that the United Nations support the creation of regional training centres linked to institutions implementing space programmes and organize a fellowship programme for developing countries.

By resolution 41/66, the Assembly called on States to consider ratifying or acceding to the 1974 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

International co-operation in outer space continued to be considered by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (Committee on outer space), which held its twenty-ninth session (New York, 2-13 June), and by its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and Legal Sub-Committee.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter III (pp. 102-107) Law of the Sea

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 102; Preparatory Commission, 103; Functions of the Secretary-General, 105.

The considerable influence of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was already apparent in all aspects of the law of the sea, even though the instrument had not come into force, the Secretary-General stated in 1986. Ratifications of the Convention increased from 25 to 32 during the year.

An understanding, which provided a basis for resolving the overlapping claims by States to mining sites in the deep sea-bed "Area" (the sea-bed beyond national jurisdiction), was adopted in September by the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

The Commission also adopted a declaration, stating its rejection of any action which was incompatible with the Convention, deploring the fact that the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom had issued licences for the exploration of parts of the international sea-bed Area, and asserting that such actions were illegal.

By resolution 41/34, the General Assembly noted the progress made by the Preparatory Commission in its work and called on States to desist from actions that undermined or defeated the purpose of the Convention.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter IV (pp. 108-119)

International peace and security

STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, 108: Implementation of the 1970 Declaration, 108; Implementation of the security provisions of the UN Charter, 111; Dialogue to improve the international situation, 111; Establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security, 112. REVIEW OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS, 114. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE, 115: Right of peoples to peace, 118.

In 1986, the United Nations observed the International Year of Peace (IYP), focusing on its role in promoting peace and on issues of international security and conflict resolution. The Secretary-General, in his annual report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3), declared that there could be no substitute for an effective multilateral system in maintaining international peace and security.

By resolution 41/9, the Assembly recognized the objectives of IYP as a valuable source for future dialogue and action to achieve peace. The President of the Security Council issued a statement on the Year and the Council's role in maintaining international peace and security. The Economic and Social Council considered that the efforts to achieve the IYP objectives would contribute to international peace (resolution 1986/15) and reaffirmed its commitment to promoting peace during the Year and beyond (decision 1986/115).

In other action, the Assembly urged for a peaceful settlement of disputes through more effective use of the United Nations Charter and reaffirmed the validity of the 1970 Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (41/90); it appealed for enhancing the United Nations role as a forum for political dialogue and negotiations (41/91) and called on States to help ensure security on an equal basis for all States and in all spheres of international relations (41/92).

The Assembly also called on States and international organizations to contribute to the implementation of the right of peoples to peace, proclaimed in a 1984 Declaration (41/10), and renewed the mandate of its Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (41/67).

All aspects of the maintenance of international peace and security were also discussed by the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (see LEGAL QUESTIONS, Chapter IV).

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter V (pp. 120-174)

Africa

SOUTH AFRICA AND APARTHEID, 120: General aspects, 121; Other international action to eliminate apartheid, 128; Relations with South Africa, 129; Situation in South Africa, 143; Apartheid in sports, 150; Aid programmes and inter-agency co-operation, 151; Other aspects, 153. SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FRONT-LINE AND OTHER STATES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, 155: Angola-South Africa armed incidents and South African occupation of Angola, 162; South African aggression against Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, 165; Lesotho-South Africa dispute, 167. CHAD-LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA DISPUTE, 168. BURKINA FASO-MALI DISPUTE, 169. COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE, 169. MALAGASY ISLANDS QUESTION, 171. UN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA, 171. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OAU AND THE UN SYSTEM, 172.

In 1986, the United Nations continued to consider a number of political issues concerning Africa, particularly the apartheid system in South Africa, possible ways to abolish it and South Africa's aggression against neighbouring States.

The question of apartheid was discussed by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Special Committee against Apartheid, the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Committee on colonial countries), the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

Eight resolutions on various aspects of the apartheid policies of South Africa were adopted by the General Assembly, while the Security Council adopted two resolutions, one by which it condemned South African attacks on States in southern Africa and the other in which the Council strengthened its arms embargo against South Africa. The Council, in a statement issued on the tenth anniversary of the killings of African people at Soweto, near Johannesburg, condemned the repressive measures which perpetuated the apartheid system and the recent imposition by South Africa of a nation-wide state of emergency.

Complaints of South African aggression against Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe and a border dispute between Lesotho and South Africa were considered by the Council. In May, due to the negative vote of a permanent member, the Council did not adopt a draft resolution by which it would have imposed selective economic and other sanctions on South Africa.

A dispute between Chad and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya remained before the Council; the Organization of African Unity (OAU) continued its efforts to settle a conflict among diverse forces and achieve national reconciliation in Chad.

The sovereignty of the Comoros over the Indian Ocean island of Mayotte was reaffirmed by the Assembly. In addition, it called on Member States to intensify their support of the recommendations of the Second (1984) International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and ap-

pealed for contributions to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

At a special session on the critical economic situation in Africa (New York, 27 May-1 June), the Assembly adopted a Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (see ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS, Chapter III).

In addition, activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia continued to be surveyed by the Economic and Social Council.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter VI (pp. 175-199) Americas

CENTRAL AMERICA SITUATION, 175; Nicaragua situation, 180; Panama-United States, 198. OTHER QUESTION RELATING TO THE AMERICAS, 199.

The situation in Central America was considered in 1986 by the Security Council and the General Assembly, with both bodies addressing specific disputes between countries. The Assembly also dealt with the question as a whole.

The Secretary-General reported on the situation in July, including the status of regional and international peace efforts and assistance to resolve the widespread conflict and to mitigate the resultant suffering. The Assembly in November, by resolution 41/37, reaffirmed that a solution of the conflict required all States to respect international law, reiterated support for the Contadora peace activities, requested perseverance in those efforts and urged States to continue supporting them.

The Council convened four times during the year at Nicaragua's request. Early in July and in October it considered the dispute which had been the subject of a Judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 27 June in the case brought by Nicaragua against the United States. Draft resolutions by which the Council would have called for full and immediate compliance with the Judgment in conformity with relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations were not adopted due to the negative vote of a permanent Council member. However, in November, the Assembly adopted resolution 41/31, containing such a provision. Later in July and again in December, the Council considered Nicaragua's complaints of aggression against it and incidents in Central America endangering international peace. Following a September report on measures undertaken to reduce the negative effects of the trade embargo imposed against Nicaragua, the Assembly in December invited continuation of such measures and requested that the embargo be immediately revoked (resolution 41/164).

The agenda item on the observance of the quincentenary of the discovery of America was deleted from the Assembly's agenda for its 1986 regular session. Earlier, at its resumed 1985 session on 15 September 1986, the Assembly, by decision 40/480, had deferred the item to its 1986 regular session.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter VII (pp. 200-236) Asia and the Pacific

EAST ASIA, 200: Korean question, 200; Other matters concerning Korea, 202. SOUTH-EAST ASIA, 202: Kampuchea situation, 202; International security in South-East Asia, 208; China-Viet Nam dispute, 209; Kampuchea-Viet Nam border dispute, 210; Lao People's Democratic Republic-Thailand dispute, 210; Thailand-Viet Nam dispute, 211. WESTERN AND SOUTH-WESTERN ASIA, 212: Afghanistan situation, 212; Iran-Iraq armed conflict, 218.

The United Nations considered a number of matters of important international concern in Asia and the Pacific in 1986, including the situations in Afghanistan and in Kampuchea, and the Iran-Iraq war.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Command continued monitoring the 1953 Armistice Agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea.

The United Nations was extensively involved in efforts to resolve the Kampuchea question but significant differences persisted, the Secretary-General noted (see p. 5). As armed incidents continued to occur both within Kampuchea and around its borders, the Ad Hoc Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea continued consultation missions with Governments in South-East Asia to help seek a settlement. The Secretary-General also maintained close contacts to that end. In October, the Assembly reaffirmed its past resolutions on Kampuchea, reiterated the principal components of a just and lasting solution and requested the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work (resolution 41/6). Other border incidents in South-East Asia-affecting China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam-also continued to be reported throughout the year.

The prolonged Iran-Iraq war was a source of deep distress and perilous tensions in the region, and posed an ever-present risk of expansion; efforts had to continue to bring that war to an end, the Secretary-General stressed. The Security Council convened four times during the year to consider the conflict and adopted two resolutions-one providing a possible basis for the initiation of negotiations (resolution 582(1986)), the other calling on the parties to implement that resolution without delay (resolution 588(1986)). Following a report by a specialist mission dispatched to Iran in February to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons by Iraq, the Council, in March, issued a declaration strongly condemning their continued use. In December, it issued a statement expressing concern over the widening of the conflict through the escalation of attacks on civilian targets, on merchant shipping and on oil installations of the region's littoral States.

Turning to Afghanistan, the Secretary-General said the United Nations was continuing efforts to negotiate a settlement and valuable progress had been made, but important political decisions had to be taken if the diplomatic process was to yield positive results. The negotiations had been resumed based on understandings that emerged from consultations with the parties in May by the Secretary-General's Personal Representative. In November, the Assembly reaffirmed the right of the Afghan people to determine their own future (resolution 41/33). Meanwhile, Afghanistan and Pakistan continued to charge each other with acts of aggression.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter VIII (pp. 237-260)

Mediterranean

CYPRUS QUESTION, 237: Peace-keeping and humanitarian assistance, 245. OTHER QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION, 247.

In 1986, political problems in the Mediterranean continued to focus on Cyprus and the tense situation surrounding relations between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States, which erupted into armed attacks in late March and in April. The Security Council took up the situation in March and again in April when, after two sessions, it considered but did not adopt a draft resolution by which it would have condemned a United States attack against the Jamahiriya. However, in November, the General Assembly condemned the attack. With regard to security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, the Assembly expressed concern over the increasing tension there and urged States to reduce it and promote peace in the area.

Concerning Cyprus, the Secretary-General-believing that the differences between the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots could be bridged by a decisive effort-presented to them in March a draft framework agreement for a solution to the Cyprus problem. Since both sides held differing views on that draft and it was not possible to take the steps towards a settlement as suggested in the document, the Secretary-General reviewed the situation with the leaders of both sides in September and sent a high-level mission to Cyprus, Greece and Turkey in November to explore ways of moving forward. At year's end, he remained convinced that a solution was possible, if both sides showed their good will and determination to create a more positive atmosphere.

Expressing its strong support for the Secretary-General's good offices mission, the Security Council twice extended the stationing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). To assure UNFICYP's vital role in keeping tension on the island under control, the Secretary-General noted that it was essential to find a satisfactory solution to the Force's financial difficulties (see P. 4).

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter IX (pp. 261-353)

Middle East

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, 263: Proposed peace conference, 267; UN Truce Supervision Organization, 268; Credentials of Israel, 269. PALESTINE QUESTION, 269: Public information activities, 272; Jerusalem, 273; Assistance to Palestinians, 278. INCIDENTS AND DISPUTES BETWEEN ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL, 281: Iraq and Israel, 281; Lebanon situation, 283; Israel and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 309; Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, 312; Israel and Tunisia, 316. TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL, 317: Fourth Geneva Convention, 325; Palestinian detainees, 327; Israeli settlements, 329; Expulsion of Palestinians, 330; Israeli measures against educational institutions, 332; Living conditions of Palestinians, 334; Golan Heights, 335. PALESTINE REFUGEES, 338: UN Agency for Palestine refugees, 339; Other aspects, 343.

The conflict in the Middle East, including the problem of Palestine-viewed as a principal element-occupied much United Nations attention throughout 1986. The quest for a peaceful settlement was pursued in the General Assembly, the Security Council and other bodies, which considered various aspects of the situation, such as the Palestine question, incidents and disputes between individual Arab States and Israel, the situation in Lebanon and in the territories occupied by Israel, and Palestine refugees. The United Nations continued its two major peace-keeping operations in the region, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The latter had pursued its duties under constant and growing danger, the Secretary-General said in his annual report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3). Paying tribute to the peace-keeping forces, he added that they served the vital purpose to reduce and mitigate violence and to create, or preserve, conditions in which peace might be sought; their sacrifices posed an obligation on all to work constructively for stability and peace in the region.

Despite efforts from many sides to advance the search for a just and lasting settlement, the Secretary-General reported, there was an alarming absence of a generally acceptable and active negotiating process and a way must be found to initiate that as soon as possible with the participation of all concerned. The call for an International Peace Conference on the Middle East was again endorsed by the Assembly, which stressed the need to convene it without delay.

The Palestine question continued to be a concern of the Assembly and its Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian rights). There was a wide measure of agreement, the Secretary-General stated, that peace in the Middle East could best be achieved through a comprehensive settlement to cover all aspects, including the Palestine question.

Following consideration of the annual report of the Committee on Palestinian rights, the Assembly requested the Committee to continue reviewing the situation, as well as the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights adopted by the 1983 International Conference on the Question of Palestine, invited co-operation with the Committee and the Secretariat's Division for Palestinian Rights, and asked the Department of Public Information to continue its information programme on the question.

The Assembly also dealt with the status of Jerusalem, again determining that Israel's 1980 decision to impose its laws and administration on the city was null and void. The Security Council in January

1986 considered two incidents that took place at the Haram al-Sharif (Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock) in Jerusalem. A draft resolution by which the Council would have strongly deplored the provocative acts was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council.

In July, the Secretary-General convened a meeting of United Nations programmes, organizations, agencies, funds and organs, also attended by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Arab host countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to assess progress towards a co-ordinated programme of assistance for Palestinians. Both the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly asked for increased assistance; the Assembly also welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to send a mission to prepare the programme and, like the Council, urged that assistance to the occupied Palestinian territories be disbursed only for the benefit of Palestinians and in a manner that would not serve to prolong the Israeli occupation.

The Security Council considered the situation in Lebanon on various occasions and, in January, voted on a draft to have the Council strongly demand that Israel desist from its measures against the civilian population and reaffirm the urgent need for Israel's withdrawal. Because of the negative vote of a permanent member, the text was not adopted.

In June, the Council expressed grave concern at the intensified fighting in Beirut, especially at Palestinian refugee camps, and appealed for it to end. In December, Council members voiced serious concern at the escalating violence particularly affecting the population of the camps. They appealed for restraint in order to end those acts and alleviate the suffering.

Following violent incidents in the UNIFIL zone in mid-August, and another in early September when three UNIFIL soldiers were killed, the Council issued a statement expressing indignation and calling for reinforced security measures. The Council also expressed appreciation for the immediate dispatch of a mission to look at measures to enable the Force to carry out its mandate; the second part of the mission's task was to consult with the parties on how progress could be made towards implementing the Council's 1978 resolution calling for strict respect for Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence, and for Israel's withdrawal, and establishing UNIFIL for the purpose of confirming that withdrawal, restoring peace and security, and assisting the Lebanese Government in ensuring the return of its effective authority.

Following another attack against UNIFIL personnel in mid-September 1986 and an increase of violence in UNIFIL'S area of deployment, the Council strongly condemned the attacks, urged all parties to co-operate and asked the Secretary-General to arrange for the Force's deployment to the southern border of Lebanon. In October, the Council expressed regret that the consultations on implementing its 1978 resolution had failed to yield results and called on the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts towards that end; the Council again urged the parties concerned to support UNIFIL fully and called for an end to any military presence in southern Lebanon not accepted by the Lebanese authorities.

The Council also called on all countries to assume their financial responsibilities towards UNIFIL, since the shortfall of \$242.6 million continued to pose a very serious problem for the financial management of the Force. Calling again for voluntary contributions, the Assembly appropriated about \$112 million for UNIFIL operations from 19 April 1986 to 18 January 1987 and authorized commitments of \$145 million for the following 12 months.

For the first time since UNIFIL'S inception in 1978, the Security Council unanimously extended the Force's mandate. In 1986, the mandate was extended twice, for three and then six months. The mandate of UNDOF was also renewed twice during the year. The Assembly appropriated \$35.7 million for UNDOF'S operation from 1 June 1986 to 31 May 1987 and authorized commitments of up to \$17.4 million for the following six months. UNDOF continued to supervise the cease-fire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic in the Golan Heights area and to ensure that there were no military forces in the area of separation. The Assembly, as well as the Commission on Human Rights, dealt with the situation in the Golan Heights since Israel's 1981 decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration there. The Assembly again declared that decision illegal and null and void.

The 1981 bombing by Israeli aircraft of a nuclear research centre near Baghdad was again the subject of an Assembly resolution. Considering that Israel had not committed itself not to attack or threaten nuclear facilities in Iraq or elsewhere, the Assembly called on Israel urgently to place all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. It reaffirmed that Iraq was entitled to compensation for damages and requested the Conference on Disarmament to continue negotiations on an agreement prohibiting military attacks on nuclear facilities.

The interception in early February by Israeli fighter planes of a Libyan civilian aircraft with a Syrian delegation on board was considered by the Security Council. The Council voted on a draft resolution by which it would have condemned Israel for the act and would have warned that, if such acts were repeated, it would consider adequate measures. The text was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member.

The situation in the territories occupied by Israel as a result of previous armed Middle East conflicts was again considered by the Assembly and its Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (Committee on Israeli practices). Israel's policy in the territories resulted in an escalation of violence, the Committee concluded, following which Israel adopted its so-called iron-fist policy marked by new security arrangements, which again led to an aggravation of tension between the Israel Defence Forces and the population.

The Assembly dealt with specific aspects of the Committee's report. It demanded that Israel desist from certain policies and practices, that it comply with the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (fourth Geneva Convention), that it desist from changing the territories' legal status or composition, that it rescind its action against Palestinian detainees and release them immediately, that it rescind the expulsion of Palestinian leaders and that it ensure the freedom of educational institutions.

The Security Council met in December to consider the worsening situation in the territories. It deplored the Israeli army's firing on students, called on Israel to abide by the fourth Geneva Convention and release any persons detained as a result of events at Bir Zeit University, and called on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and avoid violence.

Relief operations in Lebanon again dominated the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in 1986. In addition, UNRWA continued assisting those refugees in Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, providing education, health and relief services.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter X (pp. 355-374)

Other political questions

INFORMATION, 355: Mass communication, 355; UN public information, 359. DEPARTMENTAL NEWS SERVICE, 368. ZONE OF PEACE, 369. RADIATION EFFECTS, 370. ANTARCTICA, 372.

Issues relating to information, a peace zone in the South Atlantic, atomic radiation and Antarctica were examined by the General Assembly in 1986.

The Assembly adopted resolutions on public information activities, work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the information and communication field, membership of the United Nations Committee on Information, and the fortieth anniversary of UNESCO (41/68 A, B, C and E, respectively).

Taking up a new item, the Assembly declared the South Atlantic a zone of peace and cooperation (41/11). It asked for continued study of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation (41/62 A) and decided to increase the membership of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (41/62 B). It requested further information on Antarctica (41/88 A), called for a moratorium on negotiations to establish a minerals regime for Antarctica (41/88 B), and appealed for the exclusion of South Africa from the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties (41/88 C).

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter XI (pp. 375-387) Institutional machinery

SECURITY COUNCIL, 375. GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 377. SECRETARY-GENERAL, 382. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, 382. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS, 387.

The year 1986 saw the fortieth anniversary of the first meeting of the Security Council, which, in addition to its agenda, continued to explore ways to enhance its effectiveness in accordance with the powers entrusted to it under the Charter of the United Nations.

The General Assembly held two special sessions during the year—one on the critical economic situation in Africa and the other on the question of Namibia. The Assembly resumed and concluded its fortieth session in 1986 and held the major part of its forty-first session, with 146 items on its agenda. On 19 December, the Assembly suspended that session, retaining six items and one sub-item on the agenda (decision 41/470).

In the closing report of his first term of office, the Secretary-General expressed the conviction that the Organization's effectiveness depended on the readiness of Member States to see the whole of the United Nations as the necessary structure for dealing with the problems of an interdependent world (see p. 12). On 10 October, the Assembly, on the Security Council's recommendation (resolution 589(1986)), appointed Javier Perez de Cuellar for a second five-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1987 (resolution 41/1).

During the year, the Secretary-General continued his missions of good offices in an effort to achieve a political solution to the situations involving Afghanistan, Cyprus, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Iran and Iraq, and Kampuchea.

In October, the Assembly requested continued co-operation between the United Nations and both the Organization of the Islamic Conference (resolution 41/3) and the League of Arab States (41/4).

As there were no new admissions to the United Nations during 1986, its membership remained at 159.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter I (pp. 389-409)

Development policy and international economic co-operation

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 390: Development and economic co-operation, 390; Economic rights and duties of States, 399; Economic co-operation among developing countries, 400. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS AND POLICY, 400. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION AND EDUCATION, 403. RURAL DEVELOPMENT, 405. SPECIAL ECONOMIC AREAS, 405: Developing countries, 405.

The failure of the economic recovery in the developed economies to spread to the developing countries was examined by several United Nations bodies during 1986. The continued overall net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries, largely related to the international debt crisis, was increasingly perceived as unsustainable, economically as well as politically. During discussions on the world economic situation and in major economic reports, the importance of the interrelationship between the issues of money, finance, resource flows, debt, trade, raw materials and development was stressed.

In his annual report to the General Assembly (see p. 3), the Secretary-General said that measures to return the world economy to the path of healthy growth and development could only be successfully planned and implemented on a multilateral basis. He emphasized that the role of the United Nations in that regard was unique and important as it provided a universal forum to consider the issues in an interrelated manner and could provide the political impulse for concerted action by States.

A number of economic issues were considered in the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council during 1986. As follow-up to its 1985 request that the Secretary-General prepare a report on international economic security for its 1987 session, the Assembly specified the approach to be taken in that document. The Assembly reaffirmed that developed countries should refrain from applying coercive economic measures against developing countries and asked the Secretary-General to report in 1987 on eliminating such measures. He was also requested to submit in 1988 a report on measures to promote the contribution of indigenous entrepreneurs to the economic development of developing countries. The Economic and Social Council asked him to keep the matter of confidence-building in international economic relations under review and to identify and promote possible economic confidence-building measures.

In connection with the 1985 review of the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the Assembly requested information from all States on their implementation of the Charter, in order to facilitate preparation of a 1989 report on the subject.

Repeated consultations during the year on the launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development, originally scheduled to start in 1980, yielded no concrete progress. The Assembly, therefore, decided to defer consideration of the issue until 1987. The question of a proposed new international economic order, including its legal aspects, continued to be discussed.

The background document for the Economic and Social Council's annual discussion of international economic and social policy was the World Economic Survey 1986, which gave an account of trends and policies in the world economy. The Trade and Development Report, 1986, published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), analysed the world economic situation and discussed the set-back to development caused by the depression experienced by the developing world in the early 1980s. The Committee for Development Planning (CDP) was concerned with the problems facing development finance.

After considering the Secretary-General's report on a unified approach to development planning, the Assembly invited States to support developing countries' efforts to strengthen their management capacity to apply a unified approach, especially in integrating food and agricultural production in all sectors and supporting industrialization, economic and social infrastructure and human resources development. The improvement of various other aspects of development planning, education and administration was studied in several United Nations forums during the year. The system's work in rural development was also reviewed.

An inter-agency consultation was held to discuss the results of the 1985 mid-term global review of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), while the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board invited the UNCTAD Secretary-General to start consultations on the review and appraisal of SNPA to take place in 1990. Country review meetings for individual LDCs continued to be organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In December, on the recommendation of CDP and the Economic and Social Council, the Assembly added Kiribati, Mauritania and Tuvalu to the list of LDCs, bringing the total to 40.

The special problems of island developing countries were considered by the Assembly, which requested the United Nations system to respond positively to their particular needs. The UNDP Governing Council also recognized those special needs and requested the UNDP Administrator to submit in 1987 an evaluation of UNDP's role in implementing special measures in their favour. The geographical handicaps and transit-transport problems of land-locked developing countries were discussed in the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter II (pp. 410-439)

Operational activities for development

GENERAL ASPECTS, 410: Financing of operational activities, 415; Inter-agency cooperation, 417. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION THROUGH UNDP, 418: UNDP Governing Council, 420; UNDP operational activities, 421; Programme planning and management, 425; Financing, 427; Staff-related matters, 431; Other administrative matters, 432. OTHER TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION, 433: UN programmes, 433; UN Volunteers, 435; Technical co-operation among developing countries, 436. UN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, 438.

In 1986, a total of \$6.6 billion in official development assistance (ODA) was transferred through the United Nations system to developing countries. Contributions for the system's operational activities totalled \$6.5 billion in 1986, an increase of \$1 billion over 1985. The triennial policy review of the system's operational activities for development took place in 1986; the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1986/74) and the General Assembly (resolution 41/171) recommended action by the governing bodies of United Nations organizations, their secretariats and Member States, and urged all countries to increase their voluntary contributions for operational activities for development, particularly those countries whose performance was not commensurate with their capacity.

For the first time in its history, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) surpassed \$1 billion in income received under its main programme and through special-purpose funds and cost-sharing. In November 1986, at the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, actual and pledged contributions for 1987 amounted to over \$800 million, again the highest level in UNDP history. Expenditures from UNDP central resources during the year totalled \$911 million, with \$689.2 million expended on field programme activities.

The United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) executed a programme of \$145.9 million in 1986, an increase of 15 per cent over 1985. During the year, the Department had under execution 954 technical cooperation projects.

The second high-level intergovernmental meeting on international volunteerism and development called for an expansion of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme and increased contributions to the UNV Special Voluntary Fund. The programme reached an all-time high during 1986, with 1,267 serving or accepted volunteers. On 5 December 1986, International Volunteer Day was celebrated for the first time.

In 1986, the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries supported 112 activities costing \$971,000, a 22.9 per cent increase over 1985. By decision 41/457, the Assembly named the Trust Fund for Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries/Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

Delivery and approval of new projects in developing countries by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) increased substantially in 1986. The Fund approved \$46.3 million in funding for 24 new projects and 27 grant increases during the year, with much of the work focused on agriculture and irrigation in rural areas of the regions of Africa and Asia and the Pacific.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter III (pp. 440-487)

Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, 440: Critical economic situation in Africa (Special session of the General Assembly), 442; Countries in other regions, 468. DISASTERS, 473: Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 473; Co-ordination in the UN system, 476; Disaster relief, 477; Disaster preparedness and prevention, 484. EMERGENCY RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE, 485.

Special economic assistance programmes continued to be conducted by the United Nations system for countries with severe economic difficulties. Most aid was targeted at reconstruction, rehabilitation and development, often following natural disasters. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assumed responsibility in 1986 for implementing General Assembly resolutions on programmes for nine least developed African countries. On the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council (decision 1986/165), the Assembly (resolution 41/192) endorsed recommendations made by the Secretary-General on the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the special assistance programmes.

The critical economic situation in Africa was a focal point during 1986 as the General Assembly, at its thirteenth special session, adopted the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986/1990—a five-year plan which provided a blueprint for national, subregional and regional action in Africa and covered a wide variety of sectors, with agricultural development a priority. The international community was called on to support the Programme through improving the quality and modality of external assistance and co-operation and supporting Africa's policy reforms (resolution S-13/2).

The United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa was closed as of 31 October 1986 due to the improvement in drought-related emergency conditions in Africa. New arrangements to continue efforts in the region were announced by the Secretary-General. In October, the Assembly requested that the emergency situation which continued to affect some African countries be monitored and that the Secretary-General follow the situation closely (resolution 41/29).

The Assembly called for enhanced co-operation regarding economic assistance to Benin, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Vanuatu (resolution 41/200). It also called for assistance to Chad (41/198), El Salvador (41/194), Mozambique (41/197) and Uganda (41/195).

The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) continued in 1986 to assist disaster-stricken countries, worked to strengthen national and international emergency management and undertook hazard mitigation measures. The Economic and Social Council (resolution 1986/47) and the Assembly (resolution 41/201) supported enhanced international cooperation with UNDRO.

In disaster-related action, the Assembly called for emergency assistance to El Salvador in the wake of an October earthquake (resolution 41/2) and for aid to Solomon Islands following a May cyclone (resolution 41/193). In December, the Assembly launched an appeal for international

action against a locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa (resolution 41/185). In July, the Economic and Social Council appealed for resources to assist the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda (resolution 1986/45). The Assembly, in December, took note of a proposal that United Nations organizations be invited to assist Mauritania to prepare an action plan to combat desertification and drought (decision 41/456).

Both the Assembly (resolution 41/196) and the Council (resolution 1986/46) again requested emergency relief and assistance for Lebanon's reconstruction and development.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter IV (pp. 488-517)

International trade and finance

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN TRADE AND FINANCE, 489. INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 493: Trade policy, 493; Trade promotion and facilitation, 496; Commodities, 500; Manufactures, 505. FINANCE, 506: Financial policy, 506; Trade-related finance, 512; Taxation, 513. PROGRAMME AND FINANCES OF UNCTAD, 513: UNCTAD programme, 513; Organizational questions, 515.

In 1986, the debt problems of developing countries and the need to address simultaneously the interdependent problems of trade, money, finance and development occupied a large part of the debate at both regular sessions of the Trade and Development Board (TDB) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the general discussion at the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in July. The General Assembly's Second (Economic and Financial) Committee convened in May 1986 to discuss ways in which those interdependent problems could be dealt with by the international community and to deal with business, left unfinished by the Assembly in 1985, on commodities, debt and the possibility of holding an international conference on money and finance for development. In June, the Assembly deferred consideration of those issues to its 1986 regular session (decision 40/474).

In his annual report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3), the Secretary-General stressed that, if the world economy was to return and hold to the path of healthy and well-spread growth and development, policy and systemic measures were necessary in the interrelated areas of money, finance, debt and trade.

In July, the Economic and Social Council drew the Assembly's attention to the alarming levels reached in the net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries and called on the international community to halt and reverse that transfer (resolution 1986/56). The Council's concern was echoed by the Assembly in December when it requested the Secretary-General to take into account the interrelationship between money, finance, debt, resource flows, trade and development in preparing a comprehensive report on the net transfer of resources (resolution 41/180).

Preparations for the seventh session of UNCTAD (UNCTAD VII) were discussed at both 1986 sessions of TDB. In December, the Assembly decided to convene UNCTAD VII at Geneva in July 1987 and called on UNCTAD States members to ensure that the session would make a significant contribution to multilateral action for revitalizing development, growth and international trade (resolution 41/169).

Following consultations on the outcome of the 1985 United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, the Assembly, in December 1986, decided to convene a further such conference in 1990 and that UNCTAD's Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices would be the preparatory body (resolution 41/167).

During 1986, four additional States adhered to the 1980 Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, fulfilling the second requirement for the Agreement's entry into force.

The third and final requirement to be met was that concerning directly contributed capital. The problems facing commodity-producing countries due to the continuing fall in primary commodity prices were discussed by the Second Committee in May and by the Assembly later in the year. In December, the Assembly stressed the urgent need for action on the world commodity situation and urged countries to contribute at UNCTAD VII towards solving commodity problems, particularly those affecting the economies of developing countries (resolution 41/168). With regard to individual commodities, the United Nations Cocoa Conference culminated in July in the establishment of the International Cocoa Agreement, 1986. Also in July, the United Nations Conference on Olive Oil adopted the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 1986. The International Agreement on Jute and Jute Products, 1982, entered into force definitively in August when the requisite number of Governments had adhered to it. Progress was made at two sessions of the United Nations Conference on Natural Rubber towards completing a successor agreement to the International Natural Rubber Agreement, 1979, and it was decided that the Conference President and the UNCTAD Secretary-General would consult on efforts to establish the agreement. The United Nations Conference on Nickel also reconvened in May and adopted the terms of reference of an International Nickel Study Group. Meetings were held during the year to review the market situation of copper, iron ore and tungsten.

The international monetary situation was discussed in several United Nations bodies, including the Committee for Development Planning (CDP), TDB, the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In December, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for 1987 on the current international monetary situation and to provide information on proposals for an international conference on money issues (decision 41/442). CDP and the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade paid particular attention to problems of external financing of economic development, with CDP calling for a doubling of development finance by the decade's end.

The Assembly considered the debt problems of developing countries at the resumed 1985 session of the Second Committee in May and at its regular 1986 session, when it had before it updated portions of the World Economic Survey 1986 relating to debt. In December (resolution 41/202), the Assembly agreed on a series of elements concerning debt and invited those involved to take them into account with a view to solving the problems of external indebtedness of developing countries.

At the request of the Economic and Social Council (decision 1986/119), TDB considered the scheduling of its regular session and, in September, decided to hold one such session a year in two parts.

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Chapter V

Transport (pp. 518-524)

Maritime transport, 518; Transport of dangerous goods, 521; Multimodal and container transport, 523; Technical assistance and training, 524.

During 1986, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continued to deal with international transport issues, particularly maritime transport. The Committee on Shipping of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board met in November to review major issues in world shipping, especially merchant fleet development and the protection of shippers' interests. A major development in international maritime transport in 1986 was the adoption in February, after almost two years of negotiations, of the United Nations Convention on Conditions for Registration of Ships. In December, the United Nations General Assembly welcomed the successful outcome of the United Nations Conference on Conditions for Registration of Ships and invited all States to become contracting parties to the Convention (decision 41/435).

Two States became parties in 1986 to the 1974 Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences, bringing to 68 the number of States parties.

Other maritime transport issues discussed during the year by the Committee on Shipping and subsidiary bodies established by it included maritime liens and mortgages, ports and maritime fraud.

In July, the Economic and Social Council considered a report by the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. The Council invited him to take measures to widen the decision-making base of the Committee and invited Governments with expertise in the area to support the participation of interested developing countries in the Committee's meetings (resolution 1986/66).

A group of experts established by the Committee on Shipping to develop and recommend model rules for multimodal container tariffs met twice in 1986. In December, it adopted a set of model rules and requested the UNCTAD secretariat to conduct a pilot project on a reference library of tariff rules.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter VI (pp. 525-530)

Transnational corporations

DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT, 525. STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING, 526. COMMISSION ON TNCs, 526. CENTRE ON TNCs, 527.

Transnational corporations (TNCs) continued in 1986 to attract the attention of the international community in view of their role in shaping international economic development and trade, foreign direct investment and transfer of resources.

The Commission on Transnational Corporations (twelfth session, New York, 9-18 April) discussed, among other things, recent developments in TNC activities as they related to international economic relations, TNCs in South Africa and Namibia, international arrangements governing TNC activities, and technical cooperation. As in previous years, the Commission reconvened a special session (New York, 20-31 January)—and a resumed special session (14 April)—and examined the outstanding issues in the draft code of conduct on TNCs. The Commission's Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts (fourth session, New York, 3-14 March) discussed international standards of accounting and reporting.

In July, the Economic and Social Council agreed to the Commission's request for continued services of expert advisers (resolution 1986/55).

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Chapter VII (pp. 531-573)

Regional economic and social activities

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION, 531. AFRICA, 532: Economic and social trends, 532; Activities in 1986, 533; Programme, organizational and administrative questions, 544. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 546: Economic and social trends, 546; Activities in 1986, 547; Programme, organizational and administrative questions, 554. EUROPE, 555: Economic trends, 555; Activities in 1986, 556; Programme, organizational and administrative questions, 559. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 561: Economic trends, 561; Activities in 1986, 562; Programme, organizational and administrative questions, 566. WESTERN ASIA, 567: Economic and social trends, 568; Activities in 1986, 568; Programme, organizational and administrative questions, 572.

The five regional commissions of the United Nations continued to promote economic and social co-operation during 1986.

Each commission held a regular intergovernmental session during the year: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the twelfth meeting of its Conference of Ministers and the twenty-first session of the Commission at Yaounde, Cameroon (17-21 April); the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), its forty-second session at Bangkok, Thailand (22 April-2 May); the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), its forty-first session at Geneva (15-26 April); the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), its twenty-first session at Mexico City (17-25 April); and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), its thirteenth ministerial-level session at Baghdad, Iraq (23 and 24 April). In addition, ECA held two special sessions—one to prepare for, and the other to consider the results of, the General Assembly's 1986 special session on the critical economic situation in Africa.

Among the resolutions adopted at the July 1986 session of the Economic and Social Council involving issues of concern to the regional commissions were: the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (resolution 1986/62); the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1986/63); membership of Israel in ECE (1986/67); strengthening United Nations technical co-operation in the Caribbean (1986/61); the relocation of ESCWA headquarters (1986/60); and the financial status of ESCWA (1986/59).

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Chapter VIII (pp. 574-576)

Natural resources and cartography

GENERAL ASPECTS OF NATURAL RESOURCES, 574: Exploration, 574; Committee on Natural Resources, 574; Mineral resources, 575; Water resources, 575. CARTOGRAPHY, 576.

After three consecutive years of decline, the expenditures of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration— administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—more than doubled in 1986 to \$6.9 million, financing a record number of projects at a time when mineral exploration financing, world-wide, was at a low point.

Training courses and other projects were implemented as part of the efforts to achieve the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990). Reflecting the shifting emphasis to a new, integrated approach to water resources management, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) continued to promote environmentally sound management of inland waters.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter IX (pp. 577-588)

Energy

GENERAL ASPECTS, 577: Energy resources development, 577. NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, 580: Implementation of the 1981 Nairobi Programme of Action, 580. NUCLEAR ENERGY, 584: IAEA report, 584; Preparations for the 1987 Conference on nuclear energy, 586.

During 1986, a number of United Nations bodies continued to focus on the energy problems of developing countries, whose ability to carry out energy programmes was hampered by financial constraints as well as the complexities of energy planning, by rapidly changing technology and by environmental factors.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank co-operated in energy development and assessments of countries' energy needs and options. The UNDP Energy Account supported the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme, which was carried out with the cooperation of both organizations, as well as a number of other projects in technological assessment, resource assessment and development, training and information flow. Expenditures of the Account in 1986 totalled \$6 million; \$4.1 million for seven projects was approved during the year.

While nuclear power-generating capacity increased by 8.9 per cent, accounting for more than 15 per cent of the world's electricity generation, the environmental factors of nuclear energy were highlighted by the accident at Chernobyl, Ukrainian SSR, on 26 April, producing an upsurge of opposition to nuclear power in many countries. Shortly after the event, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) began to consider new national and international safety measures, and a governmental expert group was convened to draft two international conventions, on early notification of a nuclear accident and on assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency. By resolution 41/36, the General Assembly urged all States to strive for effective and harmonious international co-operation in carrying out the work of IAEA and welcomed the signing by a significant number of States of the two conventions.

In his report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3), the Secretary-General affirmed that IAEA was playing an essential role in enhancing international co-operation to prevent nuclear accidents or mitigate the effects of such accidents; meriting early, positive consideration were suggestions that IAEA's role and activities in nuclear safety be strengthened and expanded. The United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, to be held in 1987, would take place under the favourable auspices of recently intensified contacts.

Preparations for the Conference continued, with the Preparatory Committee holding its last session in November 1986. By resolution 41/212 A, the Assembly took note of the Preparatory Committee's report, while in resolution 41/212 B, it appealed to all Governments to ensure the highest standards of safety in the design and operation of nuclear plants, and to take into account the interests of neighbouring countries when discussing nuclear energy matters at the Conference.

The Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy held its third session in June 1986. By resolution 41/170, the Assembly called for preparation of a new set of proposals on activities to be undertaken for consideration by the Committee, and it urged that greater attention be given to the development of new and renewable sources of energy for the rural sector.

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Chapter X (pp. 589-595)

Food

FOOD PROBLEMS, 589. FOOD AID, 593: World Food Programme, 593.

During 1986, the World Food Programme (WFP)—a joint undertaking of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)—shipped more food than in any previous year, mainly due to shipments for ongoing and newly approved development projects. Pledges to WFP's regular resources reached an all-time high, over \$1.1 billion for 1985-1986, while contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve amounted to 592,100 tons of food, of which 564,900 tons were in cereals, for a total value of \$124.4 million. The value of WFP emergency assistance in 1986 was 21 per cent lower than in 1985 as good rains over most of sub-Saharan Africa ended years of drought. However, as emergency food aid for drought victims fell, WFP's emergency aid to refugees, returnees and displaced persons rose to the highest level ever, almost four fifths of the total. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA), WFP's governing body, held two sessions in 1986 and approved 37 new projects at a total cost of some \$557 million.

The World Food Council (WFC)—the highest-level international body dealing with food problems—meeting at Rome, Italy, in June, reviewed the global food and development situation. The Council observed that, although food supplies were ample following record production in many regions, performance had been uneven, with many developing countries experiencing a deterioration in their food situation.

In December, the General Assembly affirmed that increasing food production in developing countries would contribute significantly to eliminating poverty and malnutrition and to attaining self-reliance, and recommended that higher priority be given to food production in the national development policies of those countries and that the agricultural sector be granted a larger part of resources devoted to economic and social development (resolution 41/191).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XI (pp. 596-607) Science and technology

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION, 596: Strengthening the capabilities of developing countries, 596; End-of-decade review, 598; Proposed global information network, 598; Unresolved issues, 598. HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, 599: Resource mobilization, 599; UN Financing System, 599. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, 602: Intergovernmental Committee, 602; Advisory Committee, 602; Centre for science and technology, 602; Co-ordination in the UN system, 603. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, 604: Draft code of conduct, 606. RELATED QUESTIONS, 607.

Science and technology, as a key instrument to enhance developing countries' development and strengthen their capabilities, continued to be an important issue for many United Nations bodies in 1986. Financial constraints and lack of resources, however, tended to lessen the enthusiasm that had grown from the 1979 Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development¹, with its purpose of supplying third world countries with tools to handle their problems. Following a pledging conference in April 1986 which failed to procure the minimum funds needed, the General Assembly, in resolution 41/183, terminated the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development and transferred its responsibilities and resources to a trust fund to be established within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development continued to analyse and make policy recommendations for national and international action.

Consultations on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology continued. The Assembly invited the President of the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to resolve the outstanding issues in the code (resolution 41/166). Transfer of technology continued to be a focus of operational activities of UNCTAD and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

In his report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3), the Secretary-General stated that the continuing technological revolution had brought change to almost all aspects of human existence and provided hope that essential global development could be achieved. It also raised the question, however, of whether the international community had the ability to manage safely and to common advantage the inventions of the human mind. In that respect, the United Nations needed to pursue three broad objectives: to assist in bringing new technologies to all countries where they could be of use in promoting development; to encourage the widest possible co-operation in dealing with the dangers as well as the advantages inherent in technological advances; and to provide the multilateral structure for the management of possible adverse consequences of new technologies which might affect the international community as a whole. There had been promising multilateral achievements in each of those areas and they should be pursued and expanded.

¹ YUN 1979, p. 636.

Specific issues pertaining to human resources mobilization were examined by an Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Mobilization of Human Resources for Scientific and Technological Development in Developing Countries. The Secretary-General addressed human and financial resources in a report to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, whose Advisory Committee focused on mobilization of resources, among other issues.

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Chapter XII (pp. 608-625)

Social and cultural development

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT, 608: Social progress and development, 609; Institutional machinery, 610. CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINALJUSTICE, 611: Follow-up to the 1985 Congress, 611; Initial review of the UN programme, 619; Third survey of crime trends and criminal justice, 621; Preparations for the Eighth Congress, 622; Committee on crime prevention, 622. CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, 623: Proclamation of the World Decade for Cultural Development, 623; Centenary of the Berne Convention, 625.

In 1986, social progress, cultural development and measures to fight crime were dealt with by several bodies of the United Nations system.

In the world at large, social progress was still inadequate, as the General Assembly acknowledged in resolution 41/152. Seventeen years after the adoption and proclamation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Assembly said in resolution 41/142, its main objectives—the elimination of unemployment, hunger, malnutrition and poverty, the eradication of illiteracy, the assurance of the right to universal access to culture, health protection for the entire population, free and universal education, and the promotion of human rights and social justice—had not been universally realized.

A year after the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which had established a blueprint for comprehensive action at various levels, the organizations of the system were especially concerned with follow-up. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1986/10, suggested measures for implementation of the Congress's conclusions and recommendations.

In a report to the Assembly, the Secretary-General said that 1986 had witnessed a further escalation of crime and violence throughout the world, and, in spite of efforts to stem them, international drug trafficking and abuse continued to impair the social fabric and dissipate human resources urgently needed for development. A similar view was expressed in his annual report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3). While the framework for effective international cooperation against crime was largely in place, the engine and momentum to make the system really work was what was needed, the Secretary-General concluded. Taking note of the report by resolution 41/107, the Assembly reaffirmed the need for concerted international efforts towards more effective crime prevention and criminal justice strategies and for co-ordinated practical action to give effect to the conclusions and recommendations of the 1985 Congress.

An initial review of the United Nations work programme in crime prevention and criminal justice was submitted by the Secretary-General; to achieve closer co-operation and co-ordination among United Nations bodies and other entities concerned, he offered a number of recommendations which were endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1986/11.

The review was also considered by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its ninth session (Vienna, 5-14 March 1986). Also discussed were preparations for the Eighth Congress on crime, to be held in 1990, and the third quinquennial survey of crime trends, operations of crimi-

nal justice systems and crime prevention strategies. The Council, by resolution 1986/12, recommended that the questionnaire for the survey be simplified and abbreviated and that the survey include data and recommendations concerning the national use of information systems in crime prevention and administration of justice.

The General Assembly, in resolution 41/187, proclaimed 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development. To be observed under the auspices of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Decade's four main objectives were acknowledging the cultural dimension of development, affirming and enriching cultural identities, broadening participation in culture, and promoting international cultural cooperation.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XIII (pp. 626-634)

Population

FOLLOW-UP TO THE 1984 CONFERENCE ON POPULATION, 626. UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES, 628. OTHER POPULATION ACTIVITIES, 633.

The work of the United Nations system in population matters during 1986 continued through demographic analysis and research and through the provision of information and technical assistance to Member States. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) approved 355 new technical assistance projects, amounting to \$25.3 million; it continued to focus on the needs of the 53 countries given priority status, which received 68.5 per cent of country programme resources. In June, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—the Fund's governing body—urged the UNFPA Executive Director to increase the attention given to countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

Having considered a report by the Secretary-General on follow-up to the 1984 International Conference on Population, the Economic and Social Council, in May, requested the Secretary-General to implement those recommendations falling within the competence of the United Nations Secretariat and urged the international community to strengthen further the resource base of UNFPA through greater contributions (resolution 1986/7).

The fourth annual United Nations Population Award went to Mexico's National Population Council for its work in integrating demographic planning with economic and social development programmes. In December, the General Assembly amended the annex to its 1981 resolution which established the Award so that it could be shared by an individual and an institution (decision 41/445).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XIV (pp. 635-646)

Health and human resources

HEALTH, 635: Human and environmental health, 635; Disabled persons, 637. HUMAN RESOURCES, 640: Human resources development, 640; UN Institute for Training and Research, 640; UN University, 643; University for Peace, 645.

The United Nations system continued to promote health and human resources development during 1986, a year marked by difficulties exacerbated by the deteriorating economic situation, and health-and environment-threatening accidents.

In view of the rapid world-wide spread of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), in November, declared AIDS to be a global health priority and reaffirmed WHO's commitment to its prevention and control. Among other health concerns addressed were prevention and control of a number of specific diseases, nutrition improvement, and development of health care and research infrastructure. Throughout the world, 1,100 million and 1,700 million people were without water supply and sanitation facilities, respectively.

Efforts continued to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and the Economic and Social Council called on United Nations bodies and organizations to ensure representation in them of disabled persons and to take the concerns of the disabled into consideration in their overall programme planning objectives (resolution 1986/16). The General Assembly invited Member States to reinforce national committees as focal points for the 1983-1992 United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (41/106).

The Assembly recommended the restructuring of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of its financial difficulties, to focus mainly on training; at the same time, it requested the Secretary-General to review the management, staff and administrative and financial arrangements of the Institute to ensure that the restructured programme was carried out in a cost-effective manner (41/172).

Activities of the United Nations University (UNU) continued to cover nine programme areas: peace and conflict resolution; the global economy; energy systems and policy; resource policy and management; the food-energy nexus; food, nutrition, biotechnology and poverty; human and social development; regional perspectives; and science, technology and the information society. The World Institute for Development Economics Research, at Helsinki, Finland-the first UNU research and training centre-completed its first year of operation, while progress was made for construction of a UNU permanent headquarters building in Tokyo. In December, the UNU Council agreed to establish the second UNU research and training centre-the Institute for Natural Resources in Africa-in Ce d'Ivoire. The Assembly noted the Council's decision to undertake an evaluation of UNU's work during its first 10 years (41/173).

The Economic and Social Council (1986/6) and the Assembly (41/175) took note of the activities of the University for Peace and requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of establishing an agreement of co-operation between it and the United Nations.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XV (pp. 647-671)

Environment

UNEP PROGRAMME, 648: Revised programme policy, 648; Environmental education and training, 649; UN co-ordination, 650; UNEP Fund, 651. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES, 652: Environmental monitoring and assessment, 652; Protection against harmful products and pollutants, 653; Ecosystems, 658; Environmental aspects of political, economic and other issues, 670.

In 1986, events such as the nuclear explosion at Chernobyl, Ukrainian SSR, the chemical poisoning and pollution of the Rhine River (Basel, Switzerland) and other environmental crises—desertification, climate change induced by greenhouse gases, depletion of the ozone layer and maltreatment of the marine environment—were some of the challenges confronting the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

In the light of the nuclear power accident at Chernobyl, the UNEP Executive Director called on USSR authorities to provide the world community with information about the accident in order to assess its impact. In an exchange of letters, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the USSR stressed the importance of international co-operation in incidents such as Chernobyl and proposed the establishment of an international regime for the safe development of nuclear energy. UNEP vigorously supported the adoption of two international conventions, on early notification of nuclear accidents and on assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, which were drawn up within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (see p. 584).

At a seminar on industrial hazardous waste in November, the Executive Director proposed that UNEP take the lead in developing two conventions to help minimize the occurrence and harmful effects of chemical accidents and emergencies. He also proposed that a programme be developed to enable Governments, in co-operation with industry and local community leaders, to identify potentially hazardous industrial installations located in their communities, and to show them how to control and limit possible accidental releases and how to deal with a release or spill.

The International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals continued to expand its global information network. By resolution 1986/72, the Economic and Social Council urged Governments to provide for the Register updated information on national regulatory actions. The Council also decided that the consolidated list of products which had been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or not approved should continue to be published as one document. The General Assembly, by decision 41/450, endorsed the Council's resolution.

Desertification and drought had created an emergency situation in Africa and, despite ample rains during the 1985/86 rainy season in various parts of Africa, 19.2 million people continued to be affected, principally in four countries. The United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) continued its ongoing desertification control programme, with a total funding of \$47.6 million. The Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1986/44, called for greater support to UNSO and urged increased UNSO assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian and adjacent regions to combat desertification and drought.

Other steps towards improving the environment included: the convening of the first Arab Ministerial Conference on Environmental Considerations in Development, which adopted a Declaration to provide a framework for national action and for regional Arab and international co-operation; and the adoption of a Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region with two protocols, on co-operation in combating pollution emergencies and the prevention of pollution by dumping.

The Global Environmental Monitoring System of Earthwatch, the assessment arm of UNEP, continued to monitor renewable resources, climate, health, pollutants and oceans. Other UNEP activities included world climate impact studies, management of tropical forests and soil resources, conservation of wildlife and protected areas, protection of the marine environment, research on genetic resources and linkages between environment and development, industry and human settlements.

For the first time in UNEP'S history, its main intergovernmental legislative body, the Governing Council, did not meet.

Sixty new projects were approved by the Environment Fund in 1986, while 28 were closed. The Fund disbursed \$15.51 million for programme activities; government contributions totalled \$28.05 million.

Comprehensive information covering all aspects of UNEP's 1986 activities was given in the Executive Director's annual report.²

² UNEP/GC.14/3.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XVI (pp. 672-679)

Human settlements

COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, 672. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ACTIVITIES, 673: International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987), 673; Human settlements and political, economic and social issues, 675; Co-ordination, 676; UNCHS (Habitat), 677.

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), also known as Habitat, continued in 1986 to assist developing countries in all aspects of their human settlements activities by providing technical co-operation, research and development and information dissemination.

The first observance of World Habitat Day took place on 6 October 1986.

As lead agency in the United Nations system for co-ordinating activities for the 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH), the Centre continued to play a key role in its preparations. Those preparations were considered in 1986 by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Settlements. The Assembly, in resolution 41/190, urged the international community to demonstrate renewed political commitment to the shelter needs of the poor and disadvantaged by taking significant measures before 1987, and appealed for voluntary contributions to the programme of the Year. The Council, in resolution 1986/41, called for intensified efforts to help achieve the goals of the Year. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly in 1987 a comprehensive report on IYSH (decision 1986/162).

The Commission on Human Settlements, which held its ninth session at Istanbul, Turkey, approved various measures with regard to IYSH, adopted on 16 May 16 resolutions and one decision and decided that in future its regular sessions would preferably be held at Nairobi, Kenya. Two resolutions requiring General Assembly action concerned the Commission's tenth (1987) session and IYSH.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XVII (pp. 680-783)

Human rights

DISCRIMINATION, 680: Racial discrimination, 680; Other aspects of discrimination, 688. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, 692: Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol, 692; Self-determination of peoples, 693; Rights of detained persons, 704; Disappearance of persons, 711; Other aspects of civil and political rights, 712. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, 713: Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 715; Right to development, 717; Right to own property, 721; Popular participation and human rights, 723; Right to adequate housing, 723; Right to education, 725. ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, 725: UN machinery, 729; Public information activities, 732; Regional arrangements, 734; International human rights instruments, 736; Advisory services, 742; Responsibility to promote and protect human rights, 743; Respect for the rights of peoples, 744; Proposed establishment of a new international humanitarian order, 744. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, 745: Africa, 745; Asia and the Pacific, 752; Europe and the Mediterranean area, 760; Latin America, 760; Middle East, 771; Other alleged human rights violations, 773; Mass exoduses, 773; Genocide, 774. OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, 775: Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, 775; Rights of the child, 776; Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, 778; Human rights of disabled persons, 779; Human rights and science and technology, 779; Human rights and peace, 781; International co-operation in human rights, 782.

In 1986, the United Nations continued its efforts to foster human rights and fundamental freedoms world-wide. Progress was made despite the Organization's financial crisis which forced the cancellation of the 1986 session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and of one session each of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee. The drafting of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families continued, as did work on a draft Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention and Imprisonment. Elaboration of a convention on the rights of the child moved forward, as did work on a draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. Work also progressed on the drafting of a declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Among economic, social and cultural rights, development received particular attention—the General Assembly adopted a Declaration on the Right to Development. The rights to adequate housing, ownership of property and education were also considered.

Protection of detained persons was again a substantial part of the United Nations work in the human rights field. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances continued to investigate cases of disappearances in several countries. The first report on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment was submitted, and the Commission on Human Rights extended the Special Rapporteur's mandate for another year.

Situations involving alleged violations of human rights on a large scale in several countries were again examined. The Secretary-General stated that the appointment of special rapporteurs to look into specific country situations and alleged violations, such as torture, disappearances, summary

executions and religious intolerance, signalled a slowly growing tendency towards co-operation by Governments (see p. 8).

Action on these and other human rights issues taken by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-second session, held in New York from 3 February to 14 March 1986, was embodied in 64 resolutions and 10 decisions.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XVIII (pp. 784-808)

Women

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, 785: Implementation of the Nairobi Strategies, 785; Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, 789. WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT, 791: UN Development Fund for Women, 795. STATUS OF WOMEN, 796. ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, 806: Convention on discrimination against women, 806.

During 1986, work continued throughout the United Nations system on the advancement of women and on the elimination of discrimination against them. The system's work was guided by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women—a set of measures adopted in 1985 to overcome the obstacles to the goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985). The Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly that activities for the advancement of women were being pursued throughout the system and the fear that the end of the Decade would result in programme curtailment appeared unfounded. In December, the Assembly called on Member States to establish specific targets to increase the percentage of women in professional and decision-making positions in their countries and called on the Secretary-General and the heads of United Nations bodies to establish new five-year targets for women at those levels (resolution 41/111).

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-first session, recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council 17 draft resolutions and a draft decision. The texts dealt with a wide range of issues connected with follow-up to the 1985 Nairobi Conference on the Decade, including the elimination of discrimination against women, peace and international co-operation, both generally and in connection with specific groups of women, and women in development. Acting on the Commission's recommendations, the Council adopted resolutions on the elimination of discrimination against women (1986/17); violence in the family (1986/18); women in the United Nations (1986/19); the participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation (1986/20); assistance to South African, Namibian and refugee women (1986/25); elderly women (1986/26); the role of women in society (1986/27); implementation of the Arusha Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of African Women Beyond the United Nations Decade for Women (1986/28); physical violence against detained women specific to their sex (1986/29); implications of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the programme planning system and the programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (1986/30); national machinery to promote the advancement of women (1986/31); updating the world survey on the role of women in development (1986/64); and the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development and system-wide co-ordination of the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies (1986/71). In December, the Assembly endorsed the Council's resolution on the participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation (41/109) and, taking note of the resolution on women in society, urged Governments to encourage the support of parenthood and provide women with security for their jobs to allow them to fulfil their roles as mothers without prejudice to their professional and public activities (41/110).

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its fifth session, considered initial reports of eight States parties on their implementation of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to which 91 States were parties at the end of 1986. The Economic and Social Council in May (resolution 1986/4), and the Assembly in December (resolution 41/108), urged States to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible and to make efforts to submit their initial reports to the Committee.

The Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, at its sixth session, underlined the importance of research, training and information activities for implementing the Nairobi Strategies and for the Institute's continuing role in linking issues of relevance to women and development and approved a budget of \$2.6 million for 1986-1987. In May, the Economic and Social Council renewed its appeal to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other potential donors to contribute to the Institute's Trust Fund (resolution 1986/32).

The United Nations Development Programme created in 1986 a Division for Women in Development to identify the role of women in the economic and social development of recipient countries and ensure their reflection in mainstream development programming. In July, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to take a series of measures designed to strengthen the work of the United Nations in integrating women effectively in economic development programmes and activities (resolution 1986/65). The Consultative Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women recommended approval of 21 new projects. The Fund's total income in 1986 amounted to \$4.9 million and expenditures to \$5.2 million.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XIX (pp. 809-832)

Children, youth and aging persons

CHILDREN, 809: UN Children's Fund, 809; Declaration on adoption and foster placement, 821. YOUTH, 823: Follow-up to International Youth Year (1985), 824. AGING PERSONS, 829: Implementation of the Plan of Action, 829.

Reducing infant and child mortality remained a primary goal for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1986, its fortieth anniversary year. Efforts continued to achieve universal child immunization by 1990 and to combat the world's biggest killer of children—dehydration from diarrhoea—through oral rehydration therapy. As a result of those two measures alone, 1.5 million children were alive who would otherwise have died in 1986.

In a message issued on 11 December—UNICEF's anniversary—the Secretary-General said that children were humanity's most precious resource and embodied the world's future. UNICEF's work in 119 countries had sought to remove impediments to children's survival and healthy growth.

Ten years of work by the United Nations culminated in the General Assembly's adoption, in 1986, of the Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally, which undertook to reconcile various juridical principles on foster placement and adoption with religious laws and practices.

In follow-up to International Youth Year (1985), the Economic and Social Council called for improved co-ordination and information in that area, while the Assembly urged Governments to strengthen their youth programmes and to give priority to resolving youth unemployment, and took further action to strengthen communication between the United Nations and youth.

The Assembly called for intensified efforts to implement the 1982 International Plan of Action on Aging and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen United Nations programmes on that subject.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XX (pp. 833-852)

Refugees and displaced persons

PROGRAMME AND FINANCES OF UNHCR, 833: Programme policy, 833; Financial and administrative questions, 836. ACTIVITIES FOR REFUGEES, 836: Assistance, 836; Refugee protection, 849. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO AVERT NEW REFUGEE FLOWS, 851.

In 1986, the overall refugee situation in the world remained serious, even though new refugee influxes were offset by organized or spontaneous repatriation, mainly in Africa, and to a limited extent in Latin America and Asia. As efforts continued to promote repatriation, local integration and resettlement, as appropriate, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued working towards an approach that combined effective emergency response, prompt establishment of basic services such as health, sanitation and education, and early action to establish income-generating activities leading to self-reliance. Regarding international protection, serious problems affected the rights or safety of refugees, such as restrictive measures to combat irregular movements of refugees travelling in search of refuge in other continents, violation of the rights to life and safety through piracy and military and armed attacks, refoulement and expulsion of asylum-seekers.

In his annual report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3), the Secretary-General said that over 10 million refugees remained under the United Nations care and protection. Expressing hope that the number would decline as regional conflicts were resolved and other causes were removed, the Secretary-General noted the need for intensified, well-directed development strategies to help lessen the likelihood of future mass migration and reduce its potential dimensions.

Pakistan continued to host the world's largest single refugee population: an estimated 5 million Afghans were in Pakistan and Iran. In South-East Asia, resettlement in third countries remained the main durable solution for refugees in camps, although an increasing number of Indo-Chinese long-stayers awaiting resettlement caused concern. Under the Orderly Departure Programme, 18,418 Vietnamese were reunited with family members abroad. Towards the end of 1986, an understanding was reached between Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia that permitted the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopians. Voluntary repatriation programmes were also carried out for Ugandan refugees from the Sudan and Zaire, Argentine and Uruguayan refugees, as well as refugees from other Latin American countries. UNHCR also provided assistance to some 120,000 refugees in Central America and Mexico.

As before, assistance to Palestine refugees was provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (see p. 339).

The Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme in October adopted a Geneva Declaration on the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, calling on States that had not done so to accede to the instruments.

In December, the General Assembly called on States to promote durable solutions and to contribute to the UNHCR programmes (resolution 41/124). It also called for emergency assistance to

returnees and displaced persons in Chad (41/140), humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti (41/137), and assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia (41/141) and to refugees in the Sudan (41/139) and in Somalia (41/138). The Assembly also called for aid to student refugees in southern Africa (41/136) and to South African and Namibian refugee women and children (41/123). The Assembly requested intensified support for the speedy implementation of the recommendations and pledges made in 1984 at the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (41/122).

The Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees submitted its final report, and the Assembly endorsed its Group's conclusions and recommendations (41/70).

The 1986 Nansen Medal—named for Fridtjof Nansen, first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—went to the people of Canada in recognition of outstanding services rendered to refugees.

Jean-Pierre Hocké assumed his functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 1 January 1986.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XXI (pp. 853-875)

Drugs of abuse

Drug abuse and international control, 853; Supply and demand, 864; Conventions, 872; Organizational questions, 875.

Drug abuse had reached such dimensions that it affected virtually all countries and occupied priority attention at the highest level, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) noted in 1986. Illicit production and manufacture of drugs took place in a growing number of countries worldwide; they were financed and master-minded by criminal organizations with international links and with accomplices in financial circles. Condemning drug trafficking as a criminal activity, the General Assembly requested all States to pledge their political will in a concerted and universal struggle to achieve its complete elimination (resolution 41/127).

The United Nations had taken important steps to combat drug abuse and illicit drug traffic, the Secretary-General stated in his 1986 report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3), and his proposal for a first global conference on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, to be held in 1987, had received a heartening response. Preparatory work was under way to ensure that agreement was reached on practical and concerted action to be taken by the international community, Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), communities and even individuals. The Assembly requested States to give the highest priority to the holding of the conference (resolution 41/125).

Acting as preparatory body for the conference, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in February, made 13 recommendations to the Economic and Social Council, including a provisional agenda, provisional rules of procedure and conference participation.

At its ninth special session, also held in February, the Commission considered matters pertaining to the implementation of drug treaties and recommended for adoption by the Council two resolutions and three decisions. The Commission also continued preparation of a draft convention against illicit drug trafficking. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the 1987 conference on progress achieved in that regard (resolution 41/126).

INCB—responsible for evaluation and overall supervision of implementation of drug control treaties—continued its review of governmental annual estimates of licit narcotic drug requirements, limiting the manufacture and trade in narcotic drugs to medical and scientific purposes, and monitored the licit movement of psychotropic substances. It also provided a comprehensive survey of the drug control situation in the world and recommended action.

Taking into account INCB's position that licit opiates were not ordinary commodities whose production, manufacture and distribution could be regulated by normal economic considerations, the Economic and Social Council urged Governments to exercise restraint in the production of opiate raw materials for medical and scientific needs and called on importing countries to obtain their requirements of such materials from traditional supplier countries (resolution 1986/9). Following

a 1984 INCB recommendation, the Council urged strengthened control of international trade in the psychotropic substance secobarbital (resolution 1986/8).

The Narcotics Laboratory Section of the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs continued to assist national narcotics laboratories to identify and analyse seized drug samples. It also trained scientists from 13 countries.

The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC)—depending entirely on voluntary contributions—assisted Governments, at their request, in financing projects to reduce illicit supply of and demand for drugs. In 1986, the Fund's increased financial resources allowed it to intensify its activities, assisting 95 projects in 31 countries.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XXII (pp. 876-879)

Statistics

During 1986, the Statistical Office of the United Nations continued to carry out its work programme, covering four major kinds of activities: the improvement of statistical methodology; the collection, compilation and dissemination of international statistical data; support for technical co-operation activities in statistics and statistical data processing; and the promotion of coordination in international statistical work. The scope of the Office's work encompassed subject-matters such as energy, environment, industry, national accounts, prices, international trade, demographic and social statistics and human settlements. The Secretary-General issued a number of reports on statistical activities for consideration by the twenty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission in 1987. The Commission, which meets biennially, did not meet in 1986.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Chapter XXIII (pp. 880-894) **Institutional arrangements**

CO-ORDINATION IN THE UN SYSTEM, 880. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, 888: Co-operation with other organizations, 888; Other organizational matters, 889. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, 891: Work programme of the Second Committee of the General Assembly, 893; UN Industrial Development Organization, 893.

In 1986, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) continued work towards harmonizing and co-ordinating the programme activities of the United Nations system. This task was carried out mainly through evaluation, cross-organizational analyses of programmes and reviews of medium-term plans, and the Joint Meetings of the two Committees. The focus of analysis during the year was on the system's activities in economic and social research and policy analysis. Discussions at the Joint Meetings centred on the United Nations preparedness for emergency situations.

To enhance their effectiveness, the two Committees examined their own functioning. ACC adopted further steps to streamline its machinery, while CPC undertook an in-depth examination of its work as the main United Nations organ for planning, programming and co-ordination. CPC recommended a series of measures for improvement, which the Economic and Social Council subsequently endorsed.

A series of recommendations to streamline the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations, especially in the economic and social sectors, and thereby facilitate co-ordination of activities was put forward in April by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18) (see p. 1021). The General Assembly decided in December that the recommendations should be implemented, subject to certain qualifications (resolution 41/213).

Co-operation between the United Nations and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, an intergovernmental organization, continued to be pursued, as was co-operation with non-governmental organization (NGOs). The Secretary-General, in his 1986 report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3), said that multilateralism, as embodied in the United Nations, needed its champions. He expressed his conviction that the United Nations should develop even closer communication and co-operation with those organizations, for they were an essential extension of the capacity of the United Nations to reach its global constituency.

In other organizational and institutional arrangements, the Economic and Social Council adopted its work programme for 1986-1987 and the General Assembly approved the biennial programme of work for 1987-1988 of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee.

In connection with the new status of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Council recommended to it for approval a draft annex modifying the standard clauses of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies as appropriate for UNIDO.

TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION

Chapter I (pp. 895-916)

General questions relating to colonial countries

THE 1960 DECLARATION ON COLONIAL COUNTRIES, 895. OTHER GENERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING NSGTs, 914.

In 1986, the General Assembly's Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Committee on colonial countries) continued to consider the implementation by international organizations of the Assembly's 1960 Declaration as well as foreign economic and military interests impeding its implementation.

In addition to the general question of decolonization, the Committee examined situations in the following individual Territories: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (see next chapter); Namibia (see Chapter III of this section); American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, East Timor, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, Western Sahara (see Chapter IV of this section). The questions of Puerto Rico and New Caledonia were also considered.

In July, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the need for assistance by the United Nations system to the peoples of the colonial Territories and their national liberation movements (resolution 1986/48).

The General Assembly, acting on recommendations by the Committee on colonial countries, called on all States to terminate any investment in Namibia or loans to South Africa (41/14), requested the United Nations system to withhold from South Africa any form of co-operation and assistance (41/15), and condemned all military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration that were detrimental to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples concerned (decision 41/405). The Assembly also requested the Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration (resolution 41/41 B) and to consider the question of New Caledonia at its 1987 session (41/41 A), and called for wider dissemination of information on decolonization (41/42). In addition, the Assembly requested the administering Powers of Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs) to transmit information as prescribed in the United Nations Charter, as well as information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned (41/13). States were again invited to make offers of study and training facilities to inhabitants of those Territories (41/28).

In his 1986 annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization (see p. 3), the Secretary-General observed that when the United Nations was founded, the majority of the world's population was under colonial rule. The Organization had done much to facilitate the decolonization process and to assist the newly independent countries to assume control of their affairs and to begin the demanding tasks of social and economic development. Through the Trusteeship Council, the United Nations had, additionally, presided over the self-determination of 10 Trust Territories. The Secretary-General expressed hope that it would be possible for the eleventh and last to emerge soon from trusteeship.

TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION

Chapter II (pp. 917-922)

International Trusteeship System

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 917. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM, 921.

In 1986, progress towards self-government was made in the one Trust Territory remaining under the International Trusteeship System—the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, a strategic territory administered by the United States.

In May, the Trusteeship Council requested the United States, the Territory's Administering Authority, in consultation with the four constitutional Governments within the Trust Territory—the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau and the Northern Mariana Islands—to agree on a date for the full entry into force of the Compact of Free Association and the Commonwealth Covenant (resolution 2183(LIII)). The Council also considered that the United States had satisfactorily discharged its obligations under the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement and that it was appropriate to terminate the Agreement.

The Compact of Free Association with the Marshall Islands entered into force in October, and with the Federated States of Micronesia in November; the Commonwealth Covenant with the Northern Mariana Islands also entered into force in November.

On two occasions in 1986, at the request of the United States, the Council dispatched a visiting mission to observe a plebiscite in Palau, having taken decisions to that effect (resolutions 2180(S-XVI) and 2184(S-XVII)) at two special sessions (4-6 February, 20-26 November).

Of the five Council members (China, France, USSR, United Kingdom, United States), China did not participate in the Council's sessions.

TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION

Chapter III (pp. 923-960)

Namibia

NAMIBIA QUESTION, 924: Special session of the General Assembly on Namibia, 929; Consideration at the General Assembly's regular session and related activities, 934. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS, 952. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, 956.

Throughout 1986, the United Nations maintained its efforts to achieve independence for Namibia, an illegally occupied Territory and the largest remaining under colonial rule. Activities undertaken by the United Nations Council for Namibia, the legal Administering Authority for Namibia until independence, were therefore aimed at generating the maximum support of the international community for the Namibian people and at ending South Africa's occupation.

Accordingly, the Council held consultations with Member States to consider possible measures to be undertaken in compliance with United Nations resolutions on Namibia, the representation of Namibian interests in international forums, the provision of moral, material and political support to the people and the dissemination of information on the current situation in the Territory.

In March, South Africa proposed that 1 August 1986 be set for the implementation of Security Council resolution 435(1978), embodying the United Nations plan for Namibian independence, provided that agreement was reached before that date on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Angola pointed out that a number of conditions, agreed to in 1984, had not been fully met and that an abstract indication of a date to mark the resolution's implementation was not sufficient, without an indication of the sequence of complementary steps. The Secretary-General assured South Africa in June that he was ready to begin implementing the United Nations plan on 1 August and reiterated his rejection of linking independence for Namibia with the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. He recalled that the Security Council had also rejected such linkage.

In September, the General Assembly held its fourteenth special session-its third dealing with Namibia-which culminated in the adoption of resolution S-14/1, by which it reaffirmed the right of the Namibian people to self-determination, freedom and national independence; demanded that South Africa immediately withdraw its illegal administration, occupation army and police force from Namibia; condemned South Africa for the installation of an interim government in Windhoek; and called on it to desist from linking the independence of Namibia to extraneous issues, such as the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. The Assembly urged the Security Council to exercise its authority and to act decisively against dilatory manoeuvres and fraudulent schemes of South Africa in Namibia, through the adoption of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against it.

Later, at its regular 1986 session, the Assembly adopted a series of resolutions on Namibia. By resolution 41/39 A, it decided that the Council for Namibia should proceed to establish its administration in Namibia in 1987; reaffirmed that independence could be achieved only with the full participation of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO); and condemned South Africa for imposing an interim government and for its military buildup. It called on South Africa to desist from linking the independence of Namibia to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola, emphasizing that such linkage was incompatible with Security Council resolution 435(1978) and,

in addition to delaying Namibia's decolonization, constituted interference in Angola's internal affairs. It also reaffirmed that Namibia's accession to independence must be with its territorial integrity intact and again urged the Security Council to impose mandatory sanctions.

By resolution 41/39 B, the Assembly emphasized that the only parties to the conflict in Namibia were the Namibian people, represented by SWAPO, and South Africa; it rejected all manoeuvres aimed at diverting attention from the central issue of decolonization by introducing an East-West confrontation. The work programme of the Council for Namibia was approved with the adoption of resolution 41/39 C. In resolution 41/39 D, the Assembly requested that Council to increase the dissemination of information relating to Namibia.

Further, the Assembly, by resolution 41/39 E, requested the Secretary-General and the President of the Council for Namibia to intensify appeals for more generous contributions to the United Nations Fund for Namibia and decided to allocate temporarily- to the Fund \$1.5 million from the regular United Nations budget for 1987.

Earlier, in May, the Economic and Social Council also condemned South Africa's installation of the interim government and denounced the forceful military conscription of Namibian men and women to consolidate oppression in Namibia (resolution 1986/23).

Namibians outside their country continued to receive assistance from various United Nations programmes, financed primarily through voluntary contributions administered by the Fund for Namibia. In 1986, the Fund spent \$7.2 million; voluntary contributions by States reached \$5.7 million. Funding was also provided from the regular United Nations budget, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and specialized agencies. Three main programmes were operated by the Fund-the Nationhood Programme for Namibia and the United Nations Institute for Namibia, which acted in relation to the future attainment of independence; and educational, social and relief assistance, dealing with the immediate needs of Namibians in their struggle for independence.

TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION

Chapter IV (pp. 961-979) Other colonial Territories

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS), 961. EAST TIMOR, 964. WESTERN SAHARA, 964. OTHER TERRITORIES, 966.

With the dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) remaining unresolved, the General Assembly in November 1986 again requested both parties to initiate negotiations and the Secretary-General to continue his good offices mission to assist them (resolution 41/40).

In addition to that question, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Committee on colonial countries) continued to examine the situations in Western Sahara and East Timor and decided to review them again in 1987. In October, the Assembly reaffirmed that Western Sahara was a decolonization matter and again requested Morocco and the Frente Popular de Liberación de Saguía el Hamra y Río de Oro to negotiate a cease-fire and a referendum for self-determination of the people of the Territory (41/16).

In addition, the Assembly took action on the questions of American Samoa (41/23), Guam (41/25) and the United States Virgin Islands (41/24), under United States administration; and Anguilla (41/17), Bermuda (41/18), the British Virgin Islands (41/19), the Cayman Islands (41/20), Montserrat (41/21) and the Turks and Caicos Islands (41/22), administered by the United Kingdom.

The Assembly adopted decisions on the questions of Pitcairn (41/406), Gibraltar (41/407) and St. Helena (41/408).

A visiting mission, dispatched to Tokelau in July, reported that its people had expressed the desire to maintain their current association with New Zealand, the administering Power. The Assembly approved the mission's report and urged New Zealand to intensify its political education programme to improve the awareness of the Territory's people of their right to self-determination (resolution 41/26).

Background papers on developments in most of the Territories were prepared for the Committee on colonial countries by the United Nations Secretariat.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter I (pp. 981-985) International Court of Justice

Judicial work of the Court, 981; Organizational questions, 985.

In 1986, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) considered live contentious cases, remained seized of a request for an advisory opinion and delivered two Judgments and three Orders. In November, the General Assembly urged immediate compliance with the Court's 1986 Judgment in the case of military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua (resolution 41/31) (see also

The Secretary-General, in September, forwarded to the Assembly recommendations by the Joint Inspection Unit on ways for the Court to issue some of its publications in more than the current two languages.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter II (pp. 986-992)

Legal aspects of international political relations

Peaceful settlement of disputes between States, 986; Good-neighbourliness between States, 987; Non-use of force in international relations, 988; Draft code of offences against peace and security, 989; Draft convention against mercenaries, 991; Draft articles on non-navigational uses of international watercourses, 992.

In 1986, the United Nations continued work towards effective legal measures for promoting friendly relations among States. In December, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization to continue work on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States (resolution 41/74), and invited the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations to submit in 1987 a draft declaration on enhancing the principle's effectiveness (41/76). In addition, the Assembly invited a sub-committee of the Sixth (Legal) Committee to complete in 1987 the task of identifying and clarifying the elements of good-neighbourliness (41/84), and the International Law Commission to continue work on the draft Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind (41/75) and on the non-navigational uses of international watercourses. Due to the financial difficulties facing the United Nations, the Committee on drafting an international convention against mercenary activities did not hold a session in 1986; the Assembly decided that it was to meet in 1987 (41/80).

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter III (pp. 993-998) States and International Law

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, 993. STATE IMMUNITIES, LIABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY, 997.

The United Nations remained concerned, throughout 1986, with protecting diplomats and consular missions, as it received reports of incidents threatening their security and safety. Condemning acts of violence and recommending close co-operation among States to enhance the protection and safety of diplomatic missions and personnel, the General Assembly in December asked the Secretary-General to prepare guidelines so as to strengthen the procedures for reporting such incidents and corrective measures taken (resolution 41/78).

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Assembly, also in December, reaffirmed its conviction of the essential role played by it in promoting co-operation among States (41/79).

The International Law Commission continued work with a view to elaborating legal instruments on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by courier, jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, international liability for injurious consequences arising from acts not prohibited by international law, and State responsibility for internationally wrongful acts.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter IV (pp. 999-1005)

International organizations and international law

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 999. HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS, 1001. OBSERVER STATUS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, 1003. DRAFT STANDARD RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR UN CONFERENCES, 1005.

In 1986, the year proclaimed as the International Year of Peace, the United Nations remained concerned with strengthening its role in maintaining international peace and security, and the General Assembly, in December, requested the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization to accord priority to that question (resolution 41/83).

The Assembly, having considered the annual report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, urged that country, the United States, to continue to prevent criminal acts, including harassment and violations of the security of missions and the safety of their personnel (41/82). The Assembly again called on States which hosted international organizations or conferences to accord to national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States the facilities, privileges and immunities necessary for their functioning (41/71).

The Assembly decided to retain an item on the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the agenda of its forty-first session, to resume in 1987, and to give further consideration in the future to draft standard rules of procedure for United Nations conferences.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter V (pp. 1006-1008) Treaties and agreements

In 1986, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption, at a United Nations conference held earlier in the year, of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, and expressed the hope that States would consider becoming parties to it at an early date.

As in previous years, several multilateral treaties, concluded under United Nations auspices, were deposited with the Secretary-General.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter VI (pp. 1009-1013) International economic law

GENERAL ASPECTS, 1009: Report of UNCITRAL, 1009. INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW, 1010: Unification of trade law, 1010; Training and assistance, 1011. LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, 1011.

In 1986, legal aspects of international economic law continued to be considered by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and by the General Assembly's Sixth (Legal) Committee.

In December, the Assembly, by resolution 41/77, noted with satisfaction the completion of the Legal Guide on Electronic Funds Transfers and welcomed UNCITRAL's decision to undertake formulation of model legal rules on that subject. In addition, it noted the progress made by the Commission in preparing a draft Convention on International Bills of Exchange and International Promissory Notes and a legal guide on drawing up international contracts for construction of industrial works.

By resolution 41/73, the Assembly decided to consider in 1987 the most appropriate procedure for completing the elaboration of the process of codification and progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order.

LEGAL QUESTIONS

Chapter VII (pp. 1014-1016)

Other legal questions

International Law Commission, 1014; UN Programme for the teaching and study of international law, 1015; Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, 1016.

In 1986, the International Law Commission (ILC), at its thirty-eighth session at Geneva from 5 May to 11 July, continued work on the progressive development and codification of international law; the General Assembly recommended in December that the Commission continue work on all the topics in its current programme of work (resolution 41/81).

The twenty-second session of the International Law Seminar was held at Geneva. Other seminars and training courses were offered in 1986 as part of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

By resolution 41/5, the Assembly noted with satisfaction the progress made in enhancing co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Chapter I (pp. 1017-1037)

United Nations financing

FINANCIAL SITUATION, 1017: Financial emergency, 1017. UN BUDGET, 1027: Budget for 1986-1987, 1027. ASSESSMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS, 1032: Scale of assessments, 1032; Budget contributions in 1986, 1033. ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING, 1035. LOAN TO UNIDO, 1036.

During 1986, the United Nations struggled to overcome a severe financial crisis, characterized by the Secretary-General as the most serious in its history.

The crisis challenged the Organization's solvency and viability; it had resulted primarily from the failure of Member States to meet their obligations under the United Nations Charter, the Secretary-General said in his annual report on the work of the Organization (see p. 3). The underlying causes were political; differences of views about work programmes had prejudiced the budgetary process and also the readiness of some Member States to rely on the United Nations for positive regional and global change.

In May, the General Assembly, at its resumed fortieth session, adopted decision 40/472 A, by which it declared that the Secretary-General should deal with the crisis according to proposals he had made in an April report. In December, the Assembly renewed its appeal to Member States to pay their full assessed contributions early each year and requested the Secretary-General to continue to study options to alleviate the Organization's financial difficulties (resolution 41/204 A).

The Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18) submitted its recommendations in August; in December, the Assembly agreed to wide-ranging measures to improve the Organization's administrative and financial functioning, including new guidelines for decision-making on programme budgeting (41/213).

The Assembly, by resolution 41/211 A, increased appropriations for the 1986-1987 biennium by \$48,459,700 to \$1,711,801,200.

Estimates of income were revised downwards by \$12,720,500, to \$304,745,100 (41/211 B). The amounts to be obtained from each major income source to finance appropriations for 1987 were specified (41/211 C). Member States were to be assessed \$724,536,742, net of staff assessment.

With regard to apportioning United Nations expenses, the Assembly requested the Committee on Contributions to continue working on the methodology for drawing up an equitable scale of assessments (resolution 41/178).

Concerning a 1985 loan to UNIDO, the Assembly decided that the amount should be adjusted to reflect the new specialized agency's actual requirements (41/209, section VI).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Chapter II (pp. 1038-1048)

United Nations programmes

PROGRAMME PLANNING AND BUDGETING, 1038: Medium-term plan revisions, 1040; Priority setting, 1042. PROGRAMME MONITORING AND EVALUATION, 1042. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION IN THE UN SYSTEM, 1047.

Further action was taken in 1986 to improve United Nations programme planning, budgeting and evaluation. The General Assembly, by resolution 41/203, revised and added to the medium-term plan for 1984-1989. Recommendations on the programme budget and medium-term plan were made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), and planning and budget procedures were also discussed by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18). Both CPC and the Group of 18 also discussed programme monitoring and evaluation. Commenting on two 1985 reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), the Secretary-General, in June 1986, gave an overview of the status of internal evaluation in the United Nations system. In October, he reported on recent developments regarding strengthening the capacity of United Nations evaluation units and systems.

Programme outputs during the 1984-1985 budget period were examined by the Secretary-General in May. CPC recommended several measures to enhance the utility of future programme performance reports. In March, the Secretary-General reported on the volume, timing, usefulness and impact of statements of programme budget implications provided to the Assembly and discussed their possible extension to other United Nations bodies. CPC recommended that the Economic and Social Council, for a two-year trial period, also be provided with such statements regarding draft resolutions under its consideration.

United Nations programmes were inspected, reviewed or evaluated by JIU in 9 reports issued during 1986. The Group of 18 made recommendations for improving the work of JIU. The Assembly deferred the item on JIU until 1987, and similarly deferred an item on administrative and budgetary co-ordination.

Administrative and budgetary co-ordination in the United Nations system was considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its annual report to the Assembly, which provided comparative data and comments on the budgets of the specialized agencies and the United Nations and related matters. In October, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) commented on standardization and comparability in budgetary and administrative practices. In July, the eighteenth ACC report on expenditures of the system in relation to programmes was presented to the Economic and Social Council. ACC also submitted its comments on a JIU review of cash management in the United Nations and four specialized agencies (FAO, ILO, UNESCO, WHO).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Chapter III (pp. 1049-1081)

United Nations officials

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, 1050: Staff composition, 1051; General Service staff, 1057; Staff Rules, 1060; Privileges and immunities, 1060. STAFF COSTS, 1061: Salaries and allowances, 1061; Pensions, 1070. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, 1075. TRAVEL, 1078. OTHER UN OFFICIALS, 1080: Experts and consultants, 1080.

The growth of the United Nations Secretariat, paralleling the growth of intergovernmental machinery in response to new global problems, had been rapid and, to an extent, excessive, the Secretary-General said (see p. 10). Some orderly reduction of staff as well as consolidation and rationalization of the Organization were needed. He considered it crucial, for the effectiveness of the United Nations, to maintain employment conditions that would attract and retain employees of the highest competence. Seeking to solve the Organization's financial difficulties at the expense of staff entitlements, he added, would be shortsighted and counter-productive.

Staff in organizations of the United Nations system belonging to the common system of salaries and fringe benefits of the international civil service totalled 51,654 as at 31 December 1986, according to figures compiled for the inter-agency Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). That total represented the number of staff in the United Nations Secretariat, specialized agencies and other related intergovernmental organizations. The common system encompassed the entire United Nations system except for international financial institutions headquartered at Washington, D.C.

Of the total in the system, 22,766 were stationed at the organizations' headquarters, 20,721 were at other established offices, and 8,167 were project staff, working on technical co-operation and other operational activities in the field. By category, 18,831 were Professionals and 32,823 were in the General Service or related categories.

During 1986, the General Assembly considered numerous personnel questions, including the composition of the Secretariat and its upper echelons, desirable ranges for the geographical distribution of staff in the Professional category and above, improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat, the United Nations pension system and the privileges and immunities of United Nations officials.

The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), which made recommendations, and in certain instances decisions, affecting United Nations personnel, held its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions, from 3 to 20 March at Nairobi, Kenya, and from 7 to 25 July in New York, respectively. On the recommendation of ICSC, the Assembly approved a revised scale of staff assessment, a revised base salary scale and a scale of separation payments for the Professional and higher categories, and a revised scale of staff assessment for the General Service and related categories (resolution 41/207).

By resolution 41/208, the Assembly approved a new scale of pensionable remuneration for the Professional and higher categories, effective 1 April 1987, and the procedure for adjusting that remuneration in between comprehensive reviews.

Acting on other personnel issues, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to improve the recruitment of staff from unrepresented and underrepresented Member States (41/206 A), to ensure that equal opportunity was given to nationals of all Member States when making appointments to Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General posts (41/206 B) and to submit updated calculations on desirable ranges for the geographical distribution of staff in the Professional category and above (41/206 C). It urged him to appoint more women to senior decision-making positions (41/206 D). The Economic and Social Council similarly requested that the status of women in United Nations organizations be improved (1986/19).

The Assembly further approved the Secretary-General's proposals with regard to the job classification of the General Service and related categories (41/209, section IX); approved his proposed arrangements on health insurance coverage for locally recruited General Service staff (41/209, section III); concurred with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) to reduce the gross salary of the Secretary-General, the Director General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with other recommendations concerning their emoluments (41/209, section X); approved the Secretary-General's proposal to charge the additional expenditures resulting from a judgment of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal related to the suspension of the class 12 post adjustment in New York against the overall balance of appropriations for 1984-1985 (41/209, section VIII); and deferred until 1987 consideration of his report on the hiring and use of consultant services (41/209, section IV). Finally, the Assembly called on Member States scrupulously to respect the privileges and immunities of United Nations officials and to refrain from impeding them in the performance of their functions (41/205).

Recommendations to improve the system of administration of justice for personnel in the United Nations system were advanced by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18) and by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Action taken in the meantime to simplify the existing appeals procedures was reported by the Secretary-General, who also made specific proposals for setting up an Ombudsman institution within the United Nations Secretariat to speed delivery of justice. Work proceeded to improve co-ordination between the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations and that of the International Labour Organisation, the two tribunals in the United Nations common system.

Reducing expenditures for official travel, as well as for the use of consultant services, was pursued by JIU and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and followed up by the Secretary-General.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Chapter IV (pp. 1082-1097)

Other administrative and management questions

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, 1082. DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS, 1088. UN PREMISES, 1092. INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTERS, 1094. UN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION, 1096.

In 1986, the General Assembly continued to adopt decisions to foster administrative efficiency with respect to conferences and meetings, conference-servicing, documentation, United Nations premises, information systems and postal matters. It authorized implementation of related measures proposed by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18) and economy measures proposed by the Secretary-General to help alleviate the immediate cash shortfall facing the Organization.

In renewing the mandate of the 22-member Committee on Conferences for one year, the Assembly requested that it submit recommendations to broaden its terms of reference with a view to becoming a permanent intergovernmental body (resolution 41/177 B). Besides authorizing meetings requested by several subsidiary organs during its forty-first (1986) session (decision 41/403), it authorized modifications, proposed in the interests of economy, to the approved 1986 calendar of meetings (decision 40/472 A). It approved the revised 1987 calendar, similarly modified (resolution 41/177 A), and subsequently authorized further modifications to it (decision 41/466). By the last two decisions, it also authorized curtailment of meeting records for 1986 and 1987.

The Assembly requested the Committee on Conferences to secure further improvements in the utilization of conference-servicing resources and adopted guidelines governing planning missions for meetings and conferences held away from Headquarters to ensure that pre-conference planning resulted in maximum savings and efficiency (resolution 41/177 C). It extended for a further three years the curtailment of meeting records for subsidiary organs, with certain exceptions, and took action to limit other documentation (resolution 41/177 D).

Furthermore, the Assembly adopted a new regulation limiting the general liability risk of the United Nations resulting from acts or omissions occurring within the Headquarters district (resolution 41/210). It decided that additional requirements for conference services at Vienna should be reflected in the final performance report on the 1986-1987 programme budget (resolution 41/209, section VII), and approved the 1987 budget estimates for the International Computing Centre (resolution 41/209, section II). It also requested the Secretary-General to economize on operational expenses for the issue of special postage stamps on the social and economic crisis in Africa so as to increase net revenue (resolution 41/204 B).

Also in 1986, two studies, of the interpretation services and of the storage problem in the United Nations system with recommended solutions, were submitted to the Assembly by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Estimates to repair the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), damaged by a 1985 earthquake, were approved. Meanwhile, action continued to co-ordinate information systems and to follow up on the JIU recommendations on system-wide computer use.