

Coverage of the forty-first session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

58. The Information Service issued in the two working languages two daily press releases on the proceedings of the forty-first session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities held at the Palais des Nations from 7 August to 1 September. Background and round-up releases in the two working languages were also issued, together with other special press releases such as one on the opening statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and one on the Chairman of the Sub-Commission.

59. Press conferences organized by the Information Service in connection with the work of the Sub-Commission and its subsidiary bodies were held by the Chairman of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the Minister of Justice of Norway who spoke on the sexual abuse of children, the Chairperson/Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, the Chairman of the Sub-Commission, and the experts of the Sub-Commission from the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. An information meeting with the Chairman of the Sub-Commission was also organized by the Information Service for non-governmental organizations.

60. The Information Service co-operated in the exhibit of human rights materials during the session. A series of interviews on television and radio were conducted with the experts of the Sub-Commission. The television interviews were recorded for a future co-production with the Centre for Human Rights. Two radio dispatches, one in English and one in Arabic, were produced on the work of the Sub-Commission.

61. Background releases were issued on the meetings of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. A round-up on the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was also issued. Background releases were also issued on the meetings of the Group of Five on Slavery.

Dissemination of information on other intergovernmental and non-governmental meetings

62. In May, the Information Service covered the meeting held in Geneva by the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories. Following the meeting, the Special Committee undertook a field mission to Amman, Damascus and Cairo, where its investigation and hearings were covered by local press officers of the Department of Public Information. The Service re-issued in Geneva and transmitted for distribution at Headquarters all the press releases cabled by these press officers.

63. The Information Service provided press coverage on the proceedings of the Committee against Torture held in April and organized a press conference for the Chairman of the Committee. It also provided coverage on the sessions of the Human Rights Committee in July, and of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in August, as well as on the Second Public Hearings on the Activities of Transnational Corporations in South Africa and Namibia in