

46. INFORMATION QUESTIONS

When the activities of the Department of Public Information were discussed in the Fifth Committee, the Canadian representative stated that, in order to judge whether the United Nations information programme was adequate, a survey should be made of the degree to which national press, radio and film organizations actually use United Nations information programmes. He pointed out that only after such a survey could the Assembly judge the efficiency of the Department. Consequently he asked the Secretary-General to make such a survey and to submit a report on it at the next session. This the Secretary-General undertook to do.¹

Most delegations were agreed that an information programme was required. There was some feeling, however, among the European delegations, particularly those of the United Kingdom and Belgium, that the Department of Public Information was expanding too rapidly. These delegations proposed large reductions in the budget estimates for this department. Although most of these proposals were rejected, the programme for the establishment of overseas Information and Correspondent Centres was curtailed. Thus only three new Correspondent Centres will be opened in 1948. Most delegations considered that overseas Correspondent Centres should be established in the first instance on a minimum basis and expanded only in the light of proven needs.

¹The text of this statement is given in Appendix IV, B, p. 242.