

should continue unaltered in all respects. A second amendment of a less substantive nature was also adopted. On the recommendation of the Fifth Committee the amended resolution was adopted unanimously by the Assembly.

Public Information Activities

At its twelfth session the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint an Expert Committee of six individuals from Egypt, India, U.S.S.R., U.K., U.S.A. and Uruguay to review and appraise the United Nations' public information services and to report, with recommendations, to the thirteenth session. The Expert Committee's Report, together with views of the Secretary-General, was the subject of a very lengthy debate in the Fifth Committee at the thirteenth session of the Assembly (agenda item 55).

The Committee believed that information activities should be concentrated on "immediate targets" such as governmental agencies, persons and organizations concerned with education, influencing public opinion, or providing information, instruction or entertainment. It proposed "a shift of emphasis from mass approach through media of mass communication to the selective approach of public relations."

Some delegations agreed that for compelling budgetary reasons the United Nations could not attempt to reach the peoples of the world directly with mass publicity. To effectively promote an informed understanding of its aims and activities the United Nations necessarily had to work through existing services, institutions and private persons. Other delegations maintained that the "selective approach of public relations" was a radical departure from established policy which might seriously impair the impartiality and objectivity with which information about the United Nations should be presented.

In addition to differences of opinion concerning the soundness of the basic approach advocated in the Experts' Reports there was also disagreement concerning some of the specific recommendations. For instance, some delegations believed that the concept of a free and independent information service was not consistent with recommendations that "special care should be exercised concerning controversial issues before United Nations organs" and that "particular care should be taken to present the information in a manner and form which leads to identification of people with the United Nations and not estrangement."

After an exhaustive discussion in which several resolutions and amendments were proposed the United States and United Kingdom presented a jointly sponsored resolution which requested the Secretary-General to give effect in 1959, to the extent practicable, to those recommendations made by the Expert Committee which in his opinion would achieve certain specified objectives. These included making available objective and factual information to all the peoples of the world, placing greater emphasis on enlisting the cooperation of existing institutions in carrying out information activities and stressing to a greater extent the operations and effectiveness of the United