

General that from time to time he convene an Advisory Committee of Information Experts, and it further suggests that it be called together every two years in consultation with the professional organizations of the various information media.

(7) The Committee wishes to draw attention, as a matter of urgency, to the recommendations for development of a U.N. telecommunications system. This would require the construction of shortwave transmitters in connection with the permanent headquarters and the assignment of the necessary frequencies. Such a system would provide not only for voice transmission of radio material to member states but also for rapid and more economical communication with Information Centres in different parts of the world as well as with member governments. Without facilities under its own control there can be no assurance that the existing United Nations radio operations can be continued on the present basis. Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that in times of emergency such facilities may provide the only channel through which the United Nations can address itself directly to the peoples of the world

#### DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS

(8) The distribution of U.N. publications, films, still photographs, recordings, posters and official records is at present gravely hampered and delayed by customs difficulties in some member countries. The member governments should be requested to give free passage through customs to such materials, as well as other exemptions, instead of treating them as foreign products. The United Nations should accept payments due for such material in the currencies of the countries concerned.

(9) The Committee points out that peoples must be approached in words and symbols readily understood. Information activities limited to the

five official languages of the United Nations will have limited effectiveness. The Committee strongly urges that press releases, radio programmes, publications, etc., should be available as far as possible in the languages of all member nations.

(10) Since pictorial presentation has, through the ages, remained universally one of the most effective means of conveying thoughts as well as information about facts, the continued attention of the peoples of the world can very effectively be focussed on the purposes, aims and activities of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies through all the modern media of visual information.

It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the Department of Public Information provide audiences throughout the world, to the greatest possible extent, with films, photographs, and other visual information material explaining in easily-comprehensible terms the aims, the efforts and achievements of the United Nations and its Agencies.

#### UNITED NATIONS PRESS

(11) In view of the importance, scope and expense of a fully effective publications programme, the United Nations should consider the establishment of a separately owned or endowed United Nations Press with which the United Nations would have contractual relations similar, in general, to those of author with publisher. Such an arrangement, by enlisting extensive outside resources in the publishing field to handle production and distribution, could result in greatly increasing the circulation of U.N. publications without additional expense to the Organization. The U.N. would, of course, retain full editorial and policy control over all of its official publications under such an arrangement.

(12) The effectiveness of public information programmes through press, radio and films

may well be jeopardized if there is insufficient parallel activity through education and public assembly. Understanding day-to-day U.N. news is only possible if there is knowledge of how international organizations work. Questions and answers can resolve misunderstandings. Loyalty to common ideals can be developed at public meetings, and frustrations resulting from disappointed hopes can be avoided where there is opportunity to do something through collective action.

The Committee particularly endorses: (a) activities connected with development of teaching about the United Nations in schools, bearing in mind that the effect spreads through families to whole communities; (b) the organization of networks of official and voluntary speakers; and (c) information services through non-governmental organizations.

(13) The Committee was impressed by the high degree of ignorance about the United Nations in many of the non-member countries. It wishes to urge very strongly that, as far as possible, the U.N.'s information services be extended to such countries.

The Committee devotes the remainder of its report to specific recommendations by media.

#### UNITED NATIONS INTERNE PROGRAMME

Two Canadians, Allyre Louis Sirois and Miss Suzanne Barrier, have been selected as internes by the United Nations for the summer of 1948. The Secretary-General of the United Nations said that the task of the Selection Board was extremely difficult in view of the large number of highly qualified applicants and the limited number of available posts. Subject to approval of the necessary credits by the U.N. General Assembly, it is hoped to continue the interne programme in 1949.