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Item 35 of the provisional agenda*
Questions relating to information

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The mission of the Department of Public Information is to help fulfil the substantive purposes of the United Nations by strategically communicating its activities and concerns. To do so in the most effective manner and to the widest possible audience, it has been employing every available means at its disposal, including the latest innovations in information and communications technologies. By constantly seeking new ways and means to promote the activities and concerns of the Organization, and by evaluating its work and its products, the Department has demonstrated its commitment to achieving the greatest public impact. As a result, it has been able to enhance public information, a key goal of the Secretary-General's reform proposals. Member States can further strengthen those efforts by renewing their support to the Department and its mandate.

* A/60/150.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 59/126/B of 10 December 2004, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-seventh session and to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in that resolution. Accordingly, the Department introduced five reports of the Secretary-General for consideration by the Committee on Information at its twenty-seventh session, held from 18 April to 3 May 2005 (A/AC.198/2005/2-A/AC.198/2005/6). The deliberations of the Committee on those reports are reflected in its report to the General Assembly (A/60/21).

2. The present report, prepared in response to the above resolution, updates the information already provided to the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Information.

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III. Strategic communications services

A. Thematic communications campaigns

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The question of Palestine

13. The Department, in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry of Egypt, organized the thirteenth annual International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East in Cairo on 13 and 14 June 2005. It highlighted the role of international and regional actors in facilitating a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The

meeting was covered extensively by local and regional media, including Egyptian television, Nile satellite television, *Al-Ahram* newspaper, *October Magazine*, *Akhbar Al-Watan* newspaper, *Tribunal* newspaper, and *Nisf El Donia Magazine* . The Department of Public Information's other activities in that area included an updated brochure, as well as the permanent exhibit on *The United Nations and the Question of Palestine*.

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