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Annual overview report of the Administrative
Committee on Co-ordination for 1979/80

Statement by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
of the United Nations System on Security and Independence
of the International Civil Service

The Administrator brings to the attention of the Governing Council the attached statement approved by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at its first regular session in 1980.

Annex I

SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE

Statement by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
of the United Nations System

1. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination has noted with concern that on a number of occasions certain States members of organizations of the United Nations system have taken measures against international civil servants which threaten their security and obstruct the discharge of their duties. For instance, international civil servants have been detained, arrested or sentenced to terms of imprisonment without a prior request stating the reasons and thus providing the executive head under whose authority they serve with the elements needed in order to decide whether a waiver of immunity, which is a prerequisite for any action against international civil servants by any national authority, should be granted. Furthermore, executive heads have not been given the opportunity to contact the staff members concerned. Some staff members have disappeared without it being possible to determine what has happened to them. Lastly, there have been cases in which pressures have been exerted on staff members to induce them to resign, in a manner incompatible with the regulations on the subject.
2. ACC is deeply concerned at this state of affairs. International organizations, which are the instrument of international co-operation, cannot fully discharge their duties unless they can count on a completely independent international civil service. It should be recalled that the members of the international civil service are under the exclusive authority of the executive heads of the organizations which they serve, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable staff regulations and rules.
3. ACC wishes to point out that, under the Charter of the United Nations and the constituent instruments of the specialized agencies, staff members of the organizations of the United Nations system have responsibilities of an exclusively international character and must not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any other authority external to the Organization. When joining these organizations, member States undertook to respect the exclusively international character of the functions of staff members and not to seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.
4. The Commission on Human Rights, for its part, adopted at its thirty-sixth session, a resolution on the human rights of United Nations staff members, which reminds Member States of their obligations under the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. ACC welcomes this resolution.
5. ACC considers that any infringement of the security and independence of staff members of organizations of the United Nations system by a member State is a

serious threat to international co-operation. The executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, who are responsible for the security and independence of the staff under their authority, appeal to Governments to give them their full assistance in ensuring respect for the principles to which all member States have subscribed.

2 April 1980