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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
FOR 1982

SPECIAL FUNDS AND ACTIVITIES
1. A priority task of UNDP in 1982 continued to be enhanced co-ordination between the main IPF Programme and the special-purpose funds and programmes which UNDP administers. Along with this, special emphasis was given to improving the quality and volume of UNDP's overall delivery to the least developed countries, and, on another front, the continued efforts, both on behalf of the separate Funds and on behalf of UNDP for adequate funding and donor support.

2. During 1982, as recounted separately below, each of the special funds and activities passed significant mileposts in its progress. The United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration continued to implement an average of nine projects, and a high success rate of potentially exploitable minerals continued to be reported. In addition, preparations were being carefully undertaken for entry into geothermal exploration. The United Nations Volunteers maintained its highest level of serving volunteers, and set new directions and goals in issuing the Sana'a Declaration as a result of its conference, hosted by the Government of Yemen. UNCDF continued, through the system of partial funding approved by the Council, to approve and implement new projects at levels nearing those projected and worked steadily in building up its portfolio through active involvement in follow-up to the Substantial New Plan of Action in favour of the LDC's. UNFSSTD progressed to new legislation, under which UNDP will continue its overall operational responsibilities. The Office for Projects Execution maintained its level of project implementation, with an increasingly higher proportion of its work supporting activities financed through special funds and programmes, such as IFAD, IBRD and UNFDAC, as well as UNSO and UNCDF. IAPSu, consequent to its relocation in Geneva, was able to increase its direct exchanges and contacts with major European suppliers of goods and services and established closer working relationships with the major European-based United Nations Agencies. Details on these and other special funds and activities supported by UNDP in 1982 follow.

A. United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

3. By the end of 1982, the UNCDF programme had covered 43 countries: 36 countries officially designated by the General Assembly as LDCs, seven countries which the General Assembly has requested be given special consideration, and the Governing Council has so decided. Total cumulative voluntary contributions to the general resources of the Fund amounted to $178 million. In addition, the Fund received $1.8 million under cost-sharing arrangements and $1.5 million under trust fund arrangements, for a total of $181.3 million. The growth of the Fund's resources over the last five years has been significant in comparison to the previous 10 years. Of the $181.3 million contributed to the Fund, $132.7 million or 73 per cent of the total, was contributed during the period 1978-1982. Voluntary contributions to the general resources of the Fund for 1983 are expected roughly to match those of 1982: $25 million. Of the 35 countries which pledged for 1983, two did so for the first time.
4. During 1982, the Fund assisted its developing country partners in two particularly crucial areas: first, in helping to meet the basic needs of their people in connection with food production, primary health care, safe drinking water supply, low-cost housing, primary education and employment generating activities, and, second, in developing productive sectors and economic infrastructure, particularly in agriculture, transportation, energy and small-scale industries.

5. By the end of 1982, UNCDF's cumulative project commitments totalled $277 million for the financing of 219 projects in 42 countries, while cumulative expenditures totalled $132 million. During 1982, the Fund approved 34 projects in 22 countries at a cost of $59.9 million. Project expenditures for the year amounted to $30 million.

B. The United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)

6. In 1982, UNSO continued to carry out its activities in response to the two mandates conferred upon it by the General Assembly, namely:

(a) to assist the drought-stricken countries of the Sahel (Cape Verde, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta) and their regional organization -- the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) -- in the implementation of their medium-term and long-term drought recovery and rehabilitation programme; and

(b) assist, on behalf of UNEP and under a joint UNEP/UNDP venture, a group of designated countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (Benin, Cape Verde, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon and Upper Volta).

7. As a result of the expanding operational capability of UNSO and in response to priority requests of the countries concerned, the number of UNSO-supported projects under the mandate of drought-related recovery and rehabilitation had increased by the end of 1982 to 129 (32 regional and 97 national), requiring a total financing of some $701 million. By early 1983, some $431 million had become available from various quarters, including bilateral and multilateral sources to finance these projects; more than $60 million of that amount was contributed by and through the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities. In 1982, UNSO mobilized, from sources outside the Trust Fund, $14.7 million to finance priority drought-related recovery and rehabilitation projects of the Governments of the States members of CILSS. This figure does not include the resources provided by the Governments of the Sahelian countries.

8. In connection with desertification control activities, the number of projects falling within the scope of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and entrusted to UNSO for support had risen by 1982 to 258
projects (20 regional and 238 national), requiring a total financing of $710.2 million. Of this total, more than $396 million has become available from various quarters, including bilateral and multilateral sources and $24.9 million provided through the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities. In 1982 UNSO mobilized, both through and outside the Trust Fund, $20.4 million for desertification-control projects; this figure does not include the resources provided by the Governments of the respective Sudano-Sahelian countries.

9. All told, for both the drought and anti-desertification activities, in the year, UNSO mobilized $35.1 million, $15.9 million of which was channelled through the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities while $19.2 million was being provided directly by the donors to projects to complement the financing of these activities. This figure compares well to the $33.5 million mobilized during the preceding year, considering the much depressed economic conjuncture characteristic of 1982. It is expected that in 1983, UNSO's efforts should result in the mobilization of additional resources in the amount of $36 to $38 million.

C. United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSSTD)

10. During 1982 the General Assembly confirmed the long-term institutional and financial arrangements for UNFSSTD on a permanent basis, deciding in resolution 37/244 that the System be organized on a voluntary and universal basis with an overall global resource target of $600 million for 1983-85. The resolution established the System as a separate and distinct entity: its institutional arrangements consist of an Intergovernmental Committee, an Executive Board and a Secretariat. These arrangements are to take effect as soon as the provisions of a financing plan is established and the Executive Board is elected.

11. Under the terms of the new legislation the UNDP Administrator will continue to be responsible for the overall supervision of the Financing System and will continue to co-ordinate its activities administratively and operationally with the United Nations machinery for development co-operation. In accordance with defined procedures, it will rely on technical comments from specialized agencies, the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology, UNDP and independent consultants. It will also continue to use, under co-operative arrangement, the administrative and support services of UNDP Headquarters and its worldwide field network in appraising, evaluating and implementing projects.

12. The System and its predecessor, the Interim Fund received over 900 projects and proposals from Governments, and was able to approve 65 projects during the interim period 1980-81 at an average cost of $500,000. In 1982, it approved an additional 18 projects which in view of financial constraints, were mainly smaller self-contained elements of original project requests. Discussions continue with potential donors to establish co-financing arrangements for a portfolio of some 78 projects, which have been fully developed and are awaiting financing. Negotiations are underway with
individual Governments and other funding sources on the financing of a number of specific projects. Currently there are 83 projects amounting to $37,913,384 under implementation of which nearly half are executed by governments themselves. Cumulative pledges to the System covering the three years 1980-1982 total $39,484,789.

D. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE)

13. Now in its eighth year of operations, the UNRFNRE was successful in identifying potential economic mineral discoveries in three countries in 1982. In the course of the year, there were eleven operational mineral exploration projects in various stages of development. With eight completed mineral exploration projects to date, the Fund has made potential economic discoveries in six countries. Following this successful phase of operations the Fund, with the full support and co-operation of the host governments, was actively seeking the financial and technical resources required for pre-investment work leading to mining development. Feasibility study requirements have been identified and discussions were advancing between the Governments, the Fund, international and regional financial institutions and public and private sector mining groups in order to arrive at the most favourable arrangements on a case-by-case basis. Co-financing arrangements were among the options being actively pursued.

14. Following the Governing Council's authorization to extend the Fund's activities into the field of geothermal exploration (82/23), action was taken to evaluate a number of exploration drilling projects from which a first geothermal project can be presented for the Council's consideration in the near future. The high-risk exploration and development gap to which the UNRFNRE addresses its activities cannot be tackled effectively with the present inadequate level of voluntary contributions. While cumulative resources to date total $46.1 million, funding availability for additional programming is only approximately $10.9 million. Unless there is a substantial increase in the level of contributions, the Fund will be unable to respond adequately to the many requests for new minerals exploration projects under evaluation; nor will it be able to support a viable level of geothermal energy activities.

E. United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

15. During 1982, UNV initiated various activities to further develop the concept of international volunteerism, to strengthen its involvement in the programming of technical assistance at the country level, to further its collaboration with specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, to intensify its contacts with co-operating organizations, to develop its TCDC activities and to reach a wider group of people through the re-orientation and updating of existing UNV publications and the creation of new ones. The first High-Level Symposium on International Volunteer Service and Development, held at Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic in March and sponsored by UNV, was indicative of these efforts.
16. Various new and special programme activities have been initiated by the United Nations Volunteers programme during the year. Most important were the development of a project for UNV assistance to regional and subregional inter-governmental institutions and programmes in Africa, participation in an interregional project in the context of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, increased involvement in Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, more co-operation with the Least Developed Countries in the context of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and increased participation in refugee assistance programmes and in emergency situations such as Lebanon.

17. UN Volunteers possess advanced educational training and professional experience in a variety of fields. They include medical doctors, veterinarians, engineers, agriculturists/agronomists, instructors, technicians and skilled trades specialists. Another area of programme emphasis as recommended at Sana'a is the concentration of UNV assistance in the Least Developed Countries. The Secretary-General's report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in 1981, estimated that the need for the kind of expertise provided by the UN Volunteers programme might double during the 1980s to some 2,000 a year. Since the beginning of the UNV programme, a total of close to 1,200 UN Volunteers have served in the LDCs. At the end of 1982, 500 UN Volunteers were assigned in these countries.

18. Special refugee activities in Africa and Asia also continued to benefit from UNV services. In Somalia alone 23 UN Volunteers are currently working in a UN/UNHCR project, now in its second phase, which provides assistance to refugees. In Djibouti, a UNV accountant is also attached to a UNHCR-funded project to support the national refugee council. In South East Asia UNV continues to provide 11 Volunteers to a project, financed from regional UNDP funds, of assistance to refugees in the region.

19. Youth and DDS activities continued to develop during the year and to grow in importance within UNV's overall programme activities in accordance with recommendations contained in the Sana'a Declaration. A three-year extension of the regional Asia and Pacific DDS project was approved, as was a new DDS project for Africa, and preparatory activities for the International Youth Year (IYY) were also pursued. UNV successfully concluded its Regional Latin American Youth Project "Promotion of Youth Participation in Socio-Economic Development."

20. Despite the repeated appeals by the Governing Council to the donor countries to increase their voluntary contributions to the SVF, the level of contributions for 1982 remained very static in terms of contributions from traditional donor countries, amounting to $1.2 million. The resource situation has been further impaired as the UNDP annual allocation to the Fund has been discontinued for the first time in 1982, as directed by the Governing Council at its session in June 1977. Because the overall resource situation of the SVF continues to be unpromising, UNV cannot long maintain the programme at its current growth rate.

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F. UNDP Energy Account

21. In recognition of the serious difficulties that many energy deficient developing countries are facing through the high cost of imported hydrocarbons, the Governing Council at its 27th session in June 1980 authorized the Administrator to seek and accept additional resources in order to assist governments in carrying out high priority projects and programmes in pre-investment and technical co-operation in support of their energy development. A number of donor countries have responded to the Administrator's appeal for funds including Australia, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand and Sweden and as of 31 March 1983 some $7.1 million had been contributed to the Energy Account.

22. In addition, the OPEC Fund for International Development agreed to contribute an amount of 10 per cent of the funds received from other sources up to a maximum of $6.0 million, over a three year period. Several proposals have been presented to the OPEC Fund in order to enable UNDP to utilize these resources. These projects are currently under consideration and if approved funds would be transferred by the OPEC Fund to the Energy Account. A number of donor governments have indicated their intention of making additional contributions to the Energy Account in 1983. The total value of the projects approved as of 1 March 1983 was $6.9 million and proposals exceeding available resources are under consideration.

23. The major activities financed by the Energy Account have been the joint UNDP/World Bank Energy Sector Assessment Programme, including support of the core activities for the Energy Sector Management Programme and the Power System Loss Reduction Studies. The World Bank is executing agency for these projects. In many of the countries surveyed (these include Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burundi, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Zambia and Zimbabwe) it was found that there was often insufficient commitment, staff analysis or financial resources to deal effectively with major issues which had been identified. The assessment programme suggested ways in which the ministry or government department or unit could be strengthened, particularly in planning and ensuring the integration between the policies and programmes of the various energy sub-sectors, for example, power, petroleum, coal and the more traditional renewable energy resources. In this regard some of the bilateral programmes have joined with financing from the Energy Account in order to fund such units in governments.

24. Perhaps the single most important activity which has emerged from the assessments is the Energy Sector Management Programme, for which major financing is being sought by the Administrator and the President of the World Bank. This programme aims at providing assistance to governments in generating energy savings in such sectors as industry, transportation and power system losses. A pilot programme for rural/renewable energy sources is proposing work in eight major areas including improved stoves and kilns, wind pumps, solar water heaters, microhydro, peat for domestic use, biomass for power/heat and biogas. The estimated financial requirements for the period 1983-86 are $47.0 million. As of March 1983 some $4.7 million has been provided from the Energy Account for the above-mentioned activities.
25. Additional resources provided from the Energy Account have been utilized for a Coal Transportation Study in Colombia which has contributed to follow-up investment by the World Bank and a major multinational in the order of $400 million. In partnership with the World Bank, United Nations and USAID funding has been provided for a series of Energy Workshops to promote private investment in new and renewable sources of energy. The International Institute for Environment and Development has been the organizer for these workshops and participants have come from both developed and developing countries. Funding from the Energy Account has also been provided for a UNDP/World Bank training programme in Energy and Power which was conducted in Istanbul, Turkey in February 1983 for some 30 participants coming from power and utility organizations in developing countries. This training programme in addition to providing instruction on energy pricing, load management, etc., in accordance with the recommendations of the Nairobi Programme of Action, has provided instruction on utilizing new and renewable energy in power systems.

26. With a relatively modest contribution from the Energy Account two projects have been financed in Jamaica and one in Trinidad and one in Barbados. They are for testing and demonstrating an energy saving device which can introduce considerable savings in the energy consumption of the hotel tourism industry in the region. This device allows the guests automatically to activate and cut-off the power supply in their rooms upon entering and leaving.

27. The initial operation of the Account indicates that with a modest input of resources from UNDP these activities are capable of attracting additional funds from a variety of other multilateral, bilateral and private sources. Apart from the catalytic role these resources can have, it has been possible to fund critical activities which are key factors in the energy development process and which may not have otherwise been identified and attracted important external capital investment.

G. United Nations Trust Fund for Colonial Countries and Peoples

28. During the 1982 calendar year two projects of assistance to the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity were approved for financing under this fund. These were NLM/82/001: Representation of National Liberation Movements to Meetings Convened by UNDP, and NLM/82/002: Training of NLMs in Health Assistance. Respective allocations of $41,100 and $370,000 were made to these projects.

29. The Fund had an opening balance in 1982 of $1,197,437, but received no additional contributions during the year. Annual interest earnings amounted to $132,905 bringing the total to $1,330,342. Assuming full utilization of the budget allocations during 1982 in respect of the two projects above, the net fund resources as yet unencumbered should amount to $919,342, from which support costs for these projects amounting to $53,430 will have to be deducted, leaving a net unencumbered balance of $865,912.
H. Programme Assistance to the Palestinian People

30. During 1982, this programme, for which project formulation and implementation activities were commenced in 1980 on the authorization of the Governing Council, reached an important milestone when the initial allocation of $3.5 million was fully committed to specific projects. Except for a single project in the Syrian Arab Republic, executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, all operations are concentrated in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with the full concurrence of all parties directly concerned. These projects, which cover a wide range of sectoral activities, are executed directly and fully by UNDP under arrangements approved by the authorities in charge as well as the representatives of the Palestinian People.

31. At its session in June 1982, the Governing Council decided that additional funding in the amount of $4 million would be made available from UNDP resources for use in additional project activities through 1986. As requested by the Council, the Administrator initiated contacts in late 1982 with governments and inter-governmental organizations for the purpose of seeking voluntary contributions in the supplementary amount of $8 million. Simultaneously, a pipeline for future implementation was developed in co-operation with the parties concerned.

I. United Nations Special Fund for Land-Locked Developing Countries

32. Previous reports have mentioned the low level of contributions to this Fund which inhibit the provision of anything but the most marginal assistance to the land-locked developing countries. The situation did not improve in 1982: actual cash contributions received amounted to $48,680 bringing the total contributions received since the inception of the Fund in 1977 to $876,100 of which one donor's single contribution in 1978 accounts for $566,000.

33. Three new projects were approved in 1982: one providing $22,600 for consultancy in aircraft selection for Swaziland; another providing $23,171 for assistance in hydrography on the Paraguay River and a third providing equipment and spare parts worth $12,100 for the LAO Government's vehicle maintenance garage. These approvals brought the cumulative commitments from the Fund to $726,686 covering 15 projects in 12 countries. Given the requirement that funds should be distributed equitably between countries over time and in view of the level of resources available, it is inevitable that projects are modest. In fact, it is difficult to identify viable projects within the small amounts allocated to the three regions concerned.
34. Despite repeated appeals by the Secretary-General, the majority of Governments have not contributed to the Special Fund; 14 countries announced contributions for 1983 of $68,400, of which 10 were themselves land-locked developing countries. While the projects approved so far from the Fund have been appraised carefully and are designed to contribute to the alleviation of the disadvantages inherent in land-locked status, it is clear that they cannot be more than marginal in their impact and that the Fund is far from attaining the objectives for which it was established.

J. Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (VFDW)

35. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (VFDW) completed its fifth year of operational activities in 1982. The Fund was established to provide financial and technical assistance with special attention to rural and poor urban women.

36. The partnership between VFDW and UNDP was strengthened during the year under review in respect of VFDW's catalytic role, namely to demonstrate that involving both women and men in technical co-operation activities is a necessary condition to the achievement of development goals. For example, fulfillment of General Assembly and Governing Council mandates concerning women and development demands the consideration of women at all stages of the project cycle, and in projects of varying sizes. The agreement between UNDP and VFDW on programming missions circulated in 1981, bore fruit during the past year. Ten programming missions were completed with some proposals prepared for IPF financing for reorientation of large-scale activities to ensure consideration of women, and/or for development of projects specifically directed to women -- the latter in situations where the local culture or division of labour makes separate activities expedient.

37. The special role of VFDW in relation to UNDP is nowhere more clear than in VFDW's use of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) as Executing Agencies. In 1982, VFDW assistance to projects under NGO execution showed a significant upward trend -- to 48% of all projects assisted by VFDW; the proportion had been 6% in 1978-1979. Its financing of the relatively small-scale, self-help efforts of community groups is complementary to UNDP's support of large-scale, government or agency-executed projects.

38. Under the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and UNDP, 1980, UNDP administers all country level projects financed by VFDW. In 1982 the proportion of country level projects among all those assisted by VFDW rose to 88% (from 14% in 1978-1979); UNDP officers at field level and at Headquarters continued to participate in the identification, formulation, appraisal, execution and evaluation of VFDW-assisted activities. Illustrative of the inter-relationship between VFDW and UNDP is the latter's adoption of the second phase of financing of training for women in development planning at the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), whose resources
for this purpose had been provided on an experimental basis by VFDW for two years. In Honduras, complementary financing through the IPF and VFDW gives poor rural communities access to credit facilities; the VFDW project is executed by a non-profit, non-governmental organization which mobilized the necessary technical assistance and manages the revolving loan fund.

39. More than 170 requests for VFDW support were received during 1982. Of these, 75 were approved following the recommendations of the Consultative Committee for financing or for preparatory stages, with 43 of them having a total value of $3.8 million; others consisted of small-scale projects valued at less than $20,000 additional inputs to on-going activities or programming missions. Contributions pledged to the Voluntary Fund by Governments for 1982 totalled $1.8 million. In addition, another $41,000 in non-governmental contributions were made to the Fund.

40. Of the total 294 projects supported from the Fund's resources to date, approximately 75 are now completed. The distribution of projects by subject area is the following: (a) employment 31 per cent; (b) human development 30 per cent; (c) planning 24 per cent; (d) energy 9 per cent and (e) information 6 per cent.

K. Office for Projects Execution (OPE)

41. Established in March 1974, OPE's primary objective remains to offer in unique cases, an effective alternative to traditional project implementation. OPE also provides UNDP with a yardstick for measuring project performance, in terms of response time, quality of services or cost and a tool to explore, where applicable, ways to improve overall UNDP performance.

42. OPE generally sub-contracts its projects to competent private consulting firms or public institutions. Highly experienced project personnel can be quickly mobilized on a worldwide basis for virtually any type of technical assistance. Because of its small size OPE is able to respond quickly to any given request. While most OPE project management officers have technical or economic backgrounds, OPE often retains qualified specialists to assist in project monitoring and quality control. Constant exposure to state of the art technical disciplines permits continuing professional growth of the staff involved.

43. The share of total UNDP main programme expenditures entrusted to OPE during 1982 continued at about the same level as in 1981; it is not anticipated this percentage will increase. Total expenditures in 1982 were $47.8 million, of which $22.3 million went to technical and $25.5 million to non-technical projects.
44. OPE also performs a substantial amount of work for non-IPF activities.

-- It has supported the construction of more than 1,300 kms. of rural roads on behalf of UNSO over the last three years;

-- It co-operates with UNCDF in the execution of supporting technical assistance financed by UNDP and in the procurement of equipment;

-- It executes projects on behalf of the World Bank and UNFDAC; and

-- It has assumed in selected cases the responsibility for loan administration at the request and on behalf of IFAD.

45. A particularly useful aspect of OPE's work is that its methodology is also being applied successfully to the development of TCDC. OPE has developed extensive contacts with private and public organizations in developing countries and has been able to increase significantly the participation of developing countries in the development effort for which OPE has direct implementation responsibility.

L. Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC)

46. During 1982, UNDP continued the implementation of decisions of the second session of the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC, and of the Twenty-eighth session of the Governing Council, both held in New York in June 1981. It convened, jointly with the Government of India, and in co-operation with ESCAP, a seminar on TCDC for Senior Government Officials of Asia and the Pacific Region, in New Delhi, from 23 April to 1 May 1982. The review of inter-country projects financed from the regional, and interregional and global IPFs and having a TCDC potential was completed in 1982.

47. In 1982, the Special Unit for TCDC also continued to develop the multi-sectoral Information Referral System (INRES) under which it is compiling information on the capacities of, initially, 8,000 institutions of developing countries offering training, research, expertise, and consultancy services to other developing countries. The Special Unit also made preparations for, and participated in, a number of meetings and conferences where TCDC figured importantly in the discussions, notably, the Conference of Governmental Experts on Technical Co-operation among African Countries held in Libreville, Gabon, in August; the Meeting of Directors of National Technical Co-operation Agencies of Developing Countries, held in Tunis in October; and the Solidarity Ministerial Meeting on the Industrial Development of Nepal, held in Kathmandu, in November 1982. A full discussion of the Special Unit's activities in 1982 is contained in TCDC/3/6, "Measures to Facilitate TCDC, Report by the Administrator."
M. Inter-Agency Procurement Services Unit (IAPSU)

48. It is now estimated that the annual average dollar volume for common-user items by all United Nations organizations adds up to some $200 million. This category does not include specialized equipment but merely, as the name implies, equipment common to most agencies. Co-ordination of procurement of common-user items therefore constitutes a potential for savings, since a small percentage saved overall represents a large amount of funds available for other development priorities.

49. Common-user equipment and by-and-large comprises the following broad categories: Motor vehicles, office equipment, laboratory equipment, electronic data processing supplies, audio-visual equipment, construction equipment, hand tools, bicycles/mopeds/motorcycles. Motor vehicles, being the most important category, have been a major undertaking, and the Motor Vehicle Binder listing makes and models and the standards for each recipient country has been issued.

50. IAPSU has also issued a number of catalogues with preferential prices from manufacturers who requested IAPSU assistance. The overall objective of IAPSU negotiations with manufacturers and suppliers is to gain access for all United Nations procurement offices to the primary source of supply, in most cases the factory itself, thus obtaining the best pricing and shortest lines of communications. IAPSU is also presently negotiating with the USSR to translate and print a number of booklets for a major UN Agency. In addition a variety of United Nations organizations’ publications may also be printed in the Socialist countries against payment in local currencies.

51. Another activity of considerable importance has been the study of ways to cut costs for official air travel. IAPSU recruited a short-term consultant, who as a long-term employee of a major airline, could convey "insider" knowledge. His report was incorporated in the Joint Inspection Unit report. IAPSU is now in the process of presenting a recommendation to UNDP which will highlight the following criteria: there is considerable scope for cost savings within the existing IATA rate structure and the United Nations system is probably the only large user not taking advantage of these possibilities. The total air travel costs, including DSA, adds up to some $150 million annually for the United Nations system as a whole, including the lending institutions. IAPSU's basic approach has been to preserve the currently acceptable standard of travel but to obtain discount prices. One estimate by an air travel specialist has been that actual ticket costs could be reduced on the average by 15 - 25 per cent.

52. During 1982 IAPSU received from UNDP Resident Representatives 173 notices of advance information on UNDP-assisted business opportunities -- representing a value of $94 million. The Executing Agencies found, for various reasons, 51 notices to be unsuitable for advertising. Sixty-six of them were left pending agency approval, in part for resource considerations, and 56 were published in the Development Forum Business Edition (DFBE), as compared with 26 in 1981. The General Business Guide was revised and reprinted in 1982 in a total of 15,000 copies. A French edition is in process and will be available in 1983.