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international press to lend its fullest possible cooperation. The week of solidarity activities in 1975 also included an informal panel discussion to consider ways and means of improving the dissemination of information on decolonization, and in addition to the participation of members of C24 on the panel, other participants included members of a number of permanent missions of Member States to the UN, representatives of specialized agencies and other organizations within the UN system, members of the UN Council for Namibia, the Special Committee on Apartheid and the Commission on Human Rights, representatives of national liberation movements from colonial Territories in Africa, as well as a large number of representatives of the information media and NGOs. Furthermore, the Office of Public Information, as it was then known, held a public screening of two films depicting the liberation struggle of the peoples of the colonial Territories in southern Africa<sup>2</sup>.

Week of solidarity activities in 1976 also included a press conference by the Chairman of C24; a special meeting of C24, where statements were made by the Chair, a representative of the Secretary-General; the Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations (on behalf of the President of the Security Council), the Permanent Representative of Mexico (in his capacity as Acting President of the UN Council for Namibia), the Permanent representative of Nigeria (in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid), the Executive Secretary of OAU to the United Nations, and the Chairs of the Regional Groups at the United Nations for the month of May 1976. Also in connection with the observance of the Week of solidarity that year, messages were received from the Director-General of UNESCO, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines

Other activities in commemoration of the week in 1976 included an exhibit of photographs and publications relating, *inter alia*, to the liberation struggle of the colonial peoples of southern Africa at the UN Headquarters and UN Office at Geneva, and the screening by the Office of Public Information of eight films relating to the same liberation struggle.<sup>3</sup> Similar events were



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by the Acting Chairman, the Secretary General, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise

towards what exactly can be done in practical terms to restore the original intent and scope of the Week of solidarity as an important carrier of decolonization message to the international community.

Certainly, we must be realistic. It seems, given the current international climate and expressed priorities of the Organization, that it would be impossible to return the Week to its original scope and glory. To reverse the negative trend of the past two decades, the Special Committee, perhaps, should initiate small gradual steps intended to comply with the provisions of resolution 2011 (XXVII), especially its operative paragraph 2, in the sense of closely tying the activities of

the Week of solidarity to the overall strategy of the outreach activities of the Special Committee at all levels envisaged by the Plan of action. The most recent General Assembly resolution on the dissemination of information on decolonization provides an important guidance in this regard.

Against that background, I would like to propose below some recommendations for the consideration of the Special Committee, and it should be understood that these activities may have a much wider impact at all levels envisaged for the outreach activities of the Special

Solidarity, as well as other relevant information to ensure that the media adequately covers the issue of decolonization. Such kit, in both print and electronic form, may be distributed to the local media in the country hosting the annual decolonization seminar. All publications that can be used to compile such a kit, are already available. I should ~~make a full disclosure that even though many delegations remember me as the former~~

Secretary of the Committee, I was, in my prior UN life a former staff member of DPA. I also started my career in the UN Secretariat as an Associate Information Officer. So I

decolonization<sup>11</sup>. Upon the General Assembly's adoption of such a paragraph by way of reference in the Committee report, it becomes an official mandate of the Committee to

participants in such operations. The Committee Chairman/Co-Chairman and the UN



listed above. It seems that most of these activities may not have financial implications as they

with the Department of Public Information.

As a footnote, I would like to note that the press releases prepared by our colleague from DPI at this particular seminar serve as an invaluable source of the proceedings of the seminar. The report of the seminar may not report, due to space constraints, all that is happening in the room and reports of the UN press officer fill this void more than adequately.

Above everything else, the Special Committee should take every step to prevent any reduction of its budget, which would definitely curtail its potential to undertake the outreach activities