

Statement by H.E. Oleksiy Shovkoplias, Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations (29 April 2003)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Shashi Tharoor for his valuable statement of April 28 on the progress of reforming the Department of Public Information (DPI), and to

currently in the process of carrying out a very important exercise aimed at strengthening an understanding of the Organization's work and building broad-based global support for it in an ever-changing information environment. This is indeed a difficult and complex task, which

right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference to seek, receive and import information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers".

Today Ukraine attaches great importance to taking the necessary measures to protect journalists, in particular those covering the situations in the conflict zones and in the regions of social and military tension. We believe that consideration of measures aimed at prevention of attacks against journalists in circumstances of armed conflicts, should be put in proper place on the future agenda of the Committee.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we of course understand that realistically all DPI's goals of improving its activities cannot be achieved overnight, and the department should be