

Statement by Mr. David A. Traystman, Advisor, Representative of the Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations (27 April 2004)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States extends its appreciation to the Chairman of the Committee and the other members of the bureau for their continuing efforts. The United States welcomes Mr. Tharoor's informative statement of April 26th and would like to thank him for his able leadership of the Department. My delegation also commends all members of DPI for their hard work during this past very busy year. I pledge United States support for the Department's efforts. My delegation looks forward to working with all members of this committee in a constructive manner as we consider the important issues before us.

My delegation would like to recognize Madame Therese Gastaut, the Director of DPI's Strategic Communications Division and the Secretary of the American Civil Liberties Union, for their work in the press, enshr

We strongly believe that a free press is fundamental for true democracy. For this particular body — the Committee on Information — it is important that we recall the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' affirmation in Article 19 that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." I commend all members of this committee, the statement delivered by Under-Secretary-General Tharoor in the Second Committee on October 23rd of last year in which he said that "Secretary-

way towards improving coordination of UN libraries. Now that the Steering Committee has completed its organizational phase, we look forward to the achievement of concrete results which will enable UN system libraries to more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of their diverse clientele. Although we are impressed with the wide range of subjects being considered by the Steering Committee and its subcommittees, we note that the report does not refer to the setting of deadlines or to the establishment of timeframes. My delegation would like to ask how the Steering Committee will ensure that its program of work will be pursued in a timely manner.

On the question of the regionalization of the UN Information Centre (UNIC) system, we commend Mr. Tharoor and the States members of the European Union for reaching an

