



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/33/389
24 November 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-third session
Agenda item 47

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Production of a United Nations film on wars and
and their consequences

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51 (General and complete disarmament), the First Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Publication of a disarmament periodical" (A/C.1/32/L.13). 1/ The delegation of Saudi Arabia submitted amendments (A/C.1/32/L.15) 2/ to the draft resolution whereby the Assembly would recommend:

"that consideration be given to the making of a United Nations film candidly portraying the vast devastation wrought by the last World War and subsequent wars, and also highlighting the human tragedies and untold miseries brought about as a consequence of these wars, so that such a United Nations film could be shown in schools and universities and on television all over the world with the hope of creating a genuine aversion to all wars in the future".

As recorded in the report of the First Committee, the amendments were not put to the vote "on the understanding that the Office of Public Information would undertake preparatory research work on the project and the Secretary-General would report at the next regular session of the General Assembly on the feasibility of making such a film". 3/

2. In pursuance of that understanding the Secretary-General instructed the Office

1/ Adopted as General Assembly resolution 32/87 E.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Annexes, agenda items 33, 34, 38 to 49 and 51 to 53, document A/32/380, para. 8.

3/ Ibid., para. 16.

of Public Information to survey the possibilities of producing a United Nations film as proposed in the Saudi Arabian amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/32/L.13.

3. The Office of Public Information conducted a survey of the field of anti-war films from the beginning of cinematography to the present day. It concluded that this topic, namely the horrors engendered by armed conflict, was one which from the earliest days had caught the attention of film makers. With the spread of television following the Second World War, the new medium became a principal vehicle for the dissemination of such anti-war films. This vast accumulation of cinematographic footage depicting the misery and destruction caused by conflicts of the twentieth century is stored in national and private archives around the world.
4. The Office of Public Information could produce a film on the horrors of war, as suggested in the Saudi Arabian amendments. This would be a major undertaking aimed at a world-wide audience, with emphasis on youth. The film would be done in co-operation with an external film-producer of established reputation.
5. If the General Assembly decides that such a film should be produced, the Office of Public Information would be ready to make a 60-minute-long documentary intended primarily for television and, later on, shorter versions for distribution to educational establishments and non-governmental organizations.
