

TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES



"UNITED NATIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE"

Video, colour, 22 mins. 29 secs.

The United Nations touches our lives in a myriad of ways, from peacekeeping and development to rules for telecommunications and standards for health and environment.

How does the UN touch your life and mine?

"United Nations for a Better Future" is a fast-paced look at the work of the world organization now in its fifth decade. Going to the field, talking to individuals and showing the impact of the Organization on their daily lives, the programme describes the wide spectrum of UN activities all over the globe.

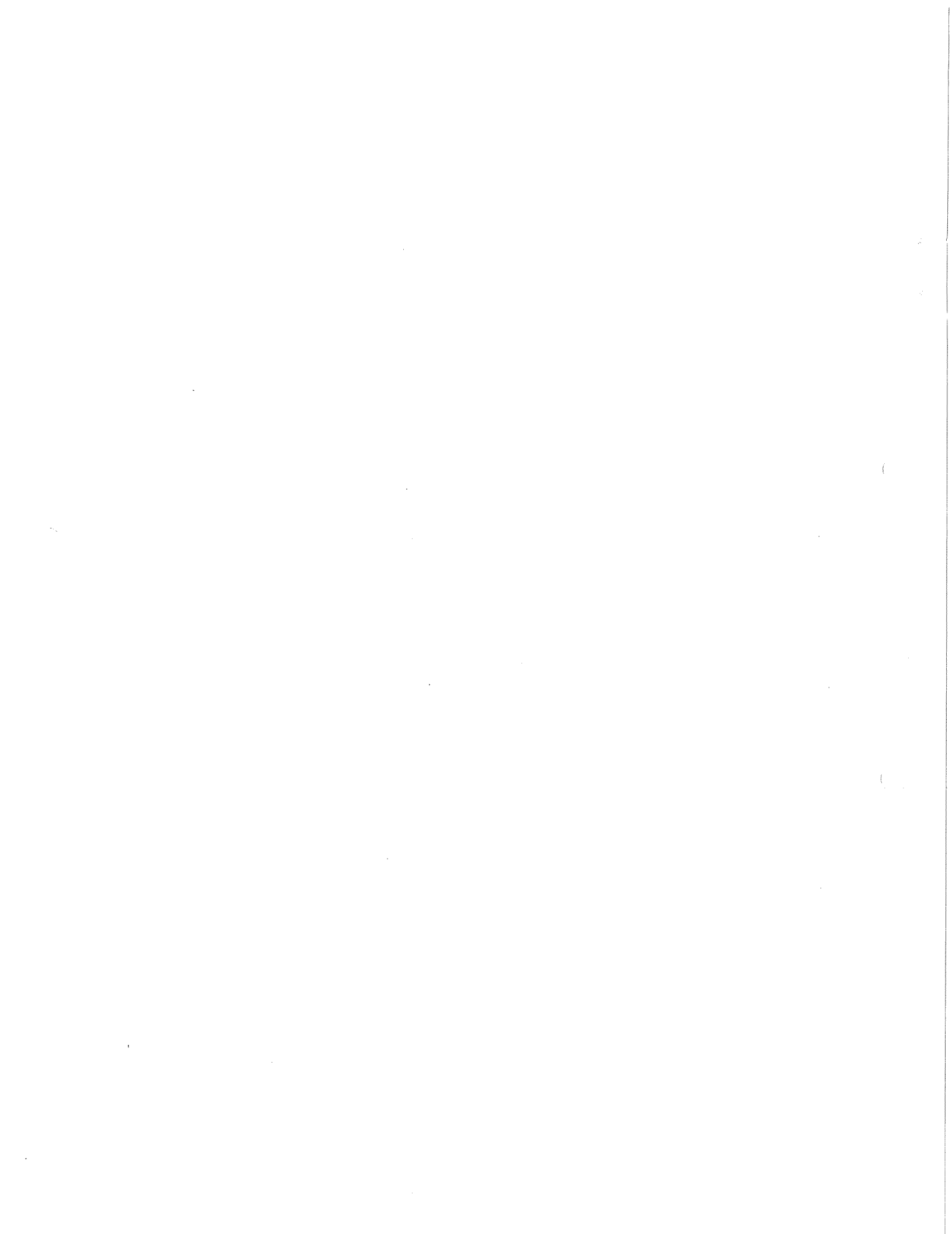
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UNITED NATIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

(22'29")

CUM.

TIME

VIDEO

AUDIO

NARRATION

00:00

FAMILY IN FIELD; FACTORY
WORKER, CHINESE CHILDREN;
ARAB WOMEN IN LAB; MANDELA
ADDRESSING CROWD;
PROCESSING FISH; AFRICAN
MAN

A family in Cyprus; a worker in Texas;
children in Asia. Many places, many
people, many lives. They don't know
each other. They will probably never
meet. But they share so much in
common with all of us. (28")

00:31

STING PERFORMING

00:37

AFRICANS AT SOCCER MATCH

At work, at play, we cherish a hope
for prosperity and happiness, and
above all for peace. (8")

00:47 THE BALL IN THE AIR There is a place on our planet, by
TRANSFORMS INTO THE GLOBE the East River in New York City,
CLOSER, CLOSER, MANHATTAN, where the pieces of all our destinies
THE UN fit into place. (7")

01:01 THE JIGSAW PIECES WITH FACES
ON EACH ARE DROPPED INTO
POSITION. THEY TURN OVER
ONE BY ONE AND FORM HQ
SEEN FROM QUEENS

01:15 SUPER TITLE OVER W/S
OF UN HEADQUARTERS:
UNITED NATIONS FOR A
BETTER FUTURE

01:27 DISSOLVE FROM WIDE SHOT Even if we know little of what goes on
TO AERIAL SHOT OF UNHQ here, it has a direct impact on the
daily lives of all of us. (5")

01:40 IN ONE PIECE OF THE HQ Take a simple thing like sending a
JIGSAW A LETTER IS BEING letter to a foreign country. It's
MAILED. IN ANOTHER JIGSAW only possible because people sat down
PIECE IT'S BEING SORTED and agreed to rules. In this, as in
so many other aspects of human
affairs, nation must talk to nation.
(8")

01:47	ONE JIGSAW PIECE ZOOMING OUT DISSOLVE INTO EMPTY FLAGPOLES	This was the spirit that lay behind the founding of the United Nations at the end of the Second World War.
		(5")
01:50	RAISING FLAGS	The founding nations sought to build a new and better world, where disputes could be settled by peaceful means. A place where nations could agree on how to share the bounty of our Earth more fairly.
		(10")
02:01	SECURITY GUARDS PUTTING UP FLAGS OUTSIDE HQ; DISSOLVE TO UN FLAG. THE JIGSAW PIECES WITH ACTION COMING UP ONE BY ONE	To this end, the founders wrote a charter setting out the aims of the United Nations. They gave it a structure made up of six principal organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Economic and Social Council, which co-ordinates the activities of a whole family of independent UN agencies.
		(30")

02:18 GA JIGSAW PIECE ZOOM THROUGH Today, almost all nations on earth
 IT INTO THE HALL meet in the General Assembly. They
 do so on the basis of sovereign
 equality, with each country, large or
 small, rich or poor, having one
02:52 DELEGATES VOTING vote. The Assembly is not a world
 parliament. It does not have the
 power to make countries abide
02:57 C/U OF RESULTS OF VOTES by its decisions. But, backed by the
 weight of world opinion, it's a place
03:04 DELEGATES PUTTING ON where countries with similar
 EARPHONES interests on a wide range of issues
 can group together to make their
 views heard. (17")

03:07 INTERPRETERS In this hall, thousands of
 resolutions, treaties and conventions
 have been agreed upon. The debates
 here -- the town meeting of the world
 -- have broadened all our horizons
 and set new standards to be fought
 for: (13")

03:31 WINDOWS - WEAPONS FIRING
SOUTH AFRICANS; WOMAN
CARRYING CHILD ON BACK;
FARM MACHINERY

-- That no country should remain a colony or be occupied by force;
-- That apartheid is a crime;
-- That human rights are for all, including women and children;
-- And that everyone has a right to development, especially in the poorer parts of the world. (14")

03:46 PLOUGHING FIELD

This right to economic and social development is linked to all other rights. For development can only be achieved in a climate of justice and equality -- and most importantly, peace. Leading the world towards disarmament therefore, has been one of the major tasks of the Assembly.

03:58 DISMANTLING WEAPONS

(15")

04:04 SUBMARINE SURFACING

A single nuclear submarine can carry more explosive power than all the munitions used in history. We devote more than one thousand billion dollars a year to armaments. In just six hours we spend on weapons the same amount as it took to eradicate smallpox from the face of the Earth.

04:23 MISSILE BEING LAUNCHED
FROM SUBMARINE

It's a matter of choice. For it is becoming more and more difficult to afford both the current arms race -- and development. It is a message that increasingly is being understood.

(28")

04:30 MILITARY VEHICLES IN
RED SQUARE; RUSSIAN
FACTORY

This factory in the Soviet Union used to make only missiles, now the same machinery and workers are converting to the manufacture of children's bicycles. If we're to afford our future, the arms industry everywhere must turn toward peaceful products.

(15")

04:53 MISSILES BEING DECOMMISSIONED

These technicians in Texas are de-commissioning missiles banned by super-power agreements.

The UN's role has been to keep the world focussed on the madness of the arms race. (10")

The General Assembly has done this in a number of ways. (3")

05:18 IAEA INSPECTION

Most Member States have signed treaties to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. And to allow a United Nations Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, to inspect nuclear plants all over the world, to verify that they are used only for peaceful purposes.

(16")

05:33 SUN LOW OVER WATER

There are agreements to ban nuclear tests on the sea bed -- and to ensure the peaceful uses of outer space.

(6")

05:44 PLANET FLY-BY

The UN system touches our lives in a myriad of ways. Information from spacecraft, for example, can be transmitted back to Earth undisturbed because of international rules allocating radio and television wavelengths and even some satellite orbits. (15")

06:01 REFUGEE CAMP

The Assembly, moreover, has declared that peace is a basic human right. But it's a right that's all too often lost for the innocent victims of conflict and upheaval. Standards of how we should treat each other are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (15")

06:19 NELSON MANDELA

The Declaration has inspired the struggle for human rights in many parts of the world. In South Africa where the UN has steadfastly opposed Apartheid. (8")

06:30 ARAB WOMEN

In the lives of ordinary people everywhere, where the ideals agreed upon have provided goals for men -- and especially women -- in nations rich and poor. (10")

06:40 CHINESE CHILDREN

There is a special declaration for the rights of children. A global set of rules that says children should be raised in a spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom and equality. (10")

06:53 DRUG BUST

Egypt, as part of its fight against drugs, has ratified a UN convention to prevent trafficking in narcotics. (7")

07:06 MAMDOH FARID AHWAD

VOICE-OVER - TRANSLATION FROM ARABIC

"My name is Mamdoh Farid Ahwad. I'm 38 years old and a ship's captain. I was accused of drug smuggling and sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour." (12")

NARRATION

- 07:18 AHWAD AND OTHER PRISONERS Human rights apply to Mamdoh Farid Ahwad too. Along with other prisoners in this Cairo jail, he was entitled to a fair trial, and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. The minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners are laid down by United Nations agreements. (16")
- 07:40 BOAT REFUGEES Ensuring that these people get their human rights is a more challenging task. Many basic rights are still denied to millions of people drifting around the world. (8")
- 07:49 WOMAN IN CAMP The UN works for the right of political refugees to have asylum. And the Refugee Agency, UNHCR, makes life in the camps bearable and helps refugees leave the camps and settle in host countries. (13")

08:09 PALESTINIANS

In the Middle East, Palestinians are provided with some of their essential needs by a special UN relief agency. It helps young Palestinians, like Dina Kamal Sabah, have a future.

(11")

08:22 DINA KAMAL SABAH

VOICE-OVER - TRANSLATION FROM ARABIC

"The certificate I get here will help me serve my people. There is a great need for the specializations we are studying."

(6")

08:30 AFRICAN REFUGEES

NARRATION

There are refugees on all continents. Tens of millions of them. One of the main reasons for this global tide of refugees is the effect of wars.

(9")

08:48 SC JIGSAW PIECE COMING UP,
ZOOM THROUGH TO SC HALL

Keeping the peace is therefore a major responsibility of the UN -- and the main job of the Security Council.

(6")

It has 15 members. Five of these -- China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States -- have permanent seats -- and the right of veto. If even one of them votes "No", the resolution is defeated. The other 10 members -- from the principal regions of the world -- are elected by the Assembly for two-year terms. (21")

The Charter gives the Security Council the power to make binding decisions if peace is at stake. And it may even order sanctions -- such as blockades, or even armed intervention -- to halt acts of aggression. (11")

09:29 FRONT PAGES AND PHOTOS

In most cases it has acted -- with the consent of the parties involved. The aim is to help nations end military conflicts -- by providing the tools needed to make a ceasefire possible. (11")

- 09:54 UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES Most important of these tools -- the peacekeeping forces. Soldiers under UN command, they can supervise a truce, help prevent the renewal of fighting and encourage the return to normal conditions. (11")
- 10:07 The blue helmets may be armed with light weapons which can only be used in self-defence. They have served in Africa, in the Middle East, in Central America, in Asia. More than a hundred countries have contributed soldiers and civilians to peacekeeping forces. (15")
- 10:20 CYPRIOT FARMER AND UN SOLDIERS A farm in Cyprus. Austrians from the UN Force there stop to chat with a farmer during one of their regular patrols. The peacekeepers are a stabilizing factor. It's reassuring for Loucas Hadjianacou to have them around when he goes to his fields in the UN controlled buffer zone that divides the Turkish and Greek communities on the island. (22")

VOICE-OVER - TRANSLATION FROM GREEK

10:48 LOUCAS HADJIANACOU

"When I go to work in the Buffer Zone knowing the U.N. soldiers are there I do so with a light heart. I feel secure." (8")

NARRATION

11:02 UN SOLDIER PLACING UN LOGO
ON VEHICLE

Peacekeeping is a highly visible job. Less publicized is peacemaking, the painstaking, behind the scenes work of quiet diplomacy that seldom makes headlines. The UN seeks to prevent fighting before it breaks out -- or to see whether contending parties are ready to end hostilities.

(17")

11:20

The Security Council may call for negotiations to resolve differences. Or the Secretary-General may use his "good offices" to settle disputes.

(8")

11:30 SG IN SECURITY COUNCIL

The Secretary-General. The main diplomatic figure of the UN, with almost unlimited responsibilities -- but very little practical power. It has been called the most impossible job in the world. (12")

11:43 COLLAGE

Scarcely a day passes without appeals for assistance from all parts of the world. Often a quiet approach in the right quarter can be of help. (7")

ON CAMERA

12:11 UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR

"The two leaders expressed their willingness to meet without any preconditions and to attempt ..."

(8")

NARRATION

12:16	TAGGING LUGGAGE AIRPLANES	Whether it's for the Secretary-General travelling on a mission of peace -- or tourists going on holiday -- it is worth remembering that aircraft fly safely because of international co-operation on safety and navigation. Even the place names on the world's maps are standardized by a United Nations body. (23")
12:48	PUZZLE TRANSITION	There are many responsibilities of the UN system that never get the
12:52	PAN UP SECRETARIAT	limelight. The Secretariat of the United Nations carries out much of this anonymous work. (8")
12:55	SECURITY GUARDS AT ENTRANCE	Another major responsibility of the Secretary-General. It's an army of international civil servants -- men and women -- drawn from all countries who keep the wheels of international
13:08	STAFF ENTERING REVOLVING DOORS	co-operation turning. (11")

13:14 JOSE CAMPERO AND WIFE

The Campero family are Namibians. Almost the whole United Nations system had a part in making it possible for their country to make a peaceful transition to independence, and to become a sovereign state.

(11")

In recognition of this historic event Jose Campero and his wife decided to name their infant son Nalimanguluke which means "Namibia must be free".

(10")

ON CAMERA

13:41 JOSE CAMPERO

"So it means that when he grows up the name will remind him that he was born when Namibia was still under the colonial regime of South Africa."

(10")

NARRATION

13:53 NAMIBIAN STREETS

When the UN was founded, a quarter of mankind was still under colonial rule.

(4")

13:55 THE TRUSTEESHIP JIGSAW PIECE
ZOOM THROUGH IT AND IN TO
THE HALL

The Trusteeship Council is the centrepiece of United Nations efforts that have guided colonial territories to independence.

Along with other UN bodies dealing with decolonization, it has virtually put itself out of business. The fact that more than 100 new nations have joined the UN since its founding, is testimony to a remarkable page in recent history. (25")

14:29 NAMIBIAN LANDSCAPE

In Namibia's case, South Africa had refused to place the territory under the Trusteeship Council. After years of diplomatic efforts, it accepted the UN plan by which Namibia would

14:50 UN OFFICIALS

become independent. An international group made up of more than 120 nationalities successfully monitored free and fair elections. (22")

14:58	SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY VEHICLES	UN military observers, monitored the withdrawal of South African troops, an effective end to a decades-long
15:07	LINES - VOTING	war. UN police and civilians watched over the registration of voters, and the polling itself. This unique international effort made possible a peaceful transition from war to independence.
15:18	RAISING NAMIBIAN FLAG	And the Namibian flag could fly outside the UN Headquarters as the new country celebrated. (24")
15:22	FIREWORKS	
15:24	JIGSAW PIECE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN OVER THE FLAG. ZOOM THROUGH IT INTO THE HALL	Another major UN body involved in Namibia's independence was the International Court of Justice, which had ruled that South Africa's presence in Namibia was illegal. The Court, of 15 judges from
15:50	COURT	different countries, sits in the Hague in the Netherlands. The judges are elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council for nine-year terms. (20")

15:47

Countries may agree in advance to accept the Court's jurisdiction and bring legal disputes before it. The Court embodies the hope of the founders that conflicts can be settled on the basis of international law. (10")

16:03 ICELANDIC BOATS

The Court ruled, for example, that the potentially violent dispute that threatened the livelihood of North Sea fishermen should be settled peacefully. Known as the Cod War it had brought Iceland on a collision course with countries wanting to fish off its coast. (16")

16:28 PROCESSING COD

At stake was the life of a community as Gudrun Sigurdsdottir explains. (4")

VOICE-OVER - TRANSLATION FROM
ICELANDIC

16:35 GUDRUN SIGURSDOTTIR

"International attention was absolutely vital to us in Iceland. Here, most of the population is solely dependent on fishing." (8")

16:45 FISHERMEN IN BOATS

The seas and oceans themselves are another area where the reach of law is being extended through the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. (7")

There are few human activities that are not reflected in the work of the United Nations. (5")

17:01 THE PUZZLE - THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

The task of dealing with pressing economic and social problems, particularly in the Third World, accounts for 80 percent of U.N. resources. This work is co-ordinated by the Economic and Social Council.

(14")

- 17:30 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL The Council supervises the specialized agencies and other programmes, which taken together are known as the UN family. Many, like UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund, and WHO, the World Health Organization, are household names. Others are less well known, but are equally important in their own spheres. (18")
- 17:40 LOGOS SUPERIMPOSED
- 17:51 WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE ANDES Their common aim is to fight poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance by encouraging international co-operation and to assist poor countries by helping them to stand on their own feet. (11")
- 18:06 BUILDING BAMBOO HOUSE In Costa Rica, UN agencies have encouraged the use of fast-growing bamboo to build houses. It means less logging of the precious tropical rain forest. When it's plastered and painted this will be an affordable new house for Margarita Lazaro. (18")

VOICE-OVER - TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH

18:26 MARGARITA LAZARO

"Now I am looking forward to winter and we are very happy because we know we won't get wet." (6")

NARRATION

18:38 MINING

The UN family includes institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund which play a central role in the global financial system. It includes the UN Development Programme, a major provider of technical assistance to developing countries. (15")

18:53 FACTORY

From telecommunications to health standards, from shipping regulations to trade agreements, the UN system is a vital part of what keeps the modern world working. (9")

19:13 COFFEE FARMER IN KENYA

Take what happens when trade agreements break down. This affects countries burdened by foreign debt and the lives of individuals like Elijah Mutonga. (9")

VOICE-OVER - TRANSLATION FROM SWAHILI

19:22 ELLJAH MUTONGA

"Because coffee prices collapsed,
I've had to start over again with
another crop to support my family."

(6")

NARRATION

19:35 INDUSTRY

Or what about the choice between jobs
and a clean environment. Poland is
just one nation facing this dilemma.

19:40 POLISH FACTORIES

(7")

19:45 POLISH FACTORY WORKER

Factory worker Marek Janowsky is
worried.

(2")

VOICE-OVER - TRANSLATION FROM POLISH

19:47 MAREK JANOWSKY

"Ecologists and specialists must find
an answer to these problems right
away."

(5")

NARRATION

19:53 POLLUTION

Nowhere is the need for common action more urgent than on environmental issues. Increasingly, we are all becoming aware that development, be it in rich or poor communities, must not be at the expense of the water, air and biological resources that we all depend upon. (15")

20:08 RAIN FOREST

The UN Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization are monitoring the impact of human activity on the global climate system. To help us find a sustainable path to the future. (11")

ON CAMERA

20:29 STING

"An Indian chief once told me when the rivers die, when the forests die, so does the earth. And when the earth dies, we all die." (10")

NARRATION

20:37 STING PERFORMING

It's no wonder that international stars like Sting have taken up the environmental cause. (4")

21:03

And it's worth noting that when this song or any other music is played on television or on the radio, the copyright is protected by a UN convention guarding intellectual properties. (12")

21:03 JIGSAW PIECE WITH ALL THE
PIECES COMING UP

The United Nations: The Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, the Trusteeship Council, the Secretariat, the Security Council and the General Assembly Six pieces in the work of solving the puzzle of our shared future. But it's a puzzle that will never be solved unless we all, young and old, play our part. (25")

21:20 VISITORS IN PUBLIC LOBBY
OF UN HEADQUARTERS

21:32 TURNING OVER INTO HQ IN
 SUNSET, NIGHT, SUNRISE

So we can agree on a whole lot more than just how to send a letter. Our need to work together, to imagine our future together, is a practical response to the accelerating interdependence of the world. (12")

21:44

If the U.N. was not already here, working around the clock, somebody would have to invent it. (5")

21:53 END CREDITS OVER PICTURE

22:29 LAST FRAME

