Statement by H. E. Mr. Stafford Neil, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, and Chairman of the Group of 77 (18 April 2005)

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China congratulates you on your election to the Chairmanship of this twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Information. The Group also wishes to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election.

The Group of 77 and China also thanks the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, Ambassador Iftekhar Chowdhury, for his leadership and guidance of the work of this Committee during its previous two sessions.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group appreciates the detailed and informative presentation made this morning by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Mr. Shashi Tharoor, who has provided a useful account of the work undertaken by the Department and the challenges it has faced over the past year. The Under-Secretary-General and his staff have made worthwhile efforts to ensure that the Department of Public Information remains alert to the changing needs in developing the communications strategy of the **BegaeisstiontBeta**iled in the report by the Sec

reorientation of the Department of Public Information (A/AC.198/2005/2), the Department has had to mobilise considerable resources in order to counter this negative publicity on the United Nations. While the Organisation should not be shielded from justified criticism, it is regrettable that this type of adverse publicity has overshadowed the other positive areas of work of the United Nations.

We are of the view that the DPI has an indispensable role in promoting a positive public image of the United Nations. The work of the DPI in this area should continue to be carried out in all Member States, particularly in the media of the host country. This is especially important for this year of major United Nations activities. Some positive work has already been done including in the provision of proactive outreach efforts in the wake of the devastating tsunami which occurred on 26 December 2004. The DPI should continue to build on this approach in promoting the positive message of the United Nations.

In spite of these additional challenges encountered by the Department, we are pleased that the DPI has maintained its regular programme and has continued to focus on the promotion of the goals and the objectives of the Millennium Declaration and on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and on issues of developmental priority such as the eradication of poverty, conflict prevention, sustainable development, HIV/AIDS, the needs of

innovations for the provision of Library Services should take into account the physical and other challenges faced by Member States in being able to effectively utilise such technology.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, allow me to assure you of the intention of the G77 and China to work constructively with other regional groupings in order to achieve a positive outcome of this session of the Committee on Information. Above all, we are reminded that the work of this Committee should be dedicated to ensuring that the DPI is made stronger and more effective so as to allow it to properly disseminate the messages of the United Nations.

Thank you.