

# USA may review withdrawal decision

**T**HE White House has said that it is prepared to review its decision to withdraw from Unesco. In a confidential memorandum to the Secretary of State – a copy of which has been leaked – the National Security Advisor, Robert McFarlane, told Mr Shultz that President Reagan's decision "was made with reluctance".

The memorandum said that Mr Reagan recognised "the original worthwhile goals of Unesco" and added that "he is prepared to review the decision to withdraw should concrete changes materialise."

Mr McFarlane told Mr Shultz that "the President wishes us to continue to expend every effort to effect meaningful changes over the next year... in pursuing the effort he wishes you to consider significant

upgrading of our representation at Unesco".

The memorandum instructed the State Department to appoint "a panel consisting of senior representatives of the academic community, the media, and the corporate world to advise us over the next year."

The tone of the White House message is in sharp contrast with that of documents prepared by the State Department's Bureau of International Organisations and by its head, Gregory Newell. A confidential "balance sheet of benefits" drawn up by the bureau has also been leaked to Britain's *Guardian* newspaper.

It accompanied the Assistant Secretary's classified "action memorandum" to Mr Shultz, in which he proposed withdrawal from Unesco. One of the balance sheets describes the Unesco education programme as an "infusion of statist, collectivist, and anti-democratic ideology."

## Best work

By contrast, the expert study submitted to the State Department by the Department of Education and by various US professional education organisations commented that "Unesco has done some of its best work in this sector, particularly in its illiteracy and teacher-training programmes. The US has supported a majority of Unesco's education activities since its creation and the US education community has authored many important Unesco education programmes."

President Yuri Andropov of the USSR in

his first reaction to Washington's decision to withdraw, accused the White House of viewing the world as "its sovereign possession" shortly before he died.

Tass reported that Mr Andropov, in a letter to Unesco's director-general Mahtar M'Bow, said that unlike the United States, the Soviet Union supports the charter of the United Nations and its cultural organisation, Unesco.

US officials say that the organisation has become increasingly politicised, is mismanaged and allows little input from the more industrialised nations. The United States and Western news organisations have also protested at the agency's proposed New World Information and Communication Order.

The Tass report on the letter was one of the rare public comments from the ailing 69-year-old leader. Mr Andropov had not been seen in public since August 18 when he met with a group of US Senators. He last issued an official statement on January 24 when he responded to a call by President Reagan for Soviet-US dialogue.

● A Unesco spokesman has said that his organisation had an unfavourable image because the press played up stories of internal disagreement.

Dilep Padgaonkar, deputy director of public information, said at a news conference that Unesco had a great deal of attention from the media in past weeks but this concentrated on conflicts rather than successes.

*Compiled from reports by:  
Harold Jackson of The  
Guardian and the  
Associated Press*

# IPI General Assembly Stockholm, June 10-13 1984

## Provisional Programme:

### ● MONDAY, JUNE 11

**AM: Official Opening at Stockholm's Concert Hall**

**PM: Panel Session – Disarmament and Security: The Vital Issue of Today – The Need for Public Discussion**

**Speakers: Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme; Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez**

### ● TUESDAY, JUNE 12

**AM: Panel Session – The Rich and the Poor: Reporting the Real Issues**

**Speaker: UN Commissioner for Refugees, Poul Hartling**

**PM: Developments on Unesco**

**Panel Session – Survival of the Press: Sweden the Model of Press Subsidies**

### ● WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

**AM: Panel Session – The New Media: The Challenge of Colour, Cable and Satellites**

**PM: Reception by His Majesty King Gustaf XVI and Queen Silvia**

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Accommodation has been reserved at the Grand Hotel and at the nearby Sheraton-Stockholm Hotel. Both hotels are five-star, with a wide choice of well-appointed rooms and suites.

IPI's London Secretariat has booking forms.

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For an up-to-date list of events, post-assembly tours and booking forms, please contact: International Press Institute, London Secretariat, Dilke House, 1 Malet Street, London WC1E 7JA. Tel: 01-6360703. Telex: 25950. Cables: Pressint London WC1.