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# Letters

## *Disputing the presence of spies in the U.N.'s DPI*

The March 12 editorial, "Let us help you," gives far more credence to the most recent Heritage Foundation diatribe against the United Nations than it deserves.

The assertion by Mr. Shevchenko, a former U.N. official, that the entire Department of Public Information (DPI) of the U.N. is a part of "a Soviet disinformation campaign" scarcely bears serious attention.

The DPI's work includes preparing press releases on meetings and the events at the U.N., releases which are used extensively by delegations as well as by the press; such publications as the *Yearbook of the U.N.* and the monthly

*Chronicle*, which report on the organization's activities. Where DPI programs focus on the political side of the U.N., they are based on resolutions approved by the General Assembly and Security Council, which govern DPI's activities.

As to the charge that the "top Soviet diplomat in the department is a KGB colonel," you should be aware that the secretary-general of the United Nations has repeatedly stated that if any member state has evidence that a U.N. staff member is violating his oath of office by engaging in forbidden activities, he invites them to present that evidence to him and he will take appropriate action. To date, no such evi-

dence has been presented to the secretary-general.

In future editorials on the U.N., perhaps you could give both sides of the story rather than relying exclusively on the biased and inaccurate reports of the Heritage Foundation. For example, you made no mention of our lengthy rebuttal to the Heritage Foundation report. We in the DPI are always ready to supply you and your readers with all the necessary facts and information about our work and about any U.N. activities which interest you.

**YASUSHI AKASHI**

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