

UNDP NEWS



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TURNING THE CORNER

UNDP had turned the corner "of the most prolonged and perhaps the most difficult funding problems in its history" and now looked forward to "a process of growth and renewal," Administrator Morse told the General Assembly's Second Committee on 22 November when reporting on Programme activities and the results of the 8-9 November Pledging Conference. Central Programme resources for 1984 were now estimated at US \$692 million, up 4.5% on 1983.

Twenty-four countries—23 of them developing—had met or exceeded the 14% growth target in US dollar terms. While a number of countries had yet to announce their pledges, the United States had approved a \$160 million contribution since the Pledging Conference, up 14.3% from last year, while India had increased its pledge to US \$7.5 million, up 7%. (More details next issue.)



Photo: Michael Schwartz

The Scots are a stubborn people and BPPE's Sandy Davidson is no exception. Felled by a stroke, Sandy took up jogging as part of his rehabilitation programme. But let him tell you himself. . .

"Yes! As proclaimed by the sticker fixed to my office door by my fan club, I did run the New York Marathon. Well, I don't exactly manage to run yet, but hobble along on my 'racing cane' at a brisk shuffle. 26.2 miles in 10 hours, 14 minutes, 57 seconds seems fairly satisfactory to me, working out at 2.55 miles per hour or 23 minutes 28 seconds per mile.

"Like the other handicapped runners I was given several hours start on the main pack. At 4:30 a.m., accompanied by my wife and a friend, I set off from the starting point, the toll plaza on Staten Island. Soon we were three

tiny figures like flies in the vast web of steel and concrete of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Once across and in Brooklyn, we followed the blue line painted on the roadway which marked the official route. At intersections my companions would stop traffic to let me cross, leaving a trail of indignant motorists behind us. From time to time we fielded questions from curious early pedestrians: 'Are you in the Marathon?' 'Is he going to go all the way?' To which we had a standard reply: 'Yes, but don't worry, there will be another 16,000 along soon.' "

Photo shows Sandy and his wife Wilma coming up Manhattan's First Avenue.