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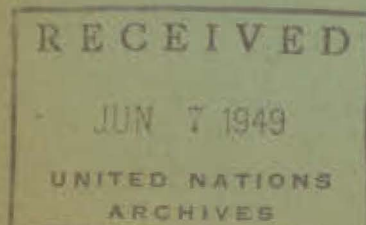
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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND OF THE PRESS  
Third session

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS IN THE FIELD  
OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Memorandum by the Secretary-General



/INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

1. According to the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press (resolution 197 (VIII) of the Economic and Social Council) it may "study and make reports as well as recommendations to the [Economic and Social] Council" on inter alia "the operation of any inter-governmental agreements" and "the conclusion or improvement of inter-governmental agreements in the field of freedom of information".
2. The Secretary-General has prepared this list of inter-governmental agreements in the field of freedom of information in order to acquaint the Sub-Commission with the types of existing agreements. The list may prove of assistance to the Sub-Commission in deciding what further lists and studies it wishes prepared in accordance with its programme of work, (See item I, studies on the operation of conventions, document E/CN.4/Sub.1/68/Rev.1.).
3. The list is not exhaustive. It does not include, for example, agreements concerning postal services and telecommunications since a list of these is to be found in Chapter 7 of the "List of Multilateral Conventions, Agreements, etc. Relating to Transport and Communications Questions" published by the United Nations in 1948. Nor does it include the draft conventions on Freedom of Information (Geneva, 1948) or the convention adopted by the General Assembly in its third session (A/876).



PART I  
LIST OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS  
IN THE FIELD OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A. Agreements Concerning Cultural Relations in General

(a) Multilateral agreements

1. Agreement concluded between the French Government and the League of Nations concerning the foundation and maintenance of an International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation, 8 December 1924, Official Journal of the League of Nations, No. 2, 1925, pages 157 and 285-289.
2. International Act Concerning Intellectual Co-operation, Paris, 1938. League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CC., page 249.
3. Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. London, 16 November 1945. United Nations Treaty Series Vol. 4, page 275.
4. Treaty of Economic, Social and Cultural Collaboration and Collective Self-Defense between Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands and the United Kingdom (Brussels Pact). Brussels, 17 March 1948. British Parliamentary Papers, Misc. No. 2 (1948), Cmd. 7367.

(b) Bilateral agreements

5. Convention between Estonia and Finland concerning intellectual co-operation between the two countries. Helsinki, 1 December 1937. League of Nations Treaty Series CLXXXVII, page 413.
6. Protocol regarding intellectual co-operation between Finland and Poland, Warsaw, 14 February 1938. League of Nations Treaty Series CXCI, page 175.
7. Agreement regarding intellectual and artistic relations between France and Greece. Athens, 19 December 1938. League of Nations Treaty Series CXCVI, page 99.
8. Agreement for the development of intellectual relations between France and Roumania, Bucharest, 31 March 1939. League of Nations Treaty Series, CXCI, page 213.
9. Exchange of Notes between Brazil and Canada, Constituting an Agreement for the Promotion of Cultural Relations between the two Countries, Rio de Janeiro, 24 May 1944. Canada Treaty Series 1944/15.
10. Convention on Cultural Collaboration between Poland and Yugoslavia, Warsaw, 16 March 1946. United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 10, page 11.



11. Convention between Belgium and the United Kingdom for the promotion of Mutual Understanding of Intellectual, Artistic and Scientific Activities. Brussels, 17 April 1946.  
British Parliamentary Papers, Treaty Series No. 66 (1946).  
Cmd.7002.
12. Agreement concerning Cultural and Intellectual Relations between Belgium and the Netherlands. The Hague, 16 May 1946.  
Registered under No. 266 by the United Nations on 27 July 1948.
13. Convention concerning Intellectual Co-operation between France and Poland. Paris, 19 February 1947.  
Registered under No. 181 by the United Nations on 23 January 1948.
14. Cultural Agreement between Austria and France. Vienna, 15 March 1947.  
Registered under No. 182 by the United Nations on 23 January 1948.
15. Cultural Convention between Brazil and the United Kingdom. Rio de Janeiro, 16 April 1947.  
British Parliamentary Papers, Brazil No. 1 (1947).
16. Cultural Convention between Czechoslovakia and the United Kingdom. London, 16 June 1947.  
British Parliamentary Papers, Czechoslovakia No. 1 (1947).
17. Agreement concerning Cultural Co-operation between Bulgaria and Poland. Warsaw, 28 June 1947.  
Registered under No. 230 by the United Nations on 2 June 1948.
18. Agreement concerning Cultural Co-operation between Czechoslovakia and Poland. Prague, 4 July 1947.  
Registered by the United Nations on 28 January 1949.
19. Agreement concerning Cultural Co-operation between Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Belgrade, 27 April 1947.  
Collection of Laws and Decrees of the Czechoslovak Republic, No. 155.
20. Agreement concerning Cultural Co-operation between Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. Sofia, 20 June 1947.  
Collection of Laws and Decrees of the Czechoslovak Republic, No. 148.
21. Agreement concerning Cultural Co-operation between Czechoslovakia and Roumania. Prague, 5 September 1947.  
Collection of Laws and Decrees of the Czechoslovak Republic, No. 149.
22. Cultural Agreement between Hungary and Poland. Budapest, 31 January 1948.  
Registered by the United Nations on 28 January 1949.



B. Exchange of Publications

(a) Multilateral agreements

23. Convention on Interchange of Publications, adopted by the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace. Buenos Aires, 23 December 1936.

League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CCI, page 295.

(b) Bilateral agreements

Agreements between the United States of America and several countries concerning exchange of official publications:

24. Peru, Lima 16 and 20 October 1936.

U.S. Executive Agreements Series 103.

25. Chile, Santiago 22 and 27 October 1937.

U.S. Executive Agreement Series 112.

26. Cuba, Havana, 4 and 12 May 1938.

U.S. Executive Agreement Series 123.

27. Mexico. Washington 3 June and 29 August 1938.

League of Nations Treaty Series Vol. CXCV, page 359.

28. Finland. Washington 28 and 30 December 1938.

League of Nations Treaty Series CXCV, page 419.

29. Estonia. Tallinn, 4 November 1939.

League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CXCVIII, page 361.

30. Argentina. Buenos Aires, 30 September and 17 October 1939.

League of Nations Treaty Series Vol. CCI, page 273.

31. Nicaragua. Managua, 11 October 1940.

League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CCIII, page 47.

32. Brazil. Washington, 15 and 24 June 1940.

League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CCIII, page 227.

33. Honduras. Tegucigalpa, 2 and 12 December 1941.

League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CCIII, page 341.

34. Haiti. Port-au-Prince, 29 May and 5 June 1941.

U.S. Executive Agreements Series 21.

35. El Salvador. San Salvador, 21 and 27 November 1941.

U.S. Executive Agreements Series 230.

36. Liberia. Monrovia, 15 January 1942.

U.S. Executive Agreements Series 239.

37. Bolivia. La Páz, 26 and 31 January 1942.

U.S. Executive Agreements Series 242.

38. Panama. Panama, 27 November 1941 and 7 March 1942.

U.S. Executive Agreements Series 243.

39. Iceland. Reykjavik, 17 August 1942.

U.S. Executive Agreements Series 269.

/40. Paraguay.



40. Paraguay. Asuncion, 26 and 28 November 1942.  
U.S. Executive Agreements Series 301.
41. Dominican Republic. Ciudad Trujillo, 9 and 10 December 1942.  
U.S. Executive Agreements Series 297.
42. Iran. Teheran, 21 August 1943.  
U.S. Executive Series 349.
43. Iraq. Baghdad, 16 February 1944.  
U.S. Executive Agreements Series 403.
44. Afghanistan. Kabul, 29 February 1944.  
U.S. Executive Agreements Series 418.
45. Guatemala. Guatemala, 23 March and 13 April 1944.  
U.S. Executive Agreements Series 412.
46. Siam. Bangkok, 5 September 1947.  
U.S. Treaties and other International Acts Series 1654.
47. Ecuador. Quito, 21 and 29 November 1947.  
U.S. Treaties and other International Acts Series 1668.
48. Sweden. Stockholm, 16 December 1947.  
U.S. Treaties and other International Acts Series 1688.
49. Norway. Oslo, 20 June 1947 and 15 March 1948.  
U.S. Treaties and other International Acts Series 1758.
50. Burma. Rangoon, 26 January and 5 April 1948.  
U.S. Treaties and other International Acts Series 1744.
51. Philippines. Manila, 12 April and 7 June 1948.  
U.S. Treaties and other International Acts Series 1767.

C. Obscene Publications

(a) Multilateral agreements

52. Agreement for the Suppression of Obscene Publications. Paris,  
4 May 1910.  
British and Foreign State Papers, Vo. 103, page 251.
53. International Convention for the Suppression of the Circulation  
of and Traffic in Obscene Publications. Opened for signature at  
Geneva on 12 September 1923.  
League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. XXVII, page 213.
54. Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Suppression  
of the Circulation of and Traffic in Obscene Publications Opened  
for signature on 12 September 1923 at Geneva.  
United Nations, Official Records of the Second Session of the  
General Assembly. Resolutions 16 September - 29 November 1947,  
page 36.



55. Protocol amending the Agreement for the Suppression of the Circulation of Obscene Publications, Signed at Paris on 4 May 1910. United Nations. Official Records of the Third Session of the General Assembly, Part I. Resolutions. 21 September - 12 December 1948, page 168.

D. Broadcasting

(a) Multilateral agreements

56. International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace. Geneva, 23 September 1936. League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CLXXXVI, page 301.

(b) Bilateral agreements

57. Agreement on Radio Broadcasting concluded between "Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas" and "Radio-diffusion francaise". Prague, 7 October 1947. Document E/CONF.6/18, page 113 ff.
58. Agreement on Co-operation concluded between the Polish and Yugoslav Broadcasting Systems. Belgrade, 20 October 1947. Document E/CONF.6/18, page 11 ff.
59. Agreement on Co-operation Concerning the Exchange of Programmes and Personnel signed by Hungary and Poland. Budapest, 23 October 1947. Document E/CONF.6/18, page 7 ff.

E. Films

(a) Multilateral agreements

60. Convention for Facilitating the International Circulation of Films of an Educational Character. Geneva, 11 October 1933. League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CLV, page 331.
61. Procès Verbal concerning the application of certain articles of the Convention of 11 October 1933, for Facilitating the International Circulation of Films of an Educational Character. Geneva, 12 September 1938. League of Nations Treaty Series Vol. CXCVIII, page 111.

(b) Bilateral agreements

62. Exchange of Notes between Czechoslovakia and the United States, an Agreement regarding Motion Picture films. Prague, 18 May 1938. League of Nations Treaty Series, Vol. CXCIX, page 355.
63. Agreement for Exchange of Films between the Denmark and the United Kingdom. Copenhagen, 7 February 1949. Information by the Permanent Delegation of Denmark to the United Nations.



## PART II

### PROVISIONS RELATING TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIST

#### A. Peace Treaties Concluded After the Second World War

1. The Peace Treaties concluded after the Second World War between the Allied and Associated Powers and Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, Roumania and Finland, which were signed at Paris on 10 February 1947, contain, among their political clauses, articles providing that the defeated countries shall take all measures to secure to all persons under their jurisdiction, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the enjoyment of human rights and of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and of press and publication.\*
2. According to the Permanent Statute of the Free Territory of Trieste (Annex VI to the Treaty of Peace with Italy, Article 4), the Constitution of the Free Territory shall ensure to all persons under the jurisdiction of the Free Territory, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the enjoyment of human rights and of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech and publication.

#### B. Trusteeship Agreements

1. Among the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System of the United Nations is, according to Article 76 c of the Charter, the encouragement of "respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms...". Article 79 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that the terms of trusteeship for each Trust Territory shall be agreed upon by the States directly concerned, including the Mandatory Power in the case of Territories held under Mandate by a Member of the United Nations, and shall be approved as provided for in Articles 83 and 85. In pursuance of this stipulation, Trusteeship Agreements have been drawn up and approved by the General Assembly, according to Article 85 of the Charter, or by the Security Council,

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\* Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and

- (a) Italy, Part II, Section I, Article 15;
- (b) Hungary, Part II, Section I, Article 2;
- (c) Bulgaria, Part II, Section I, Article 2;
- (d) Roumania, Part II, Section I, Article 3; and
- (e) Finland, Part II, Section I, Article 6.



according to Article 83 of the Charter.\*

In these agreements, but in slightly different wording, the designated Administering Authority undertakes to administer the Territory concerned in conformity with the provisions of the Charter and in such a manner as to achieve in the Territory the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System. Beyond this, the Trusteeship Agreements include provisions according to which the Administering Authorities shall guarantee freedom of the press, subject only to "the requirements of public order"; and in the case of the former Japanese Mandated Islands - the only "strategic area" according to Articles 82 and 83 of the Charter - "the requirements of public order and security".

C. Other Agreements

1. These cultural agreements which are limited to questions of education, exchange of students or professors, etc., have not been included in the list of agreements in Part I. Reference may be made here, however, to the travel-grant-programme in operation between the United States and certain American republics. A general convention, establishing a system for the exchange of professors, teachers and students among the American countries, was concluded in Buenos Aires, 23 December 1936\*\*. The United States has also negotiated with a number of Governments so-called "Fulbright Agreements" (under the Fulbright Act of 1946). These agreements provide funds for reciprocal exchange of students and specialists. As of

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\* Trusteeship Agreement for

- (a) the Territory of Western Samoa, Article 12; United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 8, page 71.
- (b) the Territory of Tanganyika, Article 14; United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 8, page 91.
- (c) the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, Article 14; United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 8, page 105.
- (d) the Territory of the Cameroons under British administration, Article 14; United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 8, page 119.
- (e) the Territory of the Cameroons under French administration, Article 10, paragraph 4; United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 8, page 135.
- (f) the Territory of Togoland under British administration, Article 14; United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 8, page 151.
- (g) the Territory of Togoland under French administration, Article 10, paragraph 4; United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 8, page 165.
- (h) the Territory of New Guinea, Article 8; United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 8, page 181.
- (i) the former Japanese Mandated Islands, Article 7; United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 8, page 189.
- (j) the Territory of Nauru, Article 5; United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 10, page 3.

\*\* United States Treaty Series 928.

/1 February 1948



1 February 1948 these were in force between the United States and Burma and China.\*

2. Notes exchanged on the occasion of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom, December 1929, stated that both Governments consider "the pledge regarding propaganda" contained in Article 16 of the General Treaty signed by them, 8 August 1924, as having full force and effect.\*\* The article reads:

"The contracting parties solemnly affirm their desire and intention to live in peace and amity with each other, scrupulously to respect the undoubted right of a State to order its own life within its own jurisdiction in its own way, to refrain and to restrain all persons and organizations under their direct or indirect control, including organizations in receipt of financial assistance from them, from any act overt or covert liable in any way whatsoever to endanger the tranquility or prosperity of any part of the territory of the British Empire or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or intended to embitter the relations of the British Empire or the Union with their neighbours or any other countries."

3. The Government of China has signed treaties of amity with several countries,\*\*\*which include the following provision regarding freedom of information: "The nationals of each of the High Contracting Parties ... shall enjoy the liberty ... of publication in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country."

4. The Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation signed by Italy

\* By the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 the United States Congress has authorized the Secretary of State to provide for reciprocal exchanges of persons between the United States and other countries. According to the reply of the Government of the United States to the Request for Information based upon the provisional agenda of the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information (E/CONF.6/9/Add.6, page 29), "the terms of this legislation are comprehensive enough to include exchange of news personnel, information technicians, students and instructors in journalism and specialists in other mass media, and it may be assumed that considerable numbers of persons will be included in the programme as it is developed."

\*\* British Parliamentary Papers, Treaty Series No. 2 (1930) Cmd. 3467. The Government of the United Kingdom refers to the notes exchanged in its reply to the Request for Information, based upon the provisional agenda of the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information (E/CONF.6/9, page 3).

\*\*\* The Dominican Republic, Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico, Ecuador, Siam, the Philippines and Argentina. See document E/CONF.6/9/Add.16, pages 1 and 2.



and the United States, Rome, 2 February 1948,\* contains, in Article XI, paragraph 2, provisions according to which the contracting parties declare their adherence to the principles of freedom of the press and of free interchange of information. The paragraph reads as follows:

"The High Contracting Parties declare their adherence to the principles of freedom of the press and of free interchange of information. To this end, nationals, corporations and associations of either High Contracting Party shall have the right, within the territories of the other High Contracting Party, to engage in such activities as writing, reporting and gathering of information for dissemination to the public, and shall enjoy freedom of transmission of material to be used abroad for publication by the press, radio, motion pictures, and other means. The nationals, corporations and associations of either High Contracting Party shall enjoy freedom of publication in the territories of the other High Contracting Party, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, upon the same terms as nationals, corporations or associations of such other High Contracting Party. The term 'information', as used in this paragraph, shall include all forms of written communications, printed matter, motion pictures, recordings and photographs."

5. Treaties of commerce and navigation in force between the United States and certain other countries are also of interest. (See document E/CONF.6/9/Add.6, page 12). Foreign correspondents who come to the United States for long periods are normally admitted under Section 3(6) of the Immigration Act of 1924, which authorizes issuance of a visa valid indefinitely to "an alien entitled to enter the United States solely to carry on trade between the United States and the foreign state of which he is a national under and in pursuance of a treaty of commerce and navigation ..." (8 U.S. Code 203 (6)). Similar provisions are in force in other countries under inter-governmental agreements. The Government of Luxembourg has stated that it "has concluded with several countries conventions which guarantee to nationals of these States treatment on an equal footing with Luxembourg nationals as regards the establishment of a firm of business (e.g. news agency, etc.); examples are the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union Convention; conventions with France, the Netherlands and Poland." (E/CONF.6/9/Add.25, page 5).
6. Certain national laws and regulations concerning the treatment of aliens have a bearing on the status and work of foreign news personnel. There are,

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\* United States Treaties and other International Treaty Series 1829.



however, very few international agreements on this subject\*, although reference may be made to certain international tax agreements. A compilation and index of International Tax Agreements, 1843-1948, has been published by the United Nations (see document E/CN.8/30 and E/CN.8/41). Inter-governmental agreements concerning passports and visas are relatively rare. After the Second World War, several countries agreed on the reciprocal abolition of visas. Some countries have also abolished visa requirements on a non-reciprocal basis. See the "List of Multilateral conventions, agreements, etc., relating to transport and communications questions", page 69 and following. A general review of these problems is given in documents E/CN.2/28/Part I, E/CN.2/28/Part I/Add.1, E/CN.2/28/Part II, E/CN.2/28/Part II/Add.1, E/CN.2/63/Part I and E/CN.2/63/Part II.

7.- It may also be noted that commercial agreements concerning, for instance, physical facilities, foreign exchange problems, tariffs, quotas, etc., often affect the dissemination of information.

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\* See document A/CN.4/1 "Survey of International Law in Relation to the Work of Codification of the International Law Commission.", page 45.



### PART III

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES CONCERNING AGREEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE LIST

##### A. Agreements Concerning Cultural Relations in General

1. (Ref. Nos. 1, 2 and 3) The International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation was founded on the basis of an agreement between the French Government and the League of Nations, 8 December 1924. The purpose of the subsequent International Act Concerning Intellectual Co-operation, Paris 1938, was to give "increased effect" to the earlier agreement and to increase the financial means at the disposal of the Institute. The liquidation of the League of Nations resulted in the liquidation of this organization. Before this, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization adopted at its first session in Paris, 6 December 1946, a Draft Agreement between UNESCO and the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation. According to Article 1 of this agreement its purpose was to ensure by appropriate measures the continuity, under the responsibility of UNESCO, of the work accomplished since 1924 by the Institute. (See UNESCO/C/30, pages 69 and 241).

2. (Ref. No. 4) By the so-called Brussels Pact, 17 March 1948, the Contracting Parties agreed on close co-operation in, inter alia, social and cultural matters. Article II reads as follows:

"The High Contracting Parties will make every effort in common, both by direct consultation and in specialized agencies, to promote the attainment of a higher standard of living by their peoples and to develop on corresponding lines the social and other related services of their countries.

"The High Contracting Parties will consult with the object of achieving the earliest possible application of recommendations of immediate practical interest, relating to social matters, adopted with their approval in the specialized agencies.

"They will endeavour to conclude as soon as possible conventions with each other in the sphere of social security."

Article III reads as follows:

"The High Contracting Parties will make every effort in common to lead their peoples towards a better understanding of the principles which form the basis of their common civilization and to promote cultural exchanges by conventions between themselves and by other means."

Attention may also be drawn to Articles VII and IX. According to Article VII the Contracting Parties will create a Consultative Council for the purpose of consulting together on all the questions dealt with in the treaty. The Contracting Parties may, according to Article IX, by agreement,

/invite



invite any other State to accede to the treaty on conditions to be agreed between them and the State invited.

3. (Ref. Nos. 5-22) The bilateral agreements regarding cultural relations in general deal with broad problems such as the exchange of professors and students, translation of literary and scientific books, exhibitions, tours, dissemination of books and periodicals, exchange of official publications, etc. Some of them contain provisions regarding specific media of information. Typical are provisions regarding the distribution of periodicals, the mutual establishment of branches of press and radio agencies, the organization of excursions for journalists, facilities for press agencies and correspondents, and the exchange of broadcasts and films.

B. Cultural Agreements Concerning Specific Media of Information

1. (Ref. No. 23) The Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace adopted a Convention on the Interchange of Publications at Buenos Aires on 23 December 1936. According to this Convention each contracting State agreed to establish a section in its national or official library devoted to material concerning each of the other contracting States. The contracting States undertook to furnish these sections with "a collection of works of such character as to afford an understanding of the thought of their men of letters and science." Furthermore they agreed to exchange official publications and other publications edited with official assistance. The Convention affects the field of freedom of information in so far as it helps to provide information enterprise, through these libraries, with information concerning other countries and by establishing direct exchanges of newspapers and news periodicals.

2. (Ref. Nos. 24-51) By an extensive series of bilateral agreements, partly based on the above Convention, the United States has established a system of exchange of official publications between the Library of Congress and institutions in the countries with which agreements have been made.

3. (Ref. Nos. 52-55) The International Convention for the Suppression of the Circulation of and the Traffic in Obscene Publications signed in Geneva 1923-1924, is an elaboration of the Agreement for the Suppression of Obscene Publications, signed in Paris 1910. The contracting States agreed to take all measures to discover, prosecute and punish any person engaged in committing the offences enumerated in Article I of the Convention. The League of Nations was invested with certain functions and powers under the

/Convention



Convention of 1923-1924. By resolution 126 (II) the General Assembly of the United Nations approved a Protocol, amending the Convention of 1923, and urged that it should be signed without delay by all the States parties to the Convention. According to the Protocol, the parties agreed that the former functions and powers of the League of Nations under the Convention be performed by the United Nations. The Protocol has been signed by the States enumerated in document E/963/Rev.1, page 18. The Government of France was invested with certain functions under the Agreement of 1910. By resolution 256 (III) the General Assembly of the United Nations approved the transfer to the United Nations of these functions. The General Assembly also approved a Protocol amending the Agreement of 1910 and urged that this Protocol be signed without delay. The Protocol was opened for signature on 4 May 1949.

4. (Ref. No. 56) The International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace, signed at Genova 2 September 1936, (though concerned with only one medium of information), deals with one of the fundamental problems of freedom of information. The aims of the Convention which was acceded to or ratified by a considerable number of States,\* are to prevent "by means of rules established by common agreement, broadcasting from being used in a manner prejudicial to good international understanding" and to utilize "by the application of these rules, the possibilities offered by this medium of intercommunication for promoting better mutual understanding between peoples". This Convention is of special interest to the Sub-Commission since according to its terms of reference the Sub-Commission may study and make reports and recommendations to the Council on, inter alia, "the persistent dissemination of information which is false, distorted, or otherwise injurious to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations" and "the promotion of the dissemination of true information to counteract nazi, fascist or any other propaganda of aggression or of racial, national, religious or any other discrimination". The Convention of 1936 is reproduced in document E/CONF.6/18, page 2.

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\* According to the League of Nations Treaty Series (Vol. CLXXXVI, page 303, CXCLII, page 316, CXLVI, page 489, CXC VII, page 394, and Vol. CC, page 557) the Parties are: Australia (and Nauru, New Guinea, Norfolk, Papua), Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France (and all colonies, protectorates, etc.), Guatemala, India, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands (and the Netherlands Indies, Surinam, Curacao), New Zealand, Norway, Salvador, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of South Africa (and South West Africa), United Kingdom (and Burma, Southern Rhodesia; and for other colonies, protectorates, etc., see list in League of Nations Treaty Series, CXC VII, page 394).



5. (Ref. Nos. 57-59) These bilateral agreements primarily concern cultural relations but they also make provisions for the transmission of news between the countries whose broadcasting systems are parties to the agreements.

6. (Ref. No. 60) The Convention for Facilitating the International Circulation of Films of an Educational Character, 1933, concerned films which have "eminently international educational aims," and not expressly newsreels. The parties to the Convention grant reciprocal exemption from customs duties and accessory charges on educational films (Article III). However, the Convention does not affect the right of the parties "to censor films in accordance with their own laws or to adopt measures to prohibit the importation or transit of films for reasons of public security or order" (Article VIII) and they were permitted to reserve their rights "to prohibit or restrict the importation for reasons based on the necessity for defending its market against invasion by films of foreign origin" (Article IX).

7. (Ref. No. 61) Under the Convention mentioned in Paragraph 6 above (Ref. No. 60) certain functions were exercised by the International Educational Cinematographic Institute. The purpose of the Procès-Verbal is to decide that, the said Institute being closed, those functions should be performed by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations. (See Explanatory Notes, I, A, 1.)

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