

United Nations  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL

Nations Unies UNRESTRICTED

CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL

E/CN.4/Sub.1/94  
10 June 1949 99  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

Third Session

SUMMARY OF MR. AZMI'S STATEMENT ON "THE ADEQUACY OF THE NEWS  
AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD AND THE OBSTACLES TO  
THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION TO THEM"

(Item 6 of Agenda of the Third Session of the Sub-Commission  
and Programme of Work and Priorities for the Three Year Period  
of the Life of the Sub-Commission)

In his statement, Mr. Azmi outlined the list of the political and  
legal obstacles confronting freedom of information.

1. Preliminary authorization
  - (a) Positive (i.e. express) authorization,
  - (b) Negative authorization (consisting, for example, of a time limit of thirty days, after which, if no objection is raised by the competent authorities, the newspaper may appear ipso facto).
2. Censorship
  - (a) Censorship in peace-time - Prohibition of the publication of information concerning enquiries by the public prosecutor's department,
  - (b) Censorship in war-time or during a state of siege.
3. Confiscation
  - (a) Administrative confiscation (without appeal),
  - (b) Confiscation by order of a court.
4. Closing of frontiers to the foreign press.
5. Canalization by government services of news transmitted by foreign stations.
6. Government press services - the sole source for journalists of information concerning news affecting the public interests.
7. Diplomatic interventions tending to censor means of information.
8. Action by publicity agencies tending to influence means of information by granting or withdrawing their publicity.
9. Action by religious authorities tending to eliminate any information or opinion which they may consider prejudicial to the faith professed by them