

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL  
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ET SOCIAL**

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

AND OF THE PRESS

Third session

**ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURE FOR CONTINUOUS  
LIAISON WITH INFORMATION ENTERPRISES AND  
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

(Item 6 of the provisional agenda)

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with paragraph (b) of the new terms of reference of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press (resolution 197 (VIII) of the Economic and Social Council), the Sub-Commission may:

"Receive communications from any legally constituted national or international Press, information, broadcasting or newsreel enterprise or association relating to the items enumerated in paragraph (a)\* above, with a view to assisting it in the

\* "...the Sub-Commission,...may: (a) Study and make reports as well as recommendations to the Council on:

- (i) Political, economic and other barriers to the free flow of information;
- (ii) The extent to which freedom of information is accorded to the various peoples of the world;
- (iii) The adequacy of the news available to them;
- (iv) The development of high standards of professional conduct;
- (v) The persistent dissemination of information which is false, distorted, or otherwise injurious to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
- (vi) The operation of any inter-governmental agreements in the field of freedom of information;
- (vii) The promotion of a wider degree of freedom of information and the reduction or elimination of obstacles thereto;
- (viii) 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;
- (ix) The conclusion or improvement of inter-governmental agreements in the field of freedom of information; and
- (x) Measures to facilitate the work of foreign news personnel, and to assist them in disseminating true information on political, economic and other events in their countries of residence and in promoting friendly relations between States in such a way as to further the cause of strengthening international peace and security."

/formulation

formulation of general principles and proposals in the field of freedom of information..."

2. The attention of the Sub-Commission has been directed, in document E/CN.4/Sub.1/70 ("Establishment of Procedure for Handling Communications") to the problems involved in the handling of communications from such organizations, and in establishing the criteria for deciding what is a "legally constituted national or international Press, information, broadcasting or newsreel enterprise or association."

3. The Sub-Commission may wish to consider certain other problems in connexion with the procedure for establishing liaison with such organizations. These include:

(a) The compilation of a list of organizations. In this connexion, the Sub-Commission may wish to recommend either that the Secretary-General compile a list from the information at his disposal, or alternatively that the Secretary-General be requested to ask the Governments of States Members of the United Nations to forward him a list of such organizations operating or organized within their territories;

(b) The possibility of keeping information enterprises and professional organizations regularly informed concerning the work of the United Nations in the field of freedom of information, and particularly concerning the activities and recommendations of the Sub-Commission;

4. The attention of the Sub-Commission is also drawn to certain resolutions of the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information in which reference is made to the participation of professional organizations of various types in special projects (see the Final Act of the Conference, E/CONF.6/79).

On 14 May 1949\* the General Assembly referred these resolutions to the Economic and Social Council for appropriate action at the Council's discretion, and the subject will be on the agenda of the ninth session of the Council (July-August 1949). These resolutions include:

Resolution No. 6 which recommends that the Economic and Social Council refer to the Sub-Commission tasks in connexion with the definition and identification of professional foreign correspondents, and suggests that this work be conducted "in close collaboration with international and national professional organizations of the Press, radio and newsreel, especially by drawing upon the experience of news personnel actively engaged in the gathering and transmission of news;"

Resolution No. 34, which recommends that the Council "invite Governments and professional organizations, national and international, to examine

\* Resolution of the General Assembly document A/876.



together the possibility of implementing UNESCO's proposal to establish an International Institute of Press and Information, and, if it is found practicable, to co-operate in carrying it out"; and

Resolution No. 36 which recommends that the question of drafting an international code of honour for journalists and other information personnel and of the possibility of establishing an international court of honour be referred to the Sub-Commission, and that "national and international professional organizations be invited to contribute such material as they may consider to be of value to the Sub-Commission in its deliberations."

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