



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/8253
12 December 1970
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Twenty-fifth session
Agenda item 51

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. E. GUNAWARDANA (Belgium)

1. At its 1843rd meeting, on 18 September 1970, the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee agenda item 51 entitled:
"Freedom of information:
(a) Draft Declaration on Freedom of Information;
(b) Draft Convention on Freedom of Information."
2. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General dealing with the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information and the draft Convention on Freedom of Information (A/8036).
3. The representative of Saudi Arabia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1839) which was subsequently revised at the 1820th meeting, on 11 December, and co-sponsored by Afghanistan and the Philippines (A/C.3/L.1839/Rev.1).
4. At the same meeting the revised draft resolution was adopted by 67 votes to none, with 15 abstentions (see paragraph 5 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

5. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Freedom of Information

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2081 (XX) of 20 December 1965 in which, inter alia, it decided to hasten the conclusion, among other instruments, of a convention on freedom of information,

Recalling further its resolution 2448 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 by which it decided, pending the completion of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, to give priority at its twenty-fourth session to the consideration and adoption of the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information,

Regretting that, despite that decision, it has not been possible to do so owing to the heavy programme of work at the current session,

Decides to give priority to the consideration of this item at its twenty-sixth session, taking into account that the consideration of the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information which was submitted by the Economic and Social Council has been deferred for the last decade, that the preamble and articles 1 to 4 of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information have been adopted by the Third Committee, and also considering that the draft Convention has been before the General Assembly for eighteen years.
