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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS ON ITEM 3: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION"
OF ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the attached Special Report on Freedom of Information prepared by the Commission on Human Rights at the Council's request (E/SR.1046), and adopted by the Commission at its 625th meeting on 26 March 1959.

Special Report of the Commission on Human
Rights on Item 3: "Freedom of Information"
of its fifteenth session

Rapporteur: Mr. Ismat T. Kittani (Iraq)

Introduction

1. In its resolution 6 (XIV), the Commission on Human Rights requested the Economic and Social Council, and, through it, UNESCO and other specialized agencies concerned, to initiate action to consider and implement the suggestions of the Committee on Freedom of Information (E/CN.4/762) concerning the development of media of information in under-developed countries, and decided to consider the other suggestions of the Committee at its fifteenth session, in compliance with such decisions as the General Assembly might take. In resolution 7 (XIV), the Commission, having considered General Assembly resolution 1189 B (XII), decided to consider at its fifteenth session, in the light of discussions and such decisions as the General Assembly might take during its thirteenth session, such procedures as might be expedient to ensure constant review of problems of freedom of information.
2. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 683 C (XXVI), requested the Secretary-General to seek the observations of Member States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations on the report of the Committee on Freedom of Information, and requested the Commission to complete its recommendations on freedom of information in the light of the report of its Committee and the comments received, for review by the Council.
3. The General Assembly, in resolution 1313 A (XIII), expressed the hope that the Council, taking into account recommendations of the Commission to be submitted in

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...se to Council resolution 683 C (XXVI), would at its twenty-eighth session ...
...ulate a programme of concrete action for the development of information
enterprises in under-developed countries, and invited the Council to request the
Commission to give particular attention to procedures by which constant review of
problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries might be
assured and to report regularly to the Council on progress in this field. In
accordance with a decision taken by the Council at its resumed twenty-sixth session,
the resolution of the General Assembly was transmitted to the Commission with the
request that it consider it sufficiently early at its fifteenth session to enable
it to report to the Council at its twenty-seventh session (E/CN.4/774).

4. Having before it the above-mentioned resolutions, the report of its Committee
on Freedom of Information (E/CN.4/762 and Corr.1) and the comments by Member States
(E/CN.4/771 and Add.1-5), specialized agencies (E/CN.4/772 and Add.1) and non-
governmental organizations (E/CN.4/773), the Commission discussed the item at its
611th to 617th meetings.

Proposals submitted to the Commission

5. Two draft resolutions and several amendments were submitted to the Commission.

6. The first proposal, by the representatives of Ceylon, India, Iran, Italy,
Mexico, the Philippines and the United States (E/CN.4/L.511), was revised
(E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1) and underwent changes to incorporate certain oral suggestions.
The Secretary-General submitted a statement of the financial and other implications
of that proposal (E/CN.4/L.511/Add.1). The Secretary-General's statement will be
found in the annex to this special report.

7. The preamble of the seven-Power draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1, as orally
revised) contained two paragraphs, under which the Commission on Human Rights
would note (1) the suggestions and observations of the Committee on Freedom of
Information concerning the development of information media in under-developed
countries, and (2) the action already undertaken by UNESCO in this field. The
second paragraph was added upon the proposal of the representative of France
(E/CN.4/L.513).

8. In the first paragraph of the operative part, the Commission would decide to
review "developments affecting freedom of information including the problems of

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providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information" as a regular item on its agenda.

9. In the second paragraph of the operative part, it was recommended that the Economic and Social Council, having recalled inter alia its resolution 683 C (XXVI) (proposal by France, E/CN.4/L.513), General Assembly resolution 1189 B (XII) (suggestion by Iraq) and General Assembly resolution 1313 (XIII), should adopt a resolution in two parts, A and B, as follows:

10. Under part A, paragraph 1, the Council would "note with approval" the suggestions contained in paragraph 9 and the conclusions in paragraph 12 of the report of the Committee on Freedom of Information concerning the development of information media in under-developed countries. The reference to paragraph 12 of the Committee's report was included upon the suggestion of the representative of Poland.

11. The second paragraph of part A would request UNESCO to undertake a survey of the problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information, and to forward its report and recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights and to the Economic and Social Council before the summer of 1961 so as to enable the Council to evaluate the requirements for implementation of such programme. The recommendation that UNESCO should report to the Commission on Human Rights as well as to the Council was included upon the proposal of the representative of France (E/CN.4/L.513). Changes suggested orally were made to specify that UNESCO would undertake a survey "within the scope of its programme", and that the Council should evaluate the requirements of "the programme envisaged in resolution 1313 (XIII) of the General Assembly".

12. In part B, paragraph 1, of the draft, the Council would note with approval the Commission's decision to review "developments affecting Freedom of Information, including the problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information", as a regular item on its agenda. The original draft (E/CN.4/L.511) contained the formula "new developments affecting freedom of information" without specific reference to technical assistance.

13. Under paragraph 2 of part B, the Secretary-General would be requested (a) to submit to the Commission annual reports on "developments affecting freedom of information, including the problem of providing technical assistance to

under-developed countries in the field of information" on the basis of material furnished by UNESCO and other interested specialized agencies "as well as any other information available", and (b) to prepare a substantive report for submission to the Council in 1961 on "developments in the field of freedom of information since 1954", "including", inter alia, "developments in the facilities for the free flow of information into and out of under-developed countries"; such report was to be made in co-operation with "the member governments, the specialized agencies, particularly UNESCO, non-governmental organizations in consultative status and the professional organizations concerned, both national and international".

14. The representative of France withdrew his amendments (E/CN.4/L.513) all of which had been accepted by the authors of the draft resolution.

15. The representative of the United Kingdom submitted amendments (E/CN.4/L.515) to replace paragraph 1 of part A of the draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council by two paragraphs under which the Council would (1) "express appreciation of the work done by the Committee on Freedom of Information", and (2) invite UNESCO and other specialized agencies concerned "... to consider and implement, wherever possible and as expeditiously as possible (taking due account of the observations which have been made by governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations) the suggestions in paragraph 9 of the Report concerning the development of media of information in under-developed countries".

16. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR submitted amendments (E/CN.4/L.514/Rev.1) as follows:

(a) The first amendment was to delete the words "freedom of information, including" from the first operative paragraph of the joint draft resolution, so that the Commission would decide to review only developments affecting "the problem of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information", as a regular item on its agenda;

(b) The same changes were proposed in paragraphs 1 and 2 (a) of part B, thus limiting the scope of the proposed annual reports by the Secretary-General to "developments affecting the problem of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information";

(c) The last amendment by the Ukrainian SSR, relating to paragraph 2 (b) of part B, called upon the Secretary-General to submit to the Council a

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substantive report, not on "developments in the field of freedom of information" as a whole, but on "the provision of technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of freedom of information" since 1954. The latter part of the paragraph, beginning with the word "including" was to be deleted.

17. At the 617th meeting of the Commission, the representative of the USSR orally proposed that the words "accurate and undistorted" be inserted between the words "free flow of" and the word "information" in the last phrase of paragraph 2 (b) of part B.

18. The second draft resolution was submitted by the representatives of Ceylon, India, Iran and Iraq (E/CN.4/L.512), later joined by the representative of Poland (E/CN.4/L.512/Rev.1). It proposed that the Commission, taking note with approval of the suggestions concerning international press cable rates contained in paragraph 9 (c) of the report of the Committee on Freedom of Information, should submit the following draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council for adoption: The Council, considering that high and divergent rates for international press cables were an impediment to the free flow of undistorted and accurate information and to the development of international understanding, and noting with commendation the efforts of the ITU, UNESCO and other bodies towards reduction of those rates, would express the hope, in particular, that agreements would be reached at the 1959 Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the ITU to bring into effect reduced international press cable rates. The words "undistorted and accurate", to qualify the word "information" in the preamble of the draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council, were added in the revised draft (E/CN.4/L.512/Rev.1), which otherwise was identical with the original text.

Issues Discussed

19. The Commission, first, examined the task it was to undertake at the current session by virtue of the resolutions concerning Freedom of Information recently adopted by the Commission itself, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In the opinion of some representatives, General Assembly resolution 1313 A (XIII), the authority of which was supreme, limited the mandate of the Commission at its fifteenth session to the following tasks: making recommendations to the Council on the development of information media in

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under-developed countries, and establishing procedures by which constant review of problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information might be assured. All other aspects of Freedom of Information were to be dealt with by the Assembly itself at its next session, in connexion with the draft Convention on Freedom of Information.

20. By proposing that annual reviews be made of developments affecting the whole field of Freedom of Information, the seven-Power draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1, operative paragraph 1, and part B of the draft resolution for the Council) disregarded, in the view of those representatives, the Assembly's instructions.

The representatives who supported this view stated that such a proposal was designed to divert attention from the work on the draft Convention. The purpose of the Ukrainian amendment (E/CN.4/L.514/Rev.1), as stated by its author, was to bring the seven-Power proposal into harmony with Assembly resolution 1313 A (XIII).

21. The authors of the draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1) did not accept those views. Their opinion, which was shared by the majority of the Commission, was that General Assembly resolution 1313 A (XIII), while placing the emphasis on technical assistance, did not restrict the broad terms of reference contained in Assembly resolution 1189 B (XII), Commission resolution 6 (XIV) and Council resolution 683 C (XXVI). It was recalled, furthermore, that the Commission had the right, and indeed the duty to concern itself with all aspects of Freedom of Information, as a part of its general competence in the field of Human Rights set forth in the Charter and in its terms of reference.

22. The Commission considered, next, what course of action it should take at its present and future sessions. The consensus of opinion was that the Commission should consider as a matter of priority, both at its present session and in the future, problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information. All representatives agreed that the provision of adequate media in that field was a very important prerequisite for the exercise of the right to freedom of information, and would greatly contribute to the maintenance of peace and international understanding.

23. Some representatives expressed their readiness to consider also, at the present session, the other suggestions made by the Committee on Freedom of Information; this procedure, according to them, was contemplated by the Commission itself in its

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resolution 6 (XIV). Other representatives would restrict such a debate to new questions raised in the observations received from Governments and specialized agencies; they advised caution before undertaking, at this juncture, a discussion of the political aspects of Freedom of Information which were to be considered by the General Assembly in connexion with the draft Convention.

24. Several representatives expressed the view, however, that various matters directly connected with freedom of expression and the free flow of information should never be neglected and might well deserve examination regularly at future sessions.

25. The seven-Power draft resolution reflected those views by providing for an annual review of developments affecting freedom of information, including the problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information (E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1, operative paragraph 1), and by requesting the Secretary-General to submit annual reports and a substantive report on the entire field of freedom of information since 1954 (E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1, part B, paragraphs 2 (a) and (b)).

26. Against the proposed inclusion of the words "accurate and undistorted" to qualify the words "free flow of information" in part B, paragraph 2 (b) of the draft, some representatives pointed out that the Secretary-General's report would deal in any case with "the news sources to which people have access". Furthermore, the text, if so amended, might imply that the Commission would not object to the transmission of distorted information into and out of technically developed countries. The majority of the Commission, however, agreed with that amendment which, they felt, was in conformity with the wording of previous resolutions.

27. Some representatives drew attention to the statement of financial and other implications by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/L.511/Add.1, reproduced in the Annex to this report).

28. The procedures best suited for promoting technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information were discussed in some detail. It was proposed (E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1, part A, 1) that the Council, in order to express its concern for the development of information media in under-developed countries, should first note with approval the specific suggestions and conclusions on this subject contained in the report of the Committee on Freedom of Information (E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1, part A, paragraph 1). On the other hand, it was said, in

support of the United Kingdom amendments (E/CN.4/L.515, paragraphs 1 and 2), that the Council would not be in a position to approve all the detailed suggestions of the Committee; and that the most advisable procedure would be to leave a broad discretion to the specialized agencies for carrying those suggestions into effect. The majority of the Commission, however, preferred the formula contained in the seven-Power proposal.

29. In part A, paragraph 2, of the draft resolution, the Council would request UNESCO to undertake a survey of the problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information so as to enable the Council in 1961 to make an evaluation of the various requirements for implementation of a programme of concrete action in that field. According to one representative, such a proposal was not in harmony with operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1313 A (XIII) under which the Commission itself was expected to make concrete recommendations to the Council with regard to technical assistance. The majority of the representatives, however, agreed with the procedure outlined in the draft resolution. They stressed that the Commission on Human Rights, being seized of the reports by UNESCO, would be in a position to make its own recommendations thereon.

30. Commending the action already undertaken by UNESCO, several representatives referred to various aspects of technical assistance to under-developed countries, including professional training for information personnel, provision of audio-visual equipment and low-cost radio receivers, and efforts made to negotiate low international press cable rates.^{1/} Some representatives expressed the view that the Commission should not overlook the existence of under-developed areas within the territories of States which, as a whole, were considered as technically developed.

31. The representative of UNESCO stated that his organization would be in a position, within the scope of its programme, to meet the request contained in the seven-Power proposal. The programme of UNESCO in that field contemplated a series of regional meetings and surveys over a period of years.

32. It was suggested that the Economic and Social Council should establish a study group, including representatives of the Secretariat, the Technical Assistance Board and of the specialized agencies, to consider the relevant surveys and reports, and to recommend concrete measures for the development of information media in

^{1/} See Infra, paras. 33 and 34.

under-developed countries. The representative of UNESCO expressed the wish that the Council give particular attention to the means of financing any programme of technical assistance in the field of information which might evolve as a result of those surveys.

33. The authors of the five-Power draft resolution concerning press cable rates (E/CN.4/L.512/Rev.1) stressed that, in order to promote an understanding of problems arising in under-developed countries, which was of particular importance for the maintenance of peace, and with a view to promoting the free flow of information for all peoples, measures should be taken to negotiate a low and, if possible, a uniform international press cable rate.

34. Some doubts were expressed concerning the suggestion made by the Committee on Freedom of Information, that a uniform press rate might be established at the United Nations Headquarters for messages sent by information personnel accredited to the United Nations and the specialized agencies, a suggestion which would seem to discriminate against other information personnel. The advisability of using the formula "free flow of undistorted and accurate information" in relation to press cable rates was questioned. Nevertheless, the substance of the draft resolution met with general agreement.

Voting

35. The voting took place at the 617th meeting. Its results concerning the seven-Power draft resolution (E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1) and amendments thereto were as follows:

- (a) the first amendment by the Ukrainian SSR (E/CN.4/L.514/Rev.1, paragraph 1, relating to the first paragraph of the operative part was rejected by 3 votes to 10 with 5 abstentions;
- (b) the amendments by the United Kingdom (E/CN.4/L.515, paras. 1 and 2), relating to part A, paragraph 1, of the proposal, were rejected by 5 votes to 9 with 4 abstentions, and 4 votes to 11 with 3 abstentions, respectively;
- (c) the second amendment by the Ukrainian SSR (E/CN.4/L.514/Rev.1, para. 2), relating to part B, paragraph 1, of the proposal, was rejected by 3 votes to 11 with 4 abstentions;

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(d) the third amendment by the Ukrainian SSR (E/CN.4/L.514/Rev.1, para. 3), relating to part B, para. 2 (a) of the proposal, was rejected by 3 votes to 14 with 1 abstention;

(e) the fourth amendment by the Ukrainian SSR (E/CN.4/L.514/Rev.1, para. 4), relating to part B, para. 2 (b) of the proposal, was rejected by 3 votes to 12 with 3 abstentions;

(f) the representative of the USSR requested a roll-call on his amendment (E/CN.4/SR.617) to insert the words "accurate and undistorted" between the words "free flow of" and "information" in part B, paragraph 2 (b) of the proposal. The amendment was adopted by 11 votes to 2 with 5 abstentions as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Ceylon, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Mexico, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Against: China, United Kingdom;

Abstaining: Belgium, France, Israel, Italy, United States of America;

(g) the representative of Iraq requested a separate vote on paragraph 2 of part B of the draft resolution for the Council;

(h) at the request of the representative of the USSR, the vote was taken by division on the seven-Power proposal (E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1 as orally revised) as amended. The voting was as follows:

(i) the first paragraph of the preamble was unanimously adopted;

(j) the second paragraph of the preamble was unanimously adopted;

(k) the first paragraph of the operative part, beginning with the word "decides...", was adopted by 15 votes to none with 3 abstentions;

(l) the whole preamble of the draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council was unanimously adopted;

(m) Part A, paragraph 1, was adopted by 16 votes to none with 2 abstentions;

(n) Part A, paragraph 2, as orally revised, was unanimously adopted;

(o) Part B, paragraph 1, was adopted by 15 votes to none with 3 abstentions;

(p) Part B, paragraph 2, as amended, was adopted by 12 votes to 2 with 4 abstentions;

(q) Part A as a whole was adopted by 17 votes to none with 1 abstention;

(r) Part B as a whole, as amended was adopted by 12 votes to 2 with 4 abstentions;

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(s) The draft resolution by Ceylon, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, the Philippines and the United States (E/CN.4/L.511/Rev.1 as orally revised), as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 14 votes to none with 4 abstentions.

36. The voting on the draft resolution by Ceylon, India, Iran, Iraq and Poland (E/CN.4/L.512/Rev.1) was as follows:

(a) At the request of the representative of the United Kingdom, a separate vote was taken on the words "with approval" contained in the second paragraph of the preamble. These words were retained, by 14 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions.

(b) At the request of the representative of China, a separate vote was taken on the second sentence quoted in the second paragraph of the preamble. By 12 votes to none with 6 abstentions, it was decided to retain this sentence.

(c) At the request of the representative of China, a separate vote was taken on the words "undistorted and accurate" in the first paragraph of the preamble of the draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council. By 10 votes to 2 with 6 abstentions it was decided to retain those words.

(d) At the request of the representative of the United Kingdom, a separate vote was taken on the draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council. It was unanimously adopted.

(e) The draft resolution as a whole (E/CN.4/L.512/Rev.1) was adopted by 17 votes to none with 1 abstention.

Texts of the resolutions as adopted

Resolution 1 (XV)

Freedom of Information

The Commission on Human Rights,

Noting the suggestions and observations made by members of the Committee on Freedom of Information appointed by the Commission at its thirteenth session on the development of media of information in under-developed countries as embodied in their report (E/CN.4/762),

Noting the action already undertaken by UNESCO in this field (E/3206),

Decides to review developments affecting freedom of information including the problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information, as a regular item on its agenda;

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Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1189 B (XII) and 1313 (XIII) and its resolution 683 C (XXVI) and the desire manifested in the United Nations to ensure greater freedom of information, particularly in under-developed countries,

Noting the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to freedom of information

A

1. Notes with approval the suggestions contained in paragraph 9 and the conclusions in paragraph 12 of the report of the Committee on Freedom of Information (E/CN.4/762) concerning the development of media of information in under-developed countries.

2. Requests UNESCO, in consultation with other specialized agencies concerned, member Governments and organizations actively engaged in the field of information to undertake, within the scope of its programme, a survey of the problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in that field, bearing in mind the conclusions and suggestions in the report of the Committee on Freedom of Information concerning the development of media of information in under-developed countries, and General Assembly resolution 1313 (XIII), and forward its report and recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights and to the Economic and Social Council before the summer of 1961 to enable the Council to make an evaluation of the material, financial and professional requirements and resources for implementation of the programme envisaged in that resolution, including expert advice, fellowship awards, seminars and the provision of equipment and other facilities.

B

1. Notes with approval the decision of the Commission to review developments affecting freedom of information, including the problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information, as a regular item on its agenda.

2. Requests the Secretary-General

(a) To facilitate the Commission's regular reviews of this subject by the provision of an annual report on developments affecting Freedom of Information, including the problems of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries in the field of information, on the basis of material furnished by UNESCO and other interested specialized agencies as well as any other information available,

(b) To prepare in co-operation with the member Governments, the specialized agencies, particularly UNESCO, non-governmental organizations in consultative status and the professional organizations concerned, both national and international, a substantive report for submission to the Council in 1961 on developments in the field of freedom of information since 1954, including in particular (i) the news sources to which peoples have access, (ii) the extent to which they receive news of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and their work for peace, and (iii) developments in the facilities for the free flow of accurate and undistorted information into and out of under-developed countries.

Resolution 2 (XV)

Freedom of information

The Commission on Human Rights,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Freedom of Information (E/CN.4/762),

Taking note with approval of the suggestion in paragraph 9 (c) of the report which reads as follows:

"Expeditious measures should be taken to negotiate a low and if possible a uniform international press cable rate. A beginning could be made at the United Nations Headquarters by negotiating a uniform press rate for all countries for press messages sent by information media personnel accredited to the United Nations and its specialized agencies."

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

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The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the existence of generally high and divergent rates for international press cables is a serious impediment to the free flow of undistorted and accurate information and to the development of international understanding,

Noting with commendation the efforts of the International Telecommunications Union, UNESCO and other bodies towards reduction of international press cable rates,

Expresses the hope that such efforts will be continued and that in particular at the forthcoming Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the International Telecommunications Union to be held in October 1959, agreements will be reached to bring into effect reduced international press cable rates.

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ANNEX

Statement of Financial Implications submitted by the
Secretary-General to the draft resolution submitted
by Ceylon, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Philippines
and the United States (E/CN.4/L.511) 1/

(1) Draft resolution B 2(a) would request the Secretary-General "to facilitate the Commission's regular reviews of [freedom of information] by the provision of an annual report on new developments affecting freedom of information, on the basis of material furnished by UNESCO and other interested specialized agencies, as well as any other information available".

The Secretary-General assumes that the annual reports will be limited to a description of developments of a legal character and that they will be based on official documents emanating from Governments. If, however, the term "new developments" is meant to include developments other than of a legal character, and if "any other information" is to include unverified information from private and other non-governmental sources, then, in conformity with his statement made at the 788th meeting of the Economic and Social Council in 1953 (E/SR.788), the Secretary-General is of the opinion that the task should not be given to the Secretariat.

(2) Under paragraph 2(b) of resolution B, the Secretary-General would also be requested, in co-operation, not only with Member Governments and specialized agencies, but also with non-governmental organizations in consultative status and even with professional organizations, both national and international, not having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to prepare a substantive report on developments in the field of freedom of information since 1954. The report would have to deal with the news sources to which peoples have access, the extent to which they receive news of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and with developments in the facilities for the free flow of information into and out of under-developed countries. Here, the language of the draft

1/ This statement was distributed during the Commission's session as document E/CN.4/L.511/Add.1.

resolution leaves no doubt that the Secretary-General would be requested to prepare a report based, to a very large extent, on non-official sources and on unverified information coming from private organizations. It would be difficult for the Secretary-General to avoid evaluating this material. Indeed the mere choice of the material to be included in the report would itself constitute an element of evaluation. The Secretary-General is therefore of the opinion that this task should not be given to the Secretariat.

(3) The Commission will remember that in the course of the reorganization of the Secretariat in 1953-1954, the special Section on Freedom of Information which then existed in the Division of Human Rights was abolished. This was justified at that time because of the considerable decrease in United Nations activities in this field. As a consequence, however, the Secretary-General could not now absorb the tasks contemplated in draft resolution B 2(a) and still less the task envisaged in resolution B 2(b) within the present establishment. To be able to comply with these requests it would be necessary to strengthen the staff of the Division of Human Rights, as follows:

- (a) On a permanent and continuing basis, one professional Officer (senior officer, P-5) and one General Service secretary, G-3;
- (b) On a temporary basis through 1961 one additional professional officer, second officer, P-3.

The costs of this additional staff, including common staff cost, would be approximately \$31,500 in 1960 and 1961, and approximately \$21,000 in subsequent years.

(4) The translation and typing costs for both reports would be about \$2,000 (assuming use of working languages only) and there would be an extra cost for printing the report called for under B 2(b) in the official records series. The Secretary-General would take all of such costs into account in appropriate budget submissions.
