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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on Freedom of  
Information and of the Press  
Fifth session  
Agenda item 5

DRAFT RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

Submitted by Messrs. Azkoul (Lebanon), Lopez (Philippines),  
and Moulik (India)

Recalling that the General Assembly has proclaimed that freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated,

Bearing in mind that that freedom has frequently proved to be the most vulnerable of the fundamental freedoms embodied in the Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Considering that the media of information constitute powerful instruments for the moulding of public opinion and can thereby exercise a great influence on relations between peoples and on the future of mankind,

Noting the continuing need for investigation and work in the general field of this problem together with the number of practical tasks, including those relating to obstacles to the free flow of information, which remain to be undertaken,

The Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press

Expresses its conviction that a permanent and independent body of experts actually engaged in press and information enterprises, be entrusted with the study of these problems and continue to function within the framework of the United Nations, and therefore

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council:

1. That the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press be continued, consisting of twelve experts serving in their individual capacities, selected as follows:

- (a) Each Government of a State Member of the United Nations shall be invited to submit to the Secretary-General the names of not less than three or more than five experts in the field of information the majority of whom are professionally active therein, nominated to their government by information enterprises and/or national professional associations;
- (b) The Secretary-General shall be requested to select from the names forwarded to him twelve persons, not more than one of whom shall come from any one country, due consideration being given to geographical distribution and to the varying press and information concepts and practices in the world;
- (c) The persons thus selected shall be confirmed by the Economic and Social Council as members of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, with terms of office concluding on 31 December 1955, at which time nomination of experts and the selection of twelve from among their number shall again be made in conformity with the procedure described above;
- (d) When, in accordance with Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure of Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council, a member of the Sub-Commission is compelled to appoint an alternate to act for him at a session of the Sub-Commission, he shall nominate such alternate from among those other experts proposed by his government at the time the Sub-Commission was selected;
2. That the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission shall continue to be those set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 197 (VIII); and
3. That the Sub-Commission shall meet at least once a year and shall report directly to the Council.