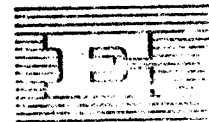


UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.1/174

17 March 1952

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE FUTURE WORK OF THE UNITED
NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF THE PRESS AND
OF INFORMATION

Submitted by Mr. André Géraud (France)

Bearing in mind the resolution of the Economic and Social Council
dated 18 September 1951;

Bearing in mind the memorandum by the Secretary-General in
document E/CN.4/Sub.1/158,

The Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press
Submits to the Economic and Social Council the following
recommendations:

1. The Advisory Committee and the Fact-Finding Commission proposed by the Secretary-General should form a single body consisting of only a small number of members able, owing to their journalistic and political experience, to bring together all the factual material on the state of information in the present-day world, to add to the studies which the Secretariat would still continue to make, to receive complaints, and, where necessary, to conduct enquiries. Thus, the position with regard to freedom of information in the various countries would be surveyed periodically. The work would be of a long-term nature: it would be the task of such a body to ascertain the political, economic and social conditions of freedom of information. It would enlist the assistance of the specialized agencies, of UNESCO and, where necessary, of experts. Any chance of achieving progress, however modest, would be seized. In this way, all would be ready for taking action when the time is ripe.

/2. At the same

2. At the same time, no means of developing and improving the instruments of information existing today would be neglected. Everything possible would be done to ensure the application, even if only piecemeal, of draft conventions which are pending, and to promote the maximum efficiency of the personnel of the press and information services. Attention would be given to the status of foreign correspondents; regulations for the granting of passports and visas; administrative, fiscal and technical facilities; the international journalist's pass; a clearing fund enabling countries short of hard currencies to maintain a greater number of foreign correspondents; and the better distribution of newsprint and book paper. A list which, though incomplete, is the most detailed available of what could be done is to be found in Secretariat document E/CN.4/Sub.1/140. Such a programme can be achieved only by inter-governmental agreements and international negotiation.

3. There are other points in respect of which the professional associations could make a contribution: exchange of members of the personnel of the press between one country and another, preparation of a programme of technical assistance, provision of equipment, protection of sources, regional co-ordination of national information enterprises, better use of their services. This list is not restrictive.