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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS
THIRD SESSIONSUMMARY OF MR. F. WILLIAMS STATEMENT ON
"THE ADEQUACY OF THE NEWS AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLES
OF THE WORLD AND THE OBSTACLES TO THE FREE FLOW OF
INFORMATION TO THEM"

(Item 6 of Agenda of the Third Session of the Sub-Commission and
Programme of Work and Priorities for the Three Year Period of the Life of
the Sub-Commission)

Mr. Francis Williams suggested that the Sub-Commission should begin its consideration of point 6 of the agenda by considering what information is already in the possession of the Secretariat or UNESCO, and what further information is required on obstacles to the free flow of information.

He suggested that to help logical consideration, obstacles might be put under three or four main headings:

(1) Political and Legal

These might include (a) censorship, (b) restrictions on movement of press and information personnel within countries and across borders, (c) restrictions, legal or otherwise, which affect the status of information personnel.

(2) Commercial and Technical

These might include (a) monopolistic practices in the field of news gathering, distribution and publication, (b) restrictive agreements or practices of a national or international character on the part of news, radio and information agencies.

(3) Economic

These might include (a) newsprint shortages, (b) shortages of printing, radio and other equipment, (c) custom barriers on books, magazines, radio sets, etc.

(4) Professional

These might include shortages of adequately trained personnel in information fields.

