

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

SECOND SESSION

REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

ON ARTICLE 17 OF THE DRAFT COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

- I. No person shall be deprived by governmental action of the right to freedom of thought and expression: this right shall include freedom to hold opinions without interference; to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, regardless of frontiers, either orally, by written or printed matter, in the form of art, or by legally operated visual or auditory devices.
- II. Although every person should use his freedom with due regard to the rights of others, no penalties, liabilities or restrictions may be imposed except for causes which have been clearly defined by law with regard to:
- (a) Matters which must remain secret in the vital interests of the State;
 - (b) Expressions that directly incite persons to alter by violence the system of government;
 - (c) Expressions that directly incite persons to commit criminal acts;
 - (d) Expressions which are obscene or immoral;
 - (e) Expressions injurious to the fair administration of justice;
 - (f) Expressions about other persons which defame their reputations or are otherwise injurious to them without benefitting the public.
- III. Previous censorship of printed matter and the radio shall not exist.

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