

## Questions relating to human rights

### 718 (XXVII). Freedom of information

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 1189 B (XII) of 11 December 1957 and 1313 (XIII) of 12 December 1958 and Council resolution 683 C (XXVI) of 21 July 1958, 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,

#### I

##### *Media of information in under-developed countries*

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<sup>19</sup> concerning the development of media of information in under-developed countries;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with other specialized agencies concerned, Governments of member States 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 to 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;

#### II

##### *Reports on developments in freedom of information*

1. *Notes with approval* the decision of the Commission on Human Rights<sup>20</sup> to review developments affecting freedom of information, including the problems of pro-

<sup>19</sup> E/CN.4/762 and Corr. 1.

<sup>20</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8*, para. 49, resolution 1 (XV).

viding 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 providing 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 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other interested specialized agencies, as well as any other information available;

(b) To prepare in co-operation with the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, 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;
- (iii) Developments in the facilities for the free flow of accurate and undistorted information into and out of under-developed countries.

*1066th plenary meeting,  
24 April 1959.*

### 719 (XXVII). Freedom of information: international press telegram rates

*The Economic and Social Council,*

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

*Noting with commendation* the efforts of the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other bodies towards reduction of international press telegram rates,

*Expresses the hope* that such efforts will be continued at appropriate conferences of the International Telecom-

munication Union or through other arrangements to bring into effect reduced international press telegram rates, as expeditiously as possible.

*1066th plenary meeting,  
24 April 1959.*

**720 (XXVII). Freedom of information:  
draft Declaration on Freedom of Information**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* that the purposes of the United Nations include, *inter alia*, the development of friendly relations among nations, and the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

*Recognizing* that the promotion of freedom of information as a fundamental human right is essential to the fulfilment of these purposes,

*Mindful* of the significance which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has acquired among the peoples of the United Nations,

*Considering* that a United Nations Declaration on Freedom of Information could be a further step towards the realization of the purposes set forth above,

*Recalling* that the General Assembly has decided, in its resolution 1313 C (XIII) of 12 December 1958, to proceed at its fourteenth session to a discussion of the text of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information,<sup>21</sup> and without prejudice to the Assembly action in this respect,

*Having received* the text of a draft Declaration on Freedom of Information,

*Decides* to place the question of a draft Declaration on Freedom of Information on the agenda for its twenty-eighth session.

*1066th plenary meeting,  
24 April 1959.*

<sup>21</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 29, document A/AC.42/7, annex.*

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## Other questions

**713 (XXVII). Establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a list of national parks and equivalent reserves**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* that national parks and equivalent reserves have been established in most countries which are Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, and that they contribute to the inspiration, culture and welfare of mankind,

*Believing* that these national parks are valuable for economic and scientific reasons and also as areas for the future preservation of fauna and flora and geologic structures in their natural state,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other interested specialized agencies, a list of national parks and equivalent reserves, with a brief description of each, for consideration by the Council at its twenty-ninth session, together with his recommendations for maintaining and developing the list on a current basis and for its distribution;

2. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies to transmit to the Secretary-General a description of the areas they desire to have internationally registered as national parks or equivalent reserves;

3. *Furthermore invites* the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and other interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council to assist the Secretary-General, upon his request, in the preparation of the proposed list.

*1063rd plenary meeting,  
22 April 1959.*

**714 (XXVII). International co-operation on cartography: question of convening a third United Nations regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Commending* the valuable work achieved by the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East,