

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

FIRST SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on 4 June 1947 at 2:30 p.m.

Present:

- |                |                               |                                       |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chairman:      | Mr. G. J. van Heuven Goedhart | (Netherlands)                         |
| Vice-Chairman: | Mr. Lev Sychrava              | (Czechoslovakia)                      |
| Rapporteur:    | Mr. Geo. V. Ferguson          | (Canada)                              |
|                | Mr. P. H. Chang               | (China)                               |
|                | Mr. A. Geraud                 | (France)                              |
|                | Mr. C. A. R. Christensen      | (Norway)                              |
|                | Mr. S. Lopez                  | (Philippine Republic)                 |
|                | Mr. A. R. K. Mackenzie        | (United Kingdom)                      |
|                | Mr. Z. Chafee                 | (United States of America)            |
|                | Mr. R. Fontaina               | (Uruguay)                             |
|                | Mr. J. M. Lomakin             | (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) |

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

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| Mr. W. Farr | (UNESCO) |
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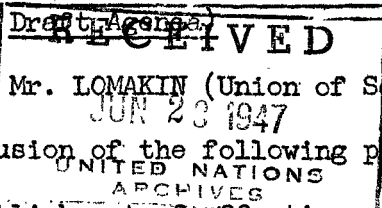
Consultants of Non-Governmental Organizations:

- |               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr. P. Garvin | (American Federation of Labor) |
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Secretariat:

- |                        |  |
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| Prof. John P. Humphrey | (Acting Secretary of the Sub-Commission) |
| Mr. John Male          |  |

1. Consideration of the Draft Report (E/CN.4/Sub.1/29 - Provisional



Mr. LOMAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed the inclusion of the following phrase in point 5 (c) (ii) (2): "The establishment of effective struggle against rumour-mongers or libelers

/who obstruct

who obstruct mutual understanding between nations." He subsequently withdrew his amendment, but suggested the deletion of point (2) altogether.

The CHAIRMAN called for a vote on the deletion of point (2).

DECISION: The amendment was defeated by two votes to seven.  
Point (2) was then adopted as it stood.

Mr. LOMAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), said that item (3) should be either deleted or amended.

Mr. CHAFEE (United States of America) said that it might be helpful to add the words "by legislation in separate countries."

Mr. CHANG (China), emphasized the importance of (3) as a measure in counteracting false news, and supported Mr. Chafee's amendment.

DECISIONS: Mr. Lomakin's proposal to delete (3) was defeated by ten votes. Mr. Chafee withdrew his amendment, and (3) was then unanimously adopted. Point (4) was adopted by ten votes, with one abstention. Points 5 (c) (iii) and 5 (c) (iv) were adopted unanimously.

Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) suggested amending the heading of item 6 to read "Consideration of Possible ..." instead of "Measures for Providing ..." since (a), (b), (c), and (d) under item 6 dealt with functions and not measures.

Mr. CHAFEE (United States of America) supported the amendment.

Mr. LOMAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) then suggested deleting points (a) and (b) and asking the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council to consider them further.

DECISION: Mr. Lomakin's proposal was defeated by one vote.  
Mr. Mackenzie's amendment of the title of item 6 was adopted by nine votes.

Mr. SYCHRAVA (Czechoslovakia) proposed the insertion of the words "false news and tendentious and defamatory campaigns" after the word "regarding" in 6 (a).

Mr. CHANG (China) supported the amendment.

Mr. GERAUD (France) said he thought that this point was already covered by item 5.

/Mr. SYCHRAVA

Mr. SYCHRAVA (Czechoslovakia) maintained that item 5 was concerned with study only, while point 6 (a) went beyond the scope of study.

DECISION: Mr. Sychrava's amendment was unanimously carried. Point 6 (a) was adopted by eight votes as amended.

Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) suggested amending point 6 (b) by substituting the words "on the question of freedom of information" for "for the information of the United Nations."

DECISIONS: Mr. Mackenzie's amendment was adopted by seven votes and point (b), as amended, was adopted by eight votes.

Mr. LOMAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested deleting point (c), which he considered covered already by (d).

DECISIONS: Mr. Lomakin's proposal was defeated by one vote to nine, with one abstention. The original text of point (c) was then adopted by nine votes to one with one abstention.

Mr. GERAUD (France) said that point (d) was of no practical significance, and suggested its deletion.

Mr. CHAFEE (United States of America) said he thought that this point might be clarified by rewording.

Mr. LOMAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that point (c) was unnecessary and that (c) and (d) could be combined.

DECISION: The original text of point (d) was adopted by a vote of ten to one.

Mr. LOMAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed adding "by means of bilateral agreements" to the heading of item 7.

Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) pointed out that this phrase was included in the following item of the agenda.

Mr. GERAUD (France) supported Mr. Lomakin's proposal, pointing out the different stages in the development of governmental news services.

Mr. CHAFEE (United States of America) said he hoped that the scope of item 7 would not be limited. He pointed out that such services were carried out without bilateral agreements.

/DECISIONS:

DECISIONS: By vote of four to nine, Mr. Lomakin's amendment was defeated. The heading of item 7 was adopted by eight to one votes with two abstentions, as it stood.

Mr. LOMAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested deleting the phrase concerning a "standard agreement" from item 7.

Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) said he thought that the wording created no obligation on the part of governments.

DECISIONS: Mr. Lomakin's amendment was adopted by six votes to four, and the paragraph was then adopted unanimously as amended. Item 7 as a whole was adopted by ten votes, with one abstention. Item 8 was adopted unanimously. Chapter III as a whole was then adopted by ten votes, with one abstention.

Mr. LOMAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) referred to Chapter IV "Examination of the Concept of Freedom of Information" (E/CN.4/Sub.1/29/Add.4). He said that the statements on this subject should be issued as a whole, and that this Chapter should be changed to Chapter V.

DECISION: The Chapter was unanimously adopted as it stood, numbered Chapter IV.

Mr. CHAFEE (United States of America) submitted the following proposal:

- "(a) The Sub-Commission recommends that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to assume full responsibility for preparing the necessary documentation under each item of the proposed agenda for the Conference, but that in accomplishing this work he seek the co-operation of other international organizations working in this field; and
- "(b) The documentation should be organized under each item of the agenda and should consist of a compilation and analysis of existing practices and problems."

He suggested that these recommendations be included as the last item of the Chapter on Organization of the Conference.

The CHAIRMAN, in calling for a vote, said that it would be better to leave the numbering of Mr. Chafee's proposal to the Secretariat. The proposal was adopted with ten votes and one abstention.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN, putting Chapter V as a whole to a vote, stated that his proposal regarding the shortage of newsprint, which was adopted this morning, should be included in this chapter. It was unanimously adopted, with minor textual changes in paragraph 1, "Relations with the International Telecommunications Union."

Mr. LOMAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) remarked that the agenda which the Sub-Commission had just adopted consisted of items of secondary importance. He regretted that the concrete objectives outlined by him at earlier meetings had not been accepted as a whole but had been altered, and that the responsibility of the press in fighting against Fascism was not sufficiently emphasized in the Report. Mr. Lomakin said he had tried to reach unanimity insofar as it was possible, and explained why he voted against the item on censorship. For the reasons he had mentioned, he would have to vote against the Report as a whole.

Mr. SYCHRAVA (Czechoslovakia) said that he shared Mr. Lomakin's views, but that with this reservation, he would vote for the Report as a whole.

DECISION: The Report of the Sub-Commission was adopted by a vote of ten to one.

The CHAIRMAN referred to the work done by the Sub-Commission, thanked members for their co-operation, and the Secretariat for the service it had given the Sub-Commission and declared the First Session closed.

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