



United Nations

GENERAL

A/1011
7 October 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Fourth session
Item 64 of the agenda

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

ACCESS FOR NEWS PERSONNEL TO MEETINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Frantisek VRBA (Czechoslovakia)

1. Pursuant to resolution 59 (I) of the General Assembly and resolution 74 (V) of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information was held at Geneva from 23 March to 21 April 1948, and adopted resolution No. 9 concerning access for news personnel to countries where meetings of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and conferences convened by them are held.
2. At its seventh session, the Economic and Social Council transmitted, inter alia, resolution No. 9 to the General Assembly.
3. During the second part of the third regular session of the General Assembly the Third Committee, at its 225th meeting, considered the resolution. At its 211th plenary meeting on 13 May 1949, the General Assembly adopted resolution 277 (III)B, under the terms of which resolution No. 9 was referred to the Economic and Social Council for appropriate action, at the Council's discretion.
4. During its ninth session, the Economic and Social Council considered resolution No. 9 and, at its 302nd plenary meeting held on 21 July 1949, decided to recommend a draft resolution to the General Assembly (Council resolution 241 (IX)).
5. Accordingly, the General Assembly, at its 224th plenary meeting held on 22 September 1949, referred to the Third Committee for consideration and report the item "Freedom of Information. Access for news personnel to meetings of the United Nations and the specialized agencies" (A/965).
6. At its 235th meeting held on 28 September 1949, the Third Committee began consideration of the item and had before it amendments proposed

/by the delegations

by the delegations of Cuba, India, Lebanon and the Philippines (A/C.3/L.7) to the draft resolution submitted by the Economic and Social Council.

7. The Committee, at its 236th meeting held on 28 September 1949, rejected the proposed amendments, and approved the following resolution, by 42 votes to none, with 7 abstentions, which it recommends to the General Assembly for adoption:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

ACCESS FOR NEWS PERSONNEL TO MEETINGS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The General Assembly,

Considering that the United Nations, in accordance with the aims and purposes of its Charter, should be prepared to grant all the necessary facilities for enabling media of information to function with full freedom and responsibility in following the course of its work and that of conferences called by it and its specialized agencies,

Urges all States Members of the United Nations to grant news personnel of all countries who have been accredited to the United Nations or specialized agencies, as the case may be, free access

(a) To countries where meetings of the United Nations or specialized agencies or any conferences convened by them take place, for the purpose of covering such meetings, in accordance with the terms and conditions of agreements made by the United Nations or its specialized agencies with the Governments of such countries, or, in the absence of such an agreement, on terms and conditions similar to those contained in agreements made by the United Nations or its specialized agencies with other Member States; and

(b) To all public information sources and services of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and to all meetings and conferences of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies which are open to the Press, equally and without discrimination.
