

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/CN.4/438/Rev.1
21 April 1950
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sixth session

Item 4(a)

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

France: Amendment to the new text of article 17 proposed by the
United States of America
(E/CN.4/433/Rev.2)

Paragraph 1:

- First line: 1. Before the word "everyone" insert the words "Speech is free".
2. Delete the words "information and".
3. After the word "expression", insert the words "by any means he chooses".
- Second line: 4. Delete the words "without governmental interference".
- Third line: 5. After the word "information" insert the words "of all kinds, including facts, critical comment".
6. Delete the words "regardless of frontiers".

The final text would then read:

"Speech is free. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression by any means he chooses; this right shall include freedom to hold opinions, to seek, receive and impart information of all kinds, including facts, critical comment and ideas, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media."

Insert the following new paragraph between paragraph 1 and 2:

"Steps shall be taken to eliminate political, economic, technical and other obstacles likely to impair freedom of information."

*Document E/CN.4/438 was never issued in English

/Paragraph 2:
E/CN.4/438/Rev.1

Paragraph 2:

- First line: 1. Replace the words "The right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas" by the words "The freedoms referred to in paragraph 1 of the present article".
- Second line: 2. After the word "limitations" insert the words "penalties and liabilities".
3. Replace the words "in the interest" by the words "for the protection".
- Third line 4. After the words "public order" insert the words "in a democratic society".

The text would then read:

"The freedoms referred to in paragraph 1 of the present article shall be subject only to such limitations, penalties and liabilities as are provided by law and necessary for the protection of national security, public order in a democratic society, safety, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights, reputation or freedoms of other persons."
