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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Observations of Governments on the report of the Committee on
 Freedom of Information of the Commission on Human Rights

(E/CN.4/762 and Corr.1)

The Secretary-General has the honour to inform the Commission on Human Rights that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 683 (C) (XXVI), additional observations from governments on the report of the Commission's Committee on Freedom of Information have been received as follows:

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Letter dated 27 February 1959

"In its note No. 274 of 7 May 1958 the USSR delegation stated that in the opinion of the USSR Government the United Nations can and should undertake to draw up a draft Convention on Freedom of Information. ^{1/} The USSR delegation, it will be remembered, gave active support to the resolution adopted at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly which stated that the General Assembly would proceed, at its fourteenth session, to a discussion of the text of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information.

In view of this resolution (A/RES/1313 (XIII)), the USSR delegation believes that the question of preparing a draft Convention on Freedom of Information has already been decided by the General Assembly, so that the Commission on Human Rights cannot discuss the part of the Committee's report which deals with the preparation of the draft Convention.

As regards the Committee's suggestions concerning the development of media of information in under-developed countries, the USSR delegation, as it has repeatedly stated in the organs of the United Nations and particularly

^{1/} See A/3868, pp. 9-10.

at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly thinks it essential to provide technical assistance to under-developed countries in the development of their national organs of information. It is therefore the view of the USSR delegation that the Commission on Human Rights should, on the basis of the Committee's report, make a careful study of the steps and recommendations which the United Nations might adopt with respect to technical assistance to under-developed countries in connexion with the establishment in them of independent national organs of information."
