

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.4/822/Add.2  
31 January 1962

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Eighteenth session  
Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda

ANNUAL REPORT ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Note by the Secretary-General

Since the issuance of the annual report on freedom of information (E/CN.4/822), the Government of China has submitted a report on information media, excerpts of which are reproduced below:

China

Newspapers

The number of newspapers in the Republic of China is thirty-one. Of these, sixteen are published in Taipei, including three in the English language. The others are located in the major cities of the island, plus one each in Kinmen and Matsu.

The combined circulation of all these newspapers is estimated at approximately 720,000. This represents a significant increase from previous years, attributed mainly to a higher literacy rate, better readability of the newspapers, and more intensified circulation promotion. Compared to the population, there are seventy copies of newspapers for every 1,000 persons.

This spectacular growth reflects the atmosphere of freedom and prosperity under which the newspapers are thriving. There is no censorship of any kind. Although martial law is in effect, editors are not required to submit their copy to anyone either before or after publication. Similarly, foreign correspondents as well as representatives of the overseas Chinese press in Taiwan are free to send back any information, picture or newsreel to their respective countries.

Newsprint used by all newspapers in Taiwan is now locally produced.

#### News agencies

In 1945 there was only one news agency in Taiwan, a branch office of the Central News Agency (CNA) of Nanking. Keeping pace with the growth of newspapers, the number of news services jumped to twenty-eight in 1950. Today a total of forty-two news agencies are serving the newspapers and broadcasting stations in free China.

#### Foreign correspondents

Over three hundred foreign correspondents visit China every year, in addition to more than forty staff correspondents stationed in Taipei, representing the foreign press, radio, television and other media.

#### Magazines

Magazines are a flourishing business in free China. Since 1951 the number of periodicals has increased four times. By 31 August 1961 a total of 706 magazines was registered with the Ministry of Interior.

#### Journalism education

Four institutions now offer courses in journalism in Taiwan. The Graduate School of Journalism of National Chengchi University awards the degree of master of arts in journalism. The undergraduate Department of Journalism of the same university offers the degree of bachelor of journalism. The Taiwan Provincial Normal University has a journalism section in its Department of Social Education for regular students and also a one-year special course of journalism for overseas Chinese students. The Political Staff College of the Ministry of National Defense operates a journalism department to train public information officers for the armed forces. The World School of Journalism, privately endowed, takes both junior middle school graduates through a five-year course and senior middle school graduates through a three-year course in news editing and reporting, newspaper management or radio and television.

/...

Broadcasting stations

Broadcasting stations in Taiwan are privately owned and operated, under the supervision of the Ministry of Communications. Radio sets are also registered with the Ministry, and an annual license fee of NT\$30 is charged each set owner. The total number of receiver sets registered at the end of 1960 was 707,000, not counting those in the armed forces. Assuming there are five listeners to each set, this means a minimum radio audience of 3,535,000 people.

The number of broadcasting stations increased rapidly in recent years. From forty-one stations at the beginning of July 1957, it grew to sixty-two by August 1961. The number of transmitters rose from eighty-eight to 156, of which fifty-three are short wave transmitters. Total installed capacity climbed from 475.6 kw. to 613.5 kw. during the same period, including 206.4 kw. used for short wave transmission. There is at least one broadcasting station in each hsien or municipality in Taiwan.

-----