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Agenda item 80

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ibrahim BADAWI (Egypt)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

"Freedom of information:

(a) Draft Declaration on Freedom of Information;

(b) Draft Convention on Freedom of Information"

was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session in accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 2441st plenary meeting, on 15 December 1975.

2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

3. The Committee considered this item at its 77th meeting, on 10 December. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States are contained in the summary record of that meeting (A/C.3/31/SR.77).

4. In connexion with item 80, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/31/215) containing background information on the item.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DECISION A/C.3/31/L.48

5. The Committee had before it a draft decision submitted by the Netherlands (A/C.3/31/L.48), whose representative introduced it at the 77th meeting, on 10 December.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote (see para. 7 below).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

7. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

The General Assembly, having been unable, for lack of time, to consider agenda item 80, decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Freedom of information" and to consider it with appropriate priority.
