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Item 80 of the provisional agenda*

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The item entitled "Freedom of information" concerns the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, which has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since its fourteenth session, and the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information, which has been on the Assembly's agenda since the fifteenth session.

2. In a note submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session (A/8340), the Secretary-General reported on the previous consideration of the item by United Nations organs. The following texts were annexed to that note: 1/

- I. Preamble and articles 1 to 4 of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, as adopted by the Third Committee;
- II. Articles 5 to 19 of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, not yet considered by the Third Committee;
- III. Comments and proposals on articles 5 to 19 of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information (A/3868 and Add.1, 2 and 8, A/4173 and Add.1 and 2);
- IV. Amendment to the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, submitted by Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela (A/C.3/L.843);
- V. Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 1111th plenary meeting, on 21 April 1960;
- VI. Draft Declaration on Freedom of Information.

* A/31/150.

1/ In compliance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2836 (XXVI) of 19 December 1971, on publications and documentation, the material annexed to document A/8340 is not reproduced in the present note. Copies of that document are available upon request.

3. Since during its thirtieth session the General Assembly was unable, for lack of time, to consider the item, at its 2441st plenary meeting on 15 December 1975 it decided, 2/ on the recommendation of the Third Committee, to include the item entitled "Freedom of information" in the provisional agenda of its thirty-first session and to consider it with appropriate priority.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/10034), pp. 99 and 100.