

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND OF THE PRESS

Consolidated Terms of Reference of the
Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on
Freedom of Information and of the Press, and of the Conference
on Freedom of Information.

1. Terms of Reference of the Commission on Human Rights (document E/248):
 - "1. The Economic and Social Council, being charged under the Charter with the responsibility of promoting universal respect for and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and requiring advice and assistance to enable it to discharge this responsibility,

"ESTABLISHES A COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
 - "2. The work of the Commission shall be directed towards submitting proposals, recommendations and reports to the Council regarding:
 - (a) an international bill of rights;
 - (b) international declarations or conventions on civil liberties, the status of women, freedom of information and similar matters;
 - (c) the protection of minorities;
 - (d) the prevention of discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language or religion;
 - (e) any other matter concerning human rights not covered by items (a), (b), (c), and (d).
 - "3. The Commission shall make studies and recommendations and provide information and other services at the request of the Economic and Social Council.
 - /"4. The Commission

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"4. The Commission may propose to the Council any changes in its terms of reference.

"5. The Commission may make recommendations to the Council concerning any sub-commission which it considers should be established."

2. Terms of Reference of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press (document E/325):

A. "THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

"RESOLVES that the functions of the Sub-Commission be:

(a) In the first instance, to examine what rights, obligations and practices should be included in the concept of freedom of information and to report to the Commission on Human Rights on any issues that may arise from such examination;

(b) To perform any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council or by the Commission on Human Rights."

B. "THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

"REQUESTS the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press to prepare, guided by Resolution No. 59 (I) of 14 December 1946 of the General Assembly, a draft documented agenda for the Conference on Freedom of Information, and to submit this along with proposals concerning preparations for the Conference to the Commission on Human Rights and to the Council. These proposals shall include suggestions concerning the invitation of States, not Members of the United Nations, and plans whereby appropriate specialized agencies, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and appropriate non-governmental organizations may assist in the preparation of the Conference and attend it; and

"TRANSMITS to the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press the draft agenda for the Conference on Freedom of

/Information presented

Information presented by the Delegation of France (documents E/355 and E/355/Corr.1) and any other similar communications received from Member States; and

"RECOMMENDS to the Sub-Commission to invite a representative of the International Organization of Journalists to be present as an observer at its meetings for purpose of consultation; and further

"RESOLVES that the decision on the date and place of the Conference be deferred to its fifth session."

3. Terms of Reference of the International Conference on Freedom of Information as stated by the General Assembly (Journal No. 75: Supp. A/64/Add.1):

"THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

"RESOLVES THEREFORE, in the spirit of paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 1 of the Charter, to authorize the holding of a conference of all Members of the United Nations on freedom of information;

"INSTRUCTS the Economic and Social Council to undertake, pursuant to Article 60 and Article 62, paragraph 4, of the Charter, the convocation of such a conference in accordance with the following guiding principles:

"(a) The purpose of the Conference shall be to formulate its views concerning the rights, obligations and practices which should be included in the concept of the freedom of information;

"(b) Delegations to the Conference shall include in each instance persons actually engaged or experienced in press, radio, motion pictures and other media for the dissemination of information;

"(c) The Conference shall be held before the end of 1947, at such place as may be determined by the Economic and Social Council, in order to enable the Council to submit a report on the deliberations and recommendations of the Conference to the following regular session of the General Assembly."

/4. The Sub-Commission

4. The Sub-Commission may wish to recommend changes in its Terms of Reference. It may also wish to recommend changes in the Terms of Reference of the Conference.
