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*Chairman: Mr. Nemi Chandra KASLIWAL
(India).*

AGENDA ITEMS 45 AND 47

Draft Convention on Freedom of Information (A/3868 and Add.1-8, A/4173 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3, A/5143, A/AC.42/7 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.1048/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.3/L.1056, A/C.3/L.1060)

Draft Declaration on Freedom of Information (A/5146, A/C.3/L.1048/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.3/L.1056, A/C.3/L.1060)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a note by the Secretary-General (A/5143) giving the history of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, which had been before the General Assembly since its fourteenth session and of which the Assembly had so far adopted only the preamble and articles 1 to 4.

2. The draft Declaration on Freedom of Information, whose origins were reviewed in a further note by the Secretary-General (A/5146), had also been before the General Assembly since its fourteenth session but had not yet been examined. He also drew attention to the seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1048/Rev.1 and Add.1) and to the Secretary-General's note regarding its financial implications (A/C.3/L.1056).

3. Mr. PANTOJA (Colombia) said that, since time was short, the sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution would prefer the examination of their proposal to be postponed. The question of freedom of information required to be studied at leisure, for it was of fundamental importance to the international community: the maintenance of peace, international understanding and the material and moral progress of mankind depended on the peoples' access to information about what was happening in the world. His delegation hoped that the proposal made in the seven-Power draft resolution would meet with a favourable reception later, for the problems relating to freedom of information called for vigorous action.

4. Mrs. TREE (United States of America) said she was glad the sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution had proposed that the examination of their text should be deferred. Her delegation supported the ideas behind the draft resolution but did not think it would be reasonable to begin consideration at so late a date, of a very important question in which many Member States took a close interest. It was the duty of the United Nations to encourage and help countries in giving their peoples ready access to all sources of information, national or external. She regretted that the Committee had been unable to give the fundamental question of freedom of information due consideration at the current session.

5. Mr. BELAUNDE MOREYRA (Peru) introduced, on behalf of the Philippine delegation and his own, a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1060), whose purpose was to postpone the examination of the draft Convention and draft Declaration on Freedom of Information until the General Assembly's eighteenth session and to request that those questions should be given priority.

6. Mr. REYES (Philippines) congratulated the sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution on having drawn the General Assembly's attention to the urgent need for a serious effort to make up the deplorable delay in examining the draft Convention on Freedom of Information. His delegation would have liked to join them if circumstances had allowed their proposal to be given the attention it deserved. The great importance which his delegation attached to the proposal to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries prompted it to suggest that the draft resolution should be examined at the very beginning of the eighteenth session. The General Assembly had always shown a very keen interest in freedom of information, which it regarded as the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations was consecrated.

7. Like the sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution, he viewed with concern the widening gap between the progress achieved in relation to freedom of information and that achieved in relation to other human rights. At the General Assembly's fifteenth session (1029th meeting), Mr. Salvador P. López, Rapporteur on Freedom of Information, speaking as the representative of the Philippines, had stated that, at a time when world peace and even the very existence of mankind were in jeopardy, it was the duty of the United Nations to bring to a successful conclusion all the efforts which had been made since the end of the First World War. Mr. López had stressed that it was more imperative than ever to draw up a convention on freedom of information. Indeed, all the efforts to achieve disarmament, guarantee human rights and freedoms, eliminate racial prejudice or promote the economic well-being of peoples would be in vain if the right of all peoples to know and understand each other better was not guaranteed and if the obligation to re-

spect that right, to promote it and to create conditions under which it could be fully exercised were not accepted by States. The draft resolution rightly underlined the imperative need to conclude the draft Convention and draft Declaration and proposed a course of action which should be brought to the attention of Governments and considered at the eighteenth session. That was the import of the draft resolution which his delegation submitted with the delegation of Peru.

8. Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) said he was very grateful to the Colombian delegation for having suggested that the examination of the seven-Power draft resolution should be deferred for a while, for the problem involved was extremely difficult and deserved thorough consideration. The question of freedom of information was one on which ideas differed profoundly, and it would be very difficult to prepare an instrument which would promote freedom of information without at the same time putting weapons in the hands of those who sought to restrict that freedom. Hence the question called for serious reflection and any hasty decision should be avoided; his delegation, for its part, felt no particular enthusiasm for the proposal to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries, in view of its financial implications and the administrative difficulties which would be involved.

9. At the request of Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), Mr. QUIAMBAO (Philippines), speaking also on behalf of the Peruvian delegation, agreed to change the last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution to read as follows: "Having been unable at its seventeenth session to consider the draft Convention and the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information, as well as the above-mentioned draft resolution".

10. Mr. KAPUR (India) thanked the sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution for having agreed to postpone the examination of their text, the drafting of which, incidentally, did not entirely satisfy his delegation. In his view, the draft Covenant on Freedom of Information was of exceptional importance, and it was essential that the Committee should adopt at the very least the substantive articles at the eighteenth session. It was in that spirit that his delegation would vote in favour of the Peruvian and Philippine draft resolution.

11. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution of Peru and the Philippines (A/C.3/L.1060), as amended.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 83

Measures designed to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples (A/5184, A/5203, chap. VIII, sec. II, E/3638 and Add.1, A/C.3/L.1051, A/C.3/L.1059)

12. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the item before the Committee had been the subject of General Assembly resolution 1572 (XV). In pursuance of that resolution, UNESCO had submitted a report (E/3638) to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session; the Council, after examining the report, had adopted resolution 895 (XXXIV), in which it had requested the General Assembly to take such decision in the matter as it might see fit. He drew the Committee's attention to the note by the Secre-

tary-General (A/5184), the draft Declaration submitted by the Romanian delegation (A/C.3/L.1051) and the six-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1059).

13. Mr. DATCU (Romania) said that the question had aroused the interest of many delegations because of its humanitarian nature, which was fully consistent with the objectives and traditions of the Third Committee. The Secretary-General had recently had occasion to stress that it was necessary to promote the ideals of peace among young people, and that one of the major tasks of education was to bring up young people in a spirit of peace, because the problem of peace was one to which no man of good will could remain indifferent.

14. On the Romanian delegation's initiative, the General Assembly had first discussed the problem at its fifteenth session; as a result of that discussion, the Assembly had adopted resolution 1572 (XV), to whose main provisions he drew the Committee's attention. In the two years since that resolution had been adopted, many useful measures had been taken at various international meetings and conferences, such as the seventeenth in the series of international rallies at Geneva and the fourth regional conference of UNESCO National Commissions at which, on the basis of the interesting report submitted by the Swedish delegation, a recommendation had been adopted concerning the contribution of UNESCO and its European National Commissions to the education of the younger generation in a spirit of peace, friendship and mutual understanding. In addition, the General Conference of UNESCO, at its twelfth session, had adopted an important resolution on the subject, in which it had appealed to Governments and international organizations for the younger generation to be brought up in a spirit of peace, friendship and respect for other peoples (resolution 1.143). Special mention should be made of the UNESCO secretariat's very useful report which contained a wealth of information and reproduced the comments and suggestions made on the subject by Governments, UNESCO National Commissions and non-governmental organizations. The General Assembly, having sufficient background information at its disposal to embark on a detailed study, had decided to include in the agenda of its seventeenth session the item which was now before the Committee. To assist the Committee in its work, his delegation had submitted a draft declaration concerning the education of the young.

15. He appealed to Governments, to international bodies and to national and international youth movements to study that draft declaration and to make comments and suggestions. His delegation was convinced that, if the draft declaration was discussed in detail, the drafting could be improved and unanimous agreement could be reached. It regretted that, for lack of time, the Committee could not examine at its current seventeenth session a document whose importance, usefulness and timeliness had been repeatedly emphasized. It understood why the examination of the item had to be deferred but considered that, at its eighteenth session, the General Assembly should give the proposal all due attention as a matter of priority. His delegation thanked the members of the General Committee and those delegations which, in the course of the seventeenth session, had expressed the desire that that agenda item should be examined without delay; it was to be hoped that dele-

gations would turn the additional delay to account by giving the draft declaration thorough consideration, so that they could take an informal decision on a major problem of current concern to all peoples. It was important to see to it that the younger generation were spared the misfortunes which had recently been visited upon mankind, and that they were brought up in a spirit consonant with that of the Charter of the United Nations.

16. Mr. BIRICHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 1572 (XV) invited the appropriate specialized agencies to consider ways of intensifying international, national and voluntary action to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples, including the possibility of formulating a draft of an international declaration on the subject. His delegation, for its part, considered the formulation of such a declaration essential; it would form a logical complement to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 (III)) and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV)), and would promote mutual confidence and understanding among peoples. Such a document would draw the attention of Governments to problems connected with the education of young people, would serve as a guide to parents and youth organizations and would make a substantial contribution to the cause of peace. His delegation congratulated Romania on having again taken the initiative in the matter by submitting a draft declaration which deserved the closest study. Since UNESCO had taken no definite position with regard to the desirability of such a declaration, it was now incumbent upon the United Nations to take a decision. The problem was of the greatest importance, for the young people of today would play a decisive role in the world of tomorrow. Since time was short, his delegation favoured the postponement of consideration of the Romanian proposal to the eighteenth session and therefore supported the six-Power draft resolution.

17. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) recalled that, when the question had come before the Committee for the first time, many delegations had supported the idea of drafting, not a convention—which the subject-matter did not warrant—but a declaration, which could do much to strengthen, among young people in all countries, the love of peace and the desire for friendship among nations. He did not wish to go into matters of substance, but thought that the draft declaration proposed by the Romanian delegation could serve as a basis on which to draft a text acceptable to most, if not all, delegations. He would therefore support the six-Power draft resolution, which was designed to ensure that, at its eighteenth session, the General Assembly would decide upon measures to promote among youth, both nationally and internationally, the ideals of peace and understanding between peoples.

18. Mr. SALSAMENDI (UNESCO) read to the Committee the resolution which the General Conference of UNESCO had just adopted unanimously on measures designed to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples.

19. Miss GRÑAN (Cuba) congratulated the sponsors of the six-Power draft resolution, who wanted to secure priority for the discussion of the present item

at the Assembly's eighteenth session. When Romania had introduced the item at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly (1050th meeting), it had been warmly welcomed by a great many delegations, including her own. The resolution which the UNESCO representative had just read out showed how much importance that organization also attached to the subject. A declaration in regard to it would form a suitable complement to a possible agreement on general disarmament and would be beneficial to all countries, whether under-developed or industrialized. The question was certainly one of the most important on the Third Committee's agenda, for many of the provisions it adopted on other matters were largely dependent for their implementation on mutual understanding between peoples.

20. Mr. HANDL (Czechoslovakia) recalled that his delegation had already stressed, in its statement on the report of the Economic and Social Council, the Third Committee's responsibility in the field of education. It was of the greatest importance that the younger generation, on whom the future of the world depended, should be brought up to respect the ideals of peace and mutual understanding between nations. The Czechoslovak delegation had therefore welcomed the initiative which the Romanian delegation had taken at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly by proposing measures designed to promote the education of youth in the spirit of peace and co-operation between States and by requesting the inclusion of a separate item on that question in the Assembly's agenda. His delegation hoped that the Assembly would be able to make a detailed study of the item at its eighteenth session; such a study could appropriately be based on the draft declaration submitted by the Romanian delegation, the provisions of which were based on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)), and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The Czechoslovak delegation would therefore support the six-Power draft resolution.

21. Mr. BEN MEBAREK (Algeria), introducing the six-Power draft resolution, said that the problem of youth was vitally important in the under-developed countries. In Algeria, for example, fifty-two per cent of the population were under twenty years of age. In all countries youth was a dynamic force which must be given the opportunity to work in peace for the progress of mankind. The draft declaration submitted by the Romanian delegation afforded worth-while prospects for the preparation of an instrument designed to achieve those aims, and for that reason Algeria and its co-sponsors of the draft resolution had felt that the question should be taken up as a matter of priority at the eighteenth session, after delegations had had time to study it. He hoped that the draft resolution would be approved unanimously.

22. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) fully agreed with the sponsors of the six-Power draft resolution regarding the decision to defer consideration of the item until the eighteenth session; however, he had some misgivings about the wording of the draft resolution. The second preambular paragraph, which mentioned Economic and Social Council resolution 895 (XXXIV), did not recall the essential provisions of that resolution, in which the Council had taken note of the report of

UNESCO (E/3638), transmitted it to the General Assembly and requested the latter to take a decision thereon: that was to say, on the UNESCO report, which was not mentioned in the six-Power draft resolution. On the other hand, the draft resolution did mention the draft declaration submitted by the Romanian delegation, which the Committee had not yet had time to examine. Furthermore the operative part referred to "consideration of that item", and the proposal to give it priority and to devote as many meetings as possible to it might be taken as referring to the Romanian draft declaration rather than the agenda item in general. There must be no confusion between the two; nor must it be forgotten that the first thing to be done was to decide whether or not a declaration should be adopted on the subject. The UNESCO report, which was based on an inquiry among Governments and interested specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, indicated in paragraph 42 that only thirty-eight replies, or a little over half of those received, had expressed any views on the feasibility of an international declaration. It also emerged from that report that only four Governments had thought it worth-while to take a stand on the matter. UNESCO had reached the conclusion, in paragraph 48 of the report, that the possibility of reaching agreement on the terms of an international declaration seemed doubtful. There were many possible ways of promoting among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples; indeed, they were enumerated in the conclusions set forth in the UNESCO report. Consequently the Committee must not concentrate its study on a single proposal of controversial value, covering only part of the extremely wide field of possible action in that connexion.

23. Mrs. REFSLUND THOMSEN (Denmark) agreed with the French representative that the sponsors of the draft resolution had unbalanced their text somewhat by mentioning in the third preambular paragraph, the draft declaration submitted by the Romanian delegation. The Danish delegation did not favour the idea of a declaration because it doubted that such an instrument would be effective. Furthermore it did not consider that the Third Committee should devote much time to preparing a large number of international instruments until it had completed the most important of all, namely the draft Covenants on Human Rights. Those views had already been expressed by the Danish National Commission for UNESCO in its reply to that organization. She would therefore ask for a separate vote on the third preambular paragraph.

24. Mr. GHORBAL (United Arab Republic) said that the sole purpose of the six-Power draft resolution was to refer, for examination at the eighteenth session, the agenda item now before the Committee, not the draft declaration which had been prepared on that subject. To allay the French representative's misgivings, he proposed that the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution should be amended to read as follows:

"Taking note of the report on this subject submitted by the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (E/3638) to the Economic and Social Council, as well as Council resolution 895 (XXXIV) of 27 July 1962 requesting the General Assembly to take such decision thereon as it may see fit,".

25. With that wording the draft resolution would merely state the facts. In any case it had never been the sponsors' intention to propose a procedural draft resolution which would prejudice the substance of the problem, meaning the preparation of a declaration on the subject in question.

26. He hoped that the change he had proposed independently and the explanations he had given on behalf of the sponsors would satisfy the French and Danish representatives, and that the latter would withdraw her request for a separate vote on the third preambular paragraph of what was a purely procedural draft resolution.

27. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) thanked the representative of the United Arab Republic for having taken account of his remarks. However, the French delegation would also like the sponsors to amend the fourth preambular paragraph by replacing the words "to consider the item at its seventeenth session" by the words "to take a decision on the appropriateness of preparing such a declaration at its seventeenth session". As it stood, the draft resolution prejudged the Assembly's decision on the subject. Moreover the French text of the operative paragraph was ambiguous; it would be better to translate the word "item" by "point de l'ordre du jour" rather than by "question".

28. Mr. GHORBAL (United Arab Republic) accepted the change requested by the representative of France in the French text of the operative paragraph so that it might correspond with the English text in which the draft resolution had been presented. However, he still felt that the text of the six-Power draft resolution, as amended, would leave the General Assembly, at its eighteenth session, completely free of decision regarding the preparation of a draft resolution.

29. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) suggested that the French representative's wishes might be met by amending the third preambular paragraph to read as follows:

"Bearing in mind that a draft declaration on the subject elaborated by the Romanian delegation (A/C.3/L.1051) was submitted to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly for its consideration but could not be discussed owing to lack of time."

30. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) thanked the Saudi Arabian representative for his understanding of the French delegation's difficulties in supporting the draft resolution as it stood. However, the explanations given by the representative of the United Arab Republic on behalf of the sponsors had dispelled the misgivings of the French delegation, which would not press its own interpretation provided that it appeared in the summary record of the meeting and in the Third Committee's report. He hoped that, in the circumstances, the Danish representative would withdraw her request for a separate vote.

31. Mrs. REFSLUND THOMSEN (Denmark) withdrew her request.

32. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the six-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1059), as amended by the representative of the United Arab Republic and, as to the French text of the operative part, by the representative of France.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

Conclusion of the Committee's work

33. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for their friendly co-operation and the members of the Secretariat for the constant assistance they had given him.

34. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), Miss KRACHT (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Latin American countries, Mr. QUIAMBAO (Philippines), speaking also on behalf of Japan and Pakistan, Miss WACHUKU (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Commonwealth countries, Mr. BOUQUIN (France), speaking also on behalf of Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Turkey, Mrs. ROUSSEAU (Mali), speaking also on behalf of Algeria, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea,

Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Syria, Tanganyika, Togo, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic and the Upper Volta, Mr. LEIRO (Norway), speaking also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden, Mrs. NARDI (Israel), Mrs. DEMBINSKA (Poland), speaking on behalf of the socialist countries, Mr. IDRIS (Indonesia), speaking also on behalf of Afghanistan and Yugoslavia, Mrs. TREE (United States of America) and U KHINMAUNG PYU (Burma), speaking also on behalf of Cambodia, paid a tribute to the skill with which the Chairman had directed the Committee's discussions at the seventeenth session and thanked the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and all members of the Secretariat for their contribution to the success of its work.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.