

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

Memorandum Concerning Invitations to Non-Member States to the
International Conference on Information

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

1. The General Assembly in its resolution of 14 December 1946 authorized "the holding of a conference of all Members of the United Nations on Freedom of Information."
 2. The Economic and Social Council, in a resolution passed in its Fourth Session (document E/325), requested the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press to submit proposals concerning the Conference and stated, "These proposals shall include suggestions concerning the invitations of States, not Members of the United Nations."
 3. The Sub-Commission may, of course, decide to recommend that States not Members of the United Nations, not be invited to the Conference.
 4. Two precedents, by which the Sub-Commission could be guided, exist for the invitation of States, not Members of the United Nations, to conferences called by the Economic and Social Council. In one case (A below) the invitation was extended "to participate in the Conference", and the Council expressed the hope that "the Governments invited to the Conference may give their respective Delegations full powers enabling them to sign such Convention...as may be concluded at the Conference." In the other case (B below) the Council invited Non-Member States "to send observers."
- A. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution of 28 March 1947, (E/408), requested the Secretary-General "to convene a Conference of interested Governments to consider the establishment of an

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inter-governmental maritime organization," and "to invite all the Members of the United Nations and the following Governments, to participate in the Conference: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Eire, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Roumania, Switzerland, Transjordan, Yemen." The Conference is to be held in the fall of this year.

B. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution of 11 June 1946, (E/59/Rev.1) endorsed "recommendation III of the Technical Preparatory Committee and confirms the decision of the Drafting Committee to issue invitations immediately to send observers to the International Health Conference: to: (a) the Governments of: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Eire, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Portugal, Roumania, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, Transjordan and Yemen."

The following Non-Member Governments sent observers: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Eire, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Portugal, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, and Transjordan.

(Afghanistan, Iceland, Siam and Sweden have since become Members of the United Nations.)

C. The relevant rules of procedure adopted by the International Health Conference on 24 June 1946 (E/E/3/Rev.2) state:

"Rule 7

"Observers duly accredited to the Conference may attend the plenary meetings of the Conference and on the invitation of the President, submit their observations, but they may not vote.

"Rule 8

"Observers may likewise attend under similar conditions the meetings of the working committees, unless the latter decide otherwise.

"Rule 9

"Observers may be accompanied by one or more technical advisers whether at plenary meetings or at the meetings of working committees."