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### DRAFT CONVENTION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

#### Note by the Secretary-General

1. The item entitled "Draft Convention on Freedom of Information" has been on the General Assembly's agenda since its fourteenth session. At that session, the Third Committee adopted the preamble and article 1; at the fifteenth session, article 2; and at the sixteenth session, articles 3 and 4 of the draft Convention. The preamble and articles 1-4, as adopted by the Committee, are contained in documents A/4341, A/4636 and A/5041.<sup>1/</sup>
2. The text of the draft Convention which is under consideration by the General Assembly<sup>2/</sup> was formulated by the Committee on the Draft Convention on Freedom of Information established by the General Assembly under its resolution 426 (V) of 14 December 1950. A number of States, in pursuance of resolutions 1189 A (XII) and 1313 C (XIII), commented or made proposals on specific articles of the draft Convention. These are reproduced in document A/3868 and Add.1-8 and A/4173 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3. An amendment to article 6 of the draft Convention, submitted at the Assembly's fourteenth session, is to be found in document A/C.3/L.843.<sup>3/</sup>
3. At the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, the Third Committee was unable to continue to consider the draft Convention. On recommendation of the Third Committee

<sup>1/</sup> See, respectively, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 35; ibid., Fifteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 35; ibid., Sixteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 36.

<sup>2/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 29, document A/AC.42/7 and Corr.1, annex.

<sup>3/</sup> Ibid., Fifteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 35, document A/4401, para. 3.

the General Assembly, at its 1279th plenary meeting on 12 December 1963, postponed consideration of the draft Convention to the nineteenth session. At that session the Secretary-General drew the matter to the attention of the General Assembly in document A/5696. Because the Assembly was not able to consider the item at its nineteenth session, the Secretary-General has included it in the provisional agenda of the twentieth session.

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