



Eighteenth session

DRAFT CONVENTION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, at its seventeenth session was unable to consider the draft Convention on Freedom of Information. In resolution 1840 (XVII), adopted at its 1198th plenary meeting on 19 December 1962, the Assembly decided to give priority and to devote as many meetings as necessary to this item at its eighteenth session.
2. The draft Convention on Freedom of Information has been on the agenda of the Assembly since its fourteenth session. The text of the draft Convention^{1/} was formulated by the Committee on the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, which the Assembly set up under 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 documents 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.^{2/}

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 29, document A/AC.42/7 and Corr.1, annex.

^{2/} Ibid., Fifteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 35, document A/4401, para. 3.

3. At the fourteenth session of the Assembly 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.^{3/}

^{3/} 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.