

ARTICLE XIII

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify the States referred to in article VI (1) of the following:

- (a) Signatures, ratifications and accessions received in accordance with articles VI and VII;
- (b) The date upon which the present Convention comes into force in accordance with article XIII;
- (c) Denunciations received in accordance with article X (1);
- (d) Abrogation in accordance with article XI;
- (e) Notifications received in accordance with article XII.

ARTICLE XIV

1. The present Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts shall be equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy to each State referred to in article VI (1).
3. The present Convention shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations on the date of its coming into force.

631 (VII). Future work of the United Nations in the field of freedom of information

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated, the promotion of which is one of the fundamental tasks of the United Nations,

Considering that in 1946 the General Assembly initiated⁴ the study in the United Nations of the problems of freedom of information and continues to take great interest in the said problems and to concern itself with them directly,

Considering the continuing need for study, inquiry and investigation with a view to positive action for the removal of obstacles to the free flow of information,

Considering that the Third Committee has not studied the draft Convention⁵ on Freedom of Information during the sixth and seventh sessions of the General Assembly,

Noting the decision of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 442 C (XIV) of 13 June 1952 to appoint, for an experimental period of one year, and in a personal capacity, a rapporteur on matters relating to freedom of information,

Noting that the rapporteur designated by the Council has already undertaken, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the professional organizations concerned, both national and international, the preparation,⁶ for submission to the Council in 1953, of a sub-

stantive report covering major contemporary problems and developments in the field of freedom of information, together with recommendations regarding practical action which might be taken by the Council, in order to surmount those obstacles to the fuller enjoyment of freedom of information which can be surmounted at the present time,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate the records of the Third Committee on the subject of freedom of information to the Economic and Social Council, in order that they may be taken into consideration by the Council during its studies and discussions;

2. *Decides* to consider further at its eighth session the problem of promoting and safeguarding freedom of information, including the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, on the basis of the rapporteur's report to the Economic and Social Council in 1953 and after the Economic and Social Council has had an opportunity to examine the rapporteur's report; and accordingly,

3. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to submit to the General Assembly at its eighth session a statement of its views and plans regarding future work in connexion with freedom of information.

*403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.*

632 (VII). Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press

The General Assembly,

Considering the constructive work done by the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press during its five sessions,

Considering that it has not hitherto had an opportunity to express an opinion on the work of the Sub-Commission,

1. *Decides* to express its appreciation for the work which the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press has accomplished;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convey its thanks for the service which the Sub-Commission has honourably rendered in discharging its duties.

*403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.*

633 (VII). Information facilities in under-developed regions of the world

The General Assembly,

Considering that it is essential for the proper development of public opinion in under-developed countries that independent domestic information enterprises should be given facilities and assistance in order that they may be enabled to contribute to the spread of information, to the development of national culture and to international understanding,

Convinced that the development of information media contributes greatly to the economic and social progress of peoples,

⁴ See resolution 59 (I).

⁵ See document A/AC.42/7, annex A.

⁶ See document E/2345.