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**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

E/HR/14

10 May 1946

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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STATEMENTS CONCERNING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS  
SUBMITTED BY THE CHINESE DELEGATION TO THE CHAIRMAN,  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

CHING-LIN HSIA  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York 20, N.Y.

May 10, 1946

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I transmit herewith two statements concerning freedom of information and freedom of the press. They represent the viewpoint of the Chinese Government as well as that of the Chinese press.

I shall be grateful if you will bring them to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights.

Sincerely yours,

C. L. Hsia

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Chairman  
The Commission on Human Rights

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Excerpt from a speech by Dr. Wang Shih-chieh, Minister of Information, at a dinner in honour of the Freedom of Information Committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Chungking on 30 March 1945:

"The Chinese Government endorses the cause which the American Society of Newspaper Editors is promoting, namely: the freedom to write, to transmit and publish news after the war. Certain restrictions which now apply to the press in China are dictated by the exigencies of the war, and particularly by the fact that large areas of the country are under enemy occupation. But the system of censorship is not intended to be a permanent institution. In all probability it will be abolished after the war. While the hostilities continue the Government will liberalize the censorship gradually as the war situation becomes less critical and enemy propaganda less effective or threatening.

"The role the press of the United Nations can play after the war in improving understanding between nations and thereby fostering a more durable peace is very great indeed. So far we have not built up a news agency whose organization and equipment is adequate in giving the right information about this country to other parts of the world. Therefore we hope that foreign news agencies will be guided by a spirit of fair play so that such a sound and large-scale news agency of China can grow up in due course. Meanwhile, pending the establishment of such news agency of our own we have to rely upon largely reporting by foreign news services. It is hoped that the Allied news agencies will do everything possible to ensure that China will be accurately and fully interpreted by objective and unbiased representatives sent by them."

A CHARTER OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

The proposal that the United States convene a world news conference to draw up a charter of the press and to create a world news organization was made in a statement issued by the third annual meeting of the Chinese National Press Association on 22 November 1944. The statement read

"The United States of America, in line with her spirit of liberty, equality and progress, has taken the lead in promoting the freedom of the press, in eradicating by international agreement all unreasonable restrictions, monopolies and discriminations and in seeking free access to news sources, unhindered operation of tele-communications and removal of news barriers in order to realize freedom of news gathering, freedom of news transmission and freedom of supply, obtaining and publication of news.

"This Association is unanimously resolved to pledge above mentioned and agrees to guarantee their enforcement by international agreement.

"This Association firmly believes that only with complete freedom of access to news sources can accuracy of news be ensured, only with complete freedom of news transmission can the distribution of news be accelerated, and only with the complete freedom of supply, obtaining and publication of news can international understanding be promoted, and the biased, deceitful and false propaganda of those with selfish and ambitious designs be prevented. All these are essential to the elimination of war and the maintenance of permanent world peace. However, in order to attain general freedom for the world press it is imperative to secure the soundness of the journalistic profession in all nations, true understanding, co-operation and mutual assistance among newspapermen of all nations and the opportunity of consultation, mutual encouragement and mutual supervision.

"With a view to reaching this goal, this Association proposes that the United States of America, which inaugurated the movement of the freedom of the press, convene at the shortest possible time a world news conference to draw up a charter of the freedom of the press for general observance and

to create a standing world news organization which will handle to the best of its ability all problems that may arise and will extend this movement over the world for the realization of a lasting peace."

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