

Convinced that the time has arrived for the elaboration of a concrete programme and plan of action in this respect,

Taking note with approval of the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 442 E (XIV) of 13 June 1952 with regard to the study of ways and means of encouraging and developing independent domestic information enterprises,

Noting, however, that the above decision only refers to the encouragement and development of independent domestic information enterprises, including Press, radio, newsreels and television, therefore,

1. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider, in the light of the discussions at the seventh session of the General Assembly, the desirability of expanding the area of its study of this question; and, to that end,

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the report called for under the above-mentioned resolution of the Council, also to elaborate a programme of concrete action which would include, *inter alia*:

(a) Measures to reduce economic and financial obstacles in the field of information;

(b) Measures to organize and promote among countries the exchange of information personnel;

(c) Measures to assist the training of information personnel, the raising of professional and technical standards, the provision of fellowships and the holding of regional seminars;

(d) All necessary measures in connexion with the supply of newsprint;

3. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to submit the above-mentioned programme, together with recommendations thereon, to the General Assembly at its eighth session;

4. Further invites the Council to recommend to the organizations participating in the technical assistance and other programmes providing aid or assistance at the request of Member States that they give sympathetic consideration to requests which governments may submit for such aid or assistance within the framework of those programmes with a view to improving information facilities and increasing the quantity and improving the quality of information available to the peoples of the world, as one means of implementing the right of freedom of information as enunciated in the provisions of Article 1, paragraph 3, and Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations and in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

634 (VII). Question of false or distorted information

The General Assembly,

Considering that the dissemination of false or distorted information by national as well as international information enterprises is one of the causes of the lack

of mutual understanding among nations, to the detriment of international harmony,

Considering that this specific problem should be studied in connexion with the general item entitled "Freedom of information",

Decides to recommend that United Nations bodies studying the problems of freedom of information should consider appropriate measures for avoiding the harm done to international understanding by the dissemination of false and distorted information.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

635 (VII). Freedom of information and of the Press: draft International Code of Ethics

The General Assembly,

Noting the action taken by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 442 B (XIV) of 12 June 1952 on the draft International Code of Ethics¹ drawn up by the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press at its fifth session,

Considering that all further work connected with the draft Code should be undertaken by professional members of information enterprises with no interference from governments, either on the national or the international level,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, if a representative group of information enterprises and of national and international professional associations expresses a desire to do so, to co-operate with it in organizing an international professional conference for the purpose of:

(a) Preparing and adopting a final text of an International Code of Ethics;

(b) Taking such further steps concerning implementation of the Code as it may deem advisable;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the text of the present resolution to the notice of the information enterprises and national and international professional associations to which he communicated the draft Code.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

636 (VII). Dissemination of resolutions of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having regard to resolution 442 D (XIV) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 13 June 1952,

1. Urges governments, on receipt of any resolutions dealing with questions of substance adopted by any principal organ of the United Nations, to make every effort to disseminate such resolutions through the customary channels;

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 4 A, Annexes.*

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assist to the fullest possible extent in the rapid dissemination of all such resolutions of principal organs of the United Nations, particular attention being given to resolutions communicated to governments at the special request of the organ adopting those resolutions;

3. *Appeals* to information media to co-operate in disseminating information concerning such resolutions of organs of the United Nations, drawing on the appropriate services of the United Nations for the presentation of those resolutions.

*403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.*

637 (VII). The right of peoples and nations to self-determination

A

Whereas the right of peoples and nations to self-determination is a prerequisite to the full enjoyment of all fundamental human rights,

Whereas the Charter of the United Nations, under Articles 1 and 55, aims to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples in order to strengthen universal peace,

Whereas the Charter of the United Nations recognizes that certain Members of the United Nations are responsible for the administration of Territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government, and affirms the principles which should guide them,

Whereas every Member of the United Nations, in conformity with the Charter, should respect the maintenance of the right of self-determination in other States,

The General Assembly recommends that:

1. The States Members of the United Nations shall uphold the principle of self-determination of all peoples and nations;

2. The States Members of the United Nations shall recognize and promote the realization of the right of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories who are under their administration and shall facilitate the exercise of this right by the peoples of such Territories according to the principles and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations in regard to each Territory and to the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, the wishes of the people being ascertained through plebiscites or other recognized democratic means, preferably under the auspices of the United Nations;

3. The States Members of the United Nations responsible for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories shall take practical steps, pending the realization of the right of self-determina-

tion and in preparation thereof, to ensure the direct participation of the indigenous populations in the legislative and executive organs of government of those Territories, and to prepare them for complete self-government or independence.

*403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.*

B

The General Assembly,

Considering that one of the conditions necessary to facilitate United Nations action to promote respect for the right of self-determination of peoples and nations, in particular with regard to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, is that the competent organs of the United Nations should be in possession of official information on the government of these Territories,

Recalling its resolution 144 (II) of 3 November 1947 in which it declared that the voluntary transmission of such information was entirely in conformity with the spirit of Article 73 of the Charter, and should therefore be encouraged,

Recalling its resolution 327 (IV) of 2 December 1949 in which it expressed the hope that such of the Members of the United Nations as had not done so might voluntarily include details on the government of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the information transmitted by them under Article 73 e of the Charter,

Considering that at the present time such information has not yet been furnished in respect of a large number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

1. *Recommends* States Members of the United Nations responsible for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories voluntarily to include in the information transmitted by them under Article 73 e of the Charter details regarding the extent to which the right of peoples and nations to self-determination is exercised by the peoples of those Territories, and in particular regarding their political progress and the measures taken to develop their capacity for self-administration, to satisfy their political aspirations and to promote the progressive development of their free political institutions;

2. *Decides* to place the present resolution on the agenda of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories for its next session in 1953.

*403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.*

C

The General Assembly,

Considering that it is necessary to continue the study of ways and means of ensuring international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination,