

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

APPENDIX IX

- (a) The law and practice of any existing censorship:

There is, at the present time and since the conclusion of the war, no existing censorship in Canada.

- (b) To what extent there has been relaxation of censorship since the termination of hostilities in World War II and how the present situation compares with pre-war censorship:

Upon the declaration of hostilities on September 9, 1939, and following the enactment of the Defence of Canada Regulations, censorship of information was established in Canada. This censorship ceased to exist upon the cessation of hostilities on August 16, 1945.

The Defence of Canada Regulations contained two sections under which the censors of publications were allowed to put into practice the text and the intent of the law. These two sections were 39A and 16 Para. 1, 2, and 3.

Item 39A reads: "No person shall print, make, publish, issue, have knowingly in his possession in quantity, circulate or distribute any book, newspaper, periodical, pamphlet, picture, paper, circular, card, letter, writing, print, publication or document of any kind containing any material, report or statement,

- (a) intended or likely to cause disaffection to His Majesty or to interfere with the success of His Majesty's forces or of the forces of any allied or associated powers, or to prejudice His Majesty's relations with foreign powers;
- (b) intended or likely to prejudice the recruiting, training, discipline or administration of any of His Majesty's forces; or
- (c) intended or likely to be prejudicial to the safety of the State or the efficient prosecution of the war.

Item 16 contained the usual provisions for safeguarding information and read as follows:

" (1) No person shall obtain or communicate, or knowingly permit others to obtain or communicate any information being, or purporting to be, information which might be useful to the enemy or of which the dissemination might prejudice the successful prosecution of the war.

(2) In the absence of evidence to the contrary, information shall be deemed to be such that it might be useful to the enemy or that its dissemination might prejudice the successful prosecution of the war if it relates or purports to relate to any of the following subjects or to the plans or programs made, proposed or under consideration in regard thereto, that is to say:-