

of ECOSOC appointed a Rapporteur on Freedom of Information to serve in a personal capacity for an experimental period of one year. The Rapporteur, Mr. Salvador P. Lopez of the Philippines, was invited to submit a report covering contemporary problems and developments in the field of freedom of information, together with recommendations regarding practical action which might be taken by ECOSOC. At his request, the fifteenth session of the Council in April 1953 accorded him the same access to communications received by the United Nations regarding freedom of information as that previously enjoyed by the Sub-Commission.

The Canadian Delegation at the seventh session of the General Assembly continued to oppose the opening for signature of a Convention on the International Right of Correction. Under the terms of this instrument, contracting states would have the right to issue corrections of news despatches which, in their opinion, were false or distorted and which might injure their relations with other states or damage their national prestige or dignity. The government of the country in which the despatch had been published would be obliged to release such corrections to the press and information agencies within its borders. A number of member states at the fourteenth session of ECOSOC had feared that the Convention would be likely to lead to rather than prevent abuses, and a resolution recommending that the General Assembly open it for signature was defeated. At the seventh session, however, the proposal was revived on the joint initiative of Egypt, France, Lebanon, Uruguay and Yugoslavia and was eventually adopted on December 16, 1952, by a vote of 25 for, 22 against (including Canada), and 10 abstentions. Up to the end of June 1953 five countries — Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Ethiopia and Guatemala — had signed the Convention.

Canada supported the six other resolutions on freedom of information adopted at the seventh session. The Assembly decided to study the subject further at its eighth session and requested ECOSOC to submit a programme of future work. Two resolutions called respectively for study by the United Nations or appropriate professional groups of information facilities in under-developed areas and further work on the draft International Code of Ethics governing standards of professional conduct for journalists, while a third recommended that United Nations bodies studying freedom of information consider measures for avoiding the harm done to international understanding by the dissemination of false and distorted information. The other resolutions commended the work of the Sub-Commission on the Freedom of Information and of the Press and underlined the importance of disseminating information about United Nations resolutions.

The Rapporteur on Freedom of Information issued his report on May 6, 1953, the consideration of which the sixteenth session of ECOSOC has recently postponed. This report, entitled *Freedom of Information 1953*, comprises an historical survey of the subject and an analysis of the present situation. It discusses problems relating to the rights and responsibilities of the *media* of information; the censorship of outgoing news despatches; the status and