

engagements on behalf of Canada, these observers would be instructed to report back so that we could keep the Provinces fully informed of the proceedings and decisions taken.⁷⁷

A.D.P. H[EENEY]

SUBDIVISION IV/SUBSECTION IV

LIBERTÉ D'INFORMATION ET DE LA PRESSE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

227.

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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État par intérim aux Affaires extérieures*
*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs*

[Ottawa], May 6, 1949

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

This is a brief report for information.

Since April 7 the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly has been debating two of the Draft Conventions produced by the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information at Geneva in March and April, 1948. It has completed the text of a new draft convention incorporating, with a good many amendments, the substantive portions of the Draft Convention on the Gathering and International Transmission of News, and the Draft Convention on the Institution of an International Right of Correction. The new draft convention is entitled "Convention on the International Transmission of News and the Right of Correction".

Under the First (Geneva) Draft Convention—on the Gathering and International Transmission of News—contracting states would undertake to permit the widest possible access to news for all foreign correspondents on the same basis as for national correspondents. Under the Second (Geneva) Draft Convention—on the Institution of an International Right of Correction—contracting states would set up a procedure for the correction of erroneous reports. At Geneva the Canadian delegation voted in favour of both Draft Conventions, but made a reservation on Article 4 of the First Convention, which implied an acceptance of the principle of prior censorship in peacetime.

⁷⁷ Note marginale:/Marginal note:

Minister approves this recommendation—proceed accordingly May 16 A H[eeney]

J.A. Irwin, secrétaire de la légation à Prague, participa à titre d'observateur à la conférence de Genève.

J.A. Irwin, Secretary of the Legation in Prague, attended the conference in Geneva as an observer.