

CHAPTER I

TASKS OF THE CONFERENCE

The United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information met in Geneva, Switzerland, from March 23 to April 21, 1948. Delegations representing fifty-four governments attended. Observers representing the Governments of Bolivia, Iran, Ireland were present, as were observers from the following organizations:

Inter-Governmental

International Labour Office
International Telecommunications Union
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Non-Governmental

International Co-operative Alliance
International Organization of Industrial Employers
International Organization of Journalists.
Inter-Parliamentary Union.
World Federation of United Nations Associations.

(a) Canadian Representation

The Canadian delegation consisted of:

Delegates : Jean Désy, K.C., Canadian Minister to Italy,
Chief Delegate.
Arthur R. Ford, Editor, London Free Press
W. Arthur Irwin, Editor, Maclean's Magazine
Lorenzo Paré, Representative of L'Action
Catholique in the Parliamentary Press Gallery.
Andrew C. Cowan, Canadian Broadcasting
Corporation, London.

Advisers : Campbell L. Moodie, Office of Canadian High
Commissioner, London.
George Hambleton, Information Division,
Department of External Affairs.

Secretary of Delegation : L. A. D. Stephens, Canadian
Legation, Berne.

(The list of delegates issued in Ottawa before the Conference included the name of D. C. McArthur, Chief Editor of the C.B.C. News Service. Mr. McArthur accompanied the delegation to London but, owing to illness, was unable to proceed to Geneva. Mr. Cowan was appointed delegate to replace Mr. McArthur)

(b) Conference Origins :

The Conference had its origins in a resolution adopted unanimously at the sixty-fifth plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1946. The operative clauses of this resolution read :