

Mr. Heeney expressed his appreciation of the achievements of CCRU. The organization had been created to carry out tasks which this Department wished to see done but could not itself undertake. It was a matter of satisfaction to be able now to report back to UNESCO on a job well done.

V.C. MOORE

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*Note du secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le Cabinet*

*Memorandum from Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Cabinet*

Ottawa, July 14, 1949

UNESCO DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR FACILITATING THE INTERNATIONAL CIRCULATION
OF VISUAL AND AUDITORY MATERIALS OF AN EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL CHARACTER

Background:

On April 30, 1948 the Director-General of UNESCO asked for Canadian comments on a draft Convention for Facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural Character. After consultation with the National Film Board, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Departments of Justice, Finance, Trade and Commerce and National Revenue (Customs), the Canadian Delegation to the Third Session of the General Conference of UNESCO was instructed to support the draft Convention. The Convention was adopted by the General Conference; among the amendments supported by Canada, the change of title from "Convention" to "Agreement" has subsequently been accepted.

The final text of the draft Agreement, a copy of which is attached,† has been deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who in a note dated June 27, 1949 informed the Secretary of State for External Affairs that the Agreement would be open for signature by all the Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Lake Success from July 15 to December 31, 1949.

Considerations:

The only new obligations which this Agreement would impose upon Canada are

(a) the possibility that some minor amendments to the Canadian tariff might be required;

(b) that, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 2, some Agency of the Canadian Government would have to certify that materials are of an educational, cultural or scientific character within the meaning of Article 1 of the Agreement. While the application to admit these materials free of duty would not involve any appreciable sacrifice on Canada's part since most of the materials are already on the free list, Canada would on the other hand gain from participation in the Agreement the free