

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

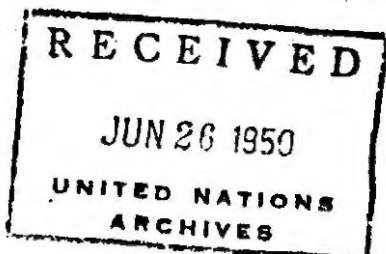
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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND OF THE PRESS  
Fourth session

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENTS ON THE QUESTIONS  
ASKED IN THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION BASED ON THE AGENDA  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF THE JORDAN

(Reply to the request for information based upon the provisional agenda of the Conference and transmitted to Governments in accordance with the resolution of the Economic and Social Council of 15 August 1947 (Document E/573, resolution 74 (V)).)



/I. General  
E/CN.4/Sub.1/107/Add.3

I. General Discussion on the Principles of Freedom of Information and the Consideration of Certain Fundamental Principles

1. Governments are invited to supply the Secretary-General with
- (a) A concise statement of the constitutional and legal principles applicable to the various media of information in their countries;

The Ottoman Laws regarding the press are in force.

- (b) The relevant texts of their constitutions, legislative enactments and regulations;

The Ottoman Laws regarding the press are in force.

- (c) The relevant texts of principal judicial decisions;

There have been no judicial decisions involving matters of principle.

- (d) Any relevant treaties, conventions or other international instruments to which they are parties;

None available.

- (e) Any relevant official papers, explanatory memoranda, circulars and statements of policy.

None available.

2. Governments are invited to provide answers to the following questions:

- (a) What is the legal status of press, radio and newsreel enterprises.

Are they -

- (i) governmental organs;
- (ii) public corporations;
- (iii) private enterprises controlled by the State;
- (iv) co-operatives;
- (v) private enterprises.

One Broadcasting Station, situated at Remallah in Palestine territory, has been taken over by the Jordan Government. All other press organs are private enterprises.

- (b) Does your government -

- (i) maintain an information service which makes regular releases or provides information and documentation of any kind either free or for sale;

Yes

/(ii) maintain

- (ii) maintain any news agencies;  
No
  - (iii) subsidize or in any way assist any news agencies or other enterprises in the field of information;  
No
  - (iv) own shares in or lend funds to private enterprises in the field of information;  
No
  - (v) publish newspapers;  
An Official Gazette
  - (vi) make official broadcasts;  
Yes
  - (vii) produce newsreels for public exhibition;  
No
  - (viii) make its information services available only to domestic users, to foreign users, or to both on equal terms.  
To both on equal terms
- (c) Governments are invited to provide answers to the following questions:
- (i) What conditions govern the establishment of a newspaper, news periodical, radio broadcasting station or newsreel enterprise.  
Governed by the law as per 1 (a & b) above.
  - (ii) What form of control, if any, exists covering the investment of capital in information enterprises, such as enquiry into the source of capital, publication of the source of capital, prohibition or limitation of foreign capital, or limitation of the proportion of capital invested which may be held by any individual or group.  
Governed by the law as per 1 (a & b) above.
  - (iii) What regulations, if any, exist concerning the ownership, control and administration of public or private enterprises in the field of information.  
Governed by the law as per 1 (a & b) above.

/(d) Governments

(d) Governments are invited to provide answers to the following questions:

(i) To what extent, if any, and on what grounds, does the law of your country provide for the suspension or suppression of media of information.

(ii) What body or authority is competent to suspend or suppress.

(iii) What is the procedure followed by this authority.

(iv) What provisions, if any, exist for administrative and judicial review.

Governed by the Defence Regulations, 1939. The authority is vested in the Prime Minister, whose orders are executed through the Minister of Interior controlling the police. The Prime Minister, on application by the proprietor of the news organ, may review his decision.

(e) Governments are requested to state the law of their country concerning the corruption of media of information.

Victimised persons or institutions resort to the Ottoman Law which protects the citizen against libel.

(f) Governments are requested to state the composition of tribunals which adjudicate upon offences relating to media of information (e.g. press offences) and the procedure followed before such tribunals. (See also paragraphs 5 (f) and 8 (c) below for questions relating to the law of libel)

The various Courts specified in the Press Law.

## II. Measures to Facilitate the Gathering of Information

### 3. Governments are invited to provide information about:

- (a) Their law and practice governing the entry, residence, movement and travel of news personnel;

News personnel are treated on equal terms as any foreigner.

- (b) Their experience, if any, in the use of international professional cards for news personnel [See also paragraph 10 (b) below];

Government does not recognise international professional cards.

It issues press cards to accredited correspondents and reporters to aid them in the performance of their duties.

- (c) Their law and practice, if any, governing the expulsion of news personnel;

Recourse is made to the provisions for the expulsion of "undesirables" under the Immigration Laws.

- (d) Any special laws, regulations or practices, applying to or affecting foreign news personnel;

News personnel are treated on equal terms as any foreigner.

Recourse is made to the provisions for the expulsion of "undesirables" under the Immigration Laws.

- (e) The accessibility of news sources, private and official, and any existing distinctions in the degree of accessibility to such sources as between their own nationals and foreign news personnel;

A press and publicity section, attached to the Foreign Ministry assists newsmen in their activities.

- (f) Their rules and practices governing the taxation of foreign and domestic news agencies and personnel [See also paragraph 5 (1)].

No distinction is made in law between news agencies and other commercial enterprises.

## Measures to Facilitate the International Transmission of Information

### 4. Governments are invited to provide information concerning:

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

Censorship is practised under the Defence Regulations, 1939.

It is still in force on outgoing foreign press cables and on incoming foreign news and publications.

/(b) To what

(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 peacetime censorship;

(c) And to state -

(i) Whether censorship is based upon directives available in advance to news personnel;

Directives in advance are made available to news personnel.

(ii) Whether censorship occurs before transmission, and if not, to what extent news personnel are accountable for the contents of their dispatches;

It occurs before transmission, and news personnel are not accountable for the contents of their dispatches.

(iii) Whether censorship is carried out at the place of dispatch and in the presence of the sender, and if not, how and when he is informed of alterations or deletions;

It is usually carried out in the presence of the sender who witnesses the alterations or deletions.

(iv) The way in which telegraph charges are fixed on censored material;

(d) Differences, if any, between transmission rates and services available to domestic and foreign news agencies and personnel;

No differences exist.

Censorship is practised under the Defence Regulations, 1939. It is still in force on outgoing foreign press cables and on incoming foreign news and publications.

(e) Current tariffs, quotas or exchange controls which apply to the import of (1) news, and (2) news materials used by the media of information.

[See also paragraph 6 (a-b)].

International cable companies rates.

(f) Any legislation, regulations, inter-governmental agreements, commercial agreements (e.g. cartels) or practices, including those which involve the use of specially favoured channels, or establish priorities of a restrictive or monopolistic nature which affect the import or export of (1) news, and

/(2) news

(2) news materials [See also paragraph 6 (f) below].

None

Measures Concerning the Free Publication and Reception of Information

5. Governments are invited to describe any legal or administrative restrictions imposed on, and any economic conditions affecting, persons or groups wishing to receive and disseminate information, ideas and opinions by:

(a) Measures which discriminate in the provision or allocation of equipment, materials and facilities;

The press law referred to above under 1 (a and b) applies.

(b) (Questions concerning censorship have been included above under paragraph 4);

(c) Limitation or regulation of the right to possess and operate radio receiving sets covering all bands used for domestic and international broadcasts;

Broadcasting is a government monopoly.

6. Governments are invited to describe any steps they have taken, either alone or in co-operation with other Governments, or any steps they have announced they intend to take, which have increased or would increase the amount of domestic and international information available by:

(a) Such means as improving and increasing the supply of physical facilities, for example: printing presses, newsprint, radio equipment, film projectors and rapid transmission facilities and services [See also paragraph 4 (e) above];

The Government economic policy encourages imports of producer goods.

(b) Removing or alleviating existing tariffs, quotas, regulations and exchange controls affecting the supply of such physical facilities

[See also paragraph 4 (e) above];

Newsprint is exempt from import duty.

7. Governments are requested to describe their experience, either alone or in co-operation with other Governments, and their findings, concerning any measures for improving the quality of information in the direction of greater accuracy, objectivity, comprehensiveness and representative character;

The Chief News Censor answers queries of all news organs.

/8. Governments

8. Governments are invited to state their experience, either alone or in co-operation with other Governments, and their findings concerning any measures taken to counteract false information;

No special branch exists within the framework of the Government, but each case of falsification is handled on its merits in the appropriate manner.

9. Governments are invited to outline the experience of professional news bodies within their jurisdiction in any efforts the latter may have made to lay down for themselves standards of professional conduct and competence.

No comment to make and no information available at present.

10. Governments are invited

(a) To supply any relevant published material and to furnish any comments they may wish to make concerning the drafting of a Charter covering rights and obligations of the media of information.

No comment to make and no information available at present.

(b) To express their views concerning the establishment of machinery for the issue of international professional cards for news personnel;

No comment to make and no information available at present.

11. Governments are invited to comment upon the constitution and functions of any continuing international machinery for promoting the free flow of true information, the creation of which, in their opinion, the Conference might recommend.

No comment to make and no information available at present.

12. Governments are invited (a) to supply information concerning, and (b) to comment on, the operation within their jurisdiction of foreign governmental or semi-governmental information services. Please supply the texts of any laws or regulations governing such services, and the texts of any relevant international agreements. Governments are also requested to describe the activities of any governmental or semi-governmental information services maintained by them abroad.

No comment to make and no information available at present.

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Qualifications required of Mudir (manager) of a newspaper

Ottoman Press Law dated 13th Rabi' Thani 1331 and 29th March 1329.

(Published in the Official Gazette No. 190 dated

29th April, 1928.)

/Art. 2. Every



Art. 2. Every responsible Mudir of a newspaper or publication published in Transjordan, whether daily or periodically:

- (a) shall be a Transjordanian;
- (b) shall have completed his twenty-first year;
- (c) shall not have lost his civil rights nor have been convicted of an offence affecting his character, such as theft, forgery, swindling or breach of trust;
- (d) shall be a graduate of a high school or hold a certificate from a secondary school possessing the full number of classes or be in possession of a certificate from some other school of equal rank;
- (e) a person granted permission to publish a newspaper or publication of a political nature shall deposit LP. 150 by way of security, or in the case of periodical printed matter of a political nature, LP. 100.
- (f) Where newspapers or periodical publications, in respect of which declarations have already been presented, have not been published or have ceased publication or have been suspended by the Government, the responsible Mudir shall be required to comply with all the above conditions to enable him to resume publication.

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Adherence of Transjordan to the International Agreement for the  
Suppression of Obscene Publications

Decision of the Executive Council published in Official Gazette No. 155 dated 1.5.27.

The Government of Transjordan agrees to adhere to the International Agreement for the Suppression of Obscene Publications signed at Paris on the 4th May 1910 and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Circulation of and Traffic in Obscene Publications drawn up at Geneva on the 12th day of September, 1923.

The Officer Commanding the Arab Legion is designated as the authority charged with the duties specified in Article 6 of the Agreement of 4th May, 1910.

The method of transmission of regulatory commissions relating to offences falling under the Convention of 12th September 1923 shall be by direct communication between the judicial authorities.