

in the views of the majority. Some considered that freedom of information implied the complete absence of restrictions. Others, including New Zealand, emphasized the need for the exercise by the press of a proper measure of responsibility. In spite of these differences in viewpoints, the conference was able to achieve a considerable measure of agreement in its deliberations. In some cases resolutions were adopted unanimously—*e.g.*, a resolution condemning propaganda designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression; condemning also all distortions of news, and appealing to the personnel of the press and other agencies of information to promote the aims of friendship, understanding, and peace. In the majority of cases, however, there developed a division between the Soviet Union and the other countries of Eastern Europe on the one hand and the majority of the States represented at the conference on the other.

The decisions of the conference fall into three divisions—first, three draft conventions were adopted for submission to ECOSOC and the General Assembly of United Nations. One deals with the entry and movement of foreign correspondents, their access of news and facilities for the despatch of news material, specifying the conditions under which censorship may be imposed on despatches. Another draft convention is designed to establish an international right of reply by a State which considers that news reports transmitted from one country to another are false or distorted and likely to injure its relations with other States. The third draft convention would require each contracting State, within limits specified, to secure to all persons within its territory freedom to impart and receive information and opinions.

The conference also considered and proposed certain amendments to the clauses on freedom of information for inclusion in the International Bill of Human Rights currently under discussion in the United Nations. Finally, the conference adopted forty-three resolutions, covering general principles, measures to facilitate the gathering and international transmission of information, measures concerning the free publication and reception of information, continuing machinery to promote the free flow of information, and incidental questions. These resolutions dealt with such matters as the rights of foreign correspondents, censorship, the use of teleprinter lines, access to facilities for the international transmission of news, national news agencies in undeveloped countries, supplies of materials required for media of information, the laws of libel, monopolies, and the needs of war devastated countries.