

RESOLUTION No. AGN/39/RES/4

SUBJECT:

EXPORTING OBSCENE MATERIAL  
BY MAIL

To be classified as follows:

1 copy in the Chronological Series:  
year 1970

1 copy in the Subject Series

Under heading Obscene material

#### TEXT OF RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, although distribution of any material, whether obscene or not, within the limits of the territory of any nation is not a matter of international concern, the exportation abroad of such objects is a matter of international concern;

WHEREAS all, or nearly all, nations of the world have subscribed to the Universal Postal Convention of 1957 and the 1964 revision thereof, which includes in Article 28 a prohibition against the sending of obscene or immoral articles in the international mails;

WHEREAS the concept of obscenity varies from one country to another and there is no accepted international standard of obscenity, although it is generally agreed that certain materials may be regarded as obscene in some concepts;

WHEREAS many INTERPOL member countries are confronted with a steady expansion in the volume of traffic in obscene materials through the international mails in violation of the laws of those nations, a large portion of which is in the form of lurid advertisements and materials sent unsolicited by mail;

WHEREAS the interception of such materials in the mails is difficult and made more so by the methods used by the forwarders;

The ICPO-INTERPOL General Assembly, meeting in Brussels from 5th to 10th October 1970 at its 39th session:

RECOMMENDS THAT:

- 1) Member countries take all measures available at present under their domestic laws to prevent the forwarding through the international mails of obscene or immoral materials, particularly in the form of photographs, whether or not included in films, magazines or similar forms of visual depiction, in any case in which the dissemination of such materials to adults is prohibited under the laws of the addressee country;

- 2) The Secretary General invite those countries which do not now have authority to prohibit the exportation of such materials from their territories to addressees in countries in which their distribution may be prohibited to consider the desirability of securing appropriate legislative or other authorisation in furtherance of the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention, and to prohibit such exportations;
  
- 3) The Secretary General invite member countries to participate in a study in depth of the problems created by the continued use of the international mails to disseminate obscene and immoral materials and to develop practical systems and avenues of co-operation between member countries in an effort to stem the flow of such materials into nations in which their sale and distribution is prohibited.

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