

RESOLUTION ON THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT PROTOCOL

- WHEREAS, The United States has adhered to the Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials (known as the Florence Agreement) since 1967; and the reciprocal removal of import duties on publications and other materials as a consequence of such action has resulted in great benefits to libraries in the United States and abroad and to their patrons as well as to other purchasers and users of such materials; and
- WHEREAS, The General Conference of UNESCO meeting in Nairobi, Kenya voted in November, 1976 to approve the text of a Protocol (supplement) to the Florence Agreement; and
- WHEREAS, The Secretary General of the United Nations in March, 1977 officially declared the Protocol open for acceptance by the member states of the United Nations; and
- WHEREAS, The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions made a major contribution to the final text of the Protocol for the benefit of all types of libraries; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association participated actively in the work of the task force of the Government Advisory Committee on International Book and Library Programs of the Department of State in reviewing a draft text of the Protocol and making recommendations on it to United States government agencies in 1975; and
- WHEREAS, The Protocol represents a major step forward in the further removal or reduction of barriers in international trade for educational, scientific and cultural materials by:

Giving to audio, visual and microform materials the same duty free status that the original Agreement gave to published materials.

Extending a special provision on libraries in the original Agreement to increase further the ability of libraries of all types to import materials for the use of their patrons.

By making a start in reducing various restrictions other than import duties - such as import licenses, foreign exchange licenses, and internal taxes - on educational, scientific and cultural materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urges the President of the United States at an early date to recommend to the Senate of the United States that the Protocol be approved as an international treaty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the President in submitting the Protocol to the Senate to recommend the acceptance by the United States of the following optional provisions of the Protocol:

Appendix C.1 - The more liberal of two optional provisions relating to audio and visual and microform materials.

Part II - The optional provision binding the adhering countries not to impose internal taxes on certain materials. In accepting this provision it would be noted, as did the U.S. Delegation at the preparatory conference in Paris in March, 1976, that the United States could only make this commitment with the respect to federal taxes.

Part IV - The optional provision binding the adhering countries to grant import licenses and make available foreign exchange for the importation of books and certain other materials by libraries and for educational purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge that following the approval of the Protocol by the Senate the Secretary of State promptly submit to the House of Representatives and to the Senate a draft of a bill implementing the Protocol by making up the necessary changes in the United States tariff laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association send this Resolution, adopted by the ALA Council on this 20th day of June, 1977, in Detroit, Michigan, to the President of the United States; to the Secretary of State; to the Assistant Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs; to the Chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science; to the Librarian of Congress; to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the U.S. Senate; to the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Chairman of the Committee on Finance of the U.S. Senate; to the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Secretary General of the United Nations; to the Director-General of UNESCO; to the President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions; and to the Chairman of the U.S. National Commission of UNESCO.

adopted by Council June 20, 1977
American Library Association

Sponsored by the ALA International
Relations Committee

Submitted by the Committee on
Legislation