RESOLUTION (67) 13

(Adopted by the Ministers' Deputies on 29th June 1967)

THE PRESS AND THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH

The Committee of Ministers,

Considering the importance of the problem of juvenile delinquency in the modern world, and noting the serious manifestations of the phenomenon since the end of the second world war ;

Drawing attention to the value attached by the authorities of all countries to research into the anti-social behaviour of juveniles and its causes ;

Believing that encouragement and support must be given to all action, enlightened by research, which is calculated to render measures for the prevention of delinquency and for the resocialisation of young offenders more effective ;

Approving to the full the initiative taken by the European Committee on Crime Problems in inaugurating a study of the influence of mass communication media - press, cinema, radio and television - on juveniles, and having taken note of the first report presented by the Committee concerning the press ;

Considering the place of the press in modern society and stressing its impact on juveniles ;

Wishing for a more detailed study of the influence of the press on the behaviour of children and adolescents and the adoption of suitable measures to enable the press to perform an educational function in relation to juveniles and, by eradicating the baneful influences that can be exerted by certain kinds of literature, to contribute to the prevention of juvenile delinquency,

Recommends to the member Governments of the Council of Europe :

1. that the report "The Press and the Protection of Youth" should be widely circulated among the authorities of member countries and brought to the attention of publishers, press associations and the general public ;

2. that research should be encouraged into the mechanism by which the press influences children and adolescents and into the conditions of production, distribution, sale and "consumption" of publications intended for juveniles ;

3. that a series of enquiries should be made into specific ways and means of implementing measures for the protection of juveniles taken in the sphere of the press and into their adequacy, including the effects of the restrictions on distribution which they seek to introduce ;

4. that those responsible for the publication of juvenile literature should be made clearly aware of the importance of observing certain educational standards.