

Exercise 42

a. Complete the text with the words given below.

Concern; access; broadcast (2); classified; urged; major; provided;
to maintain; to abridge; certain; ensoid; press; news agencies; public; conduct

All Americans understand that in time of war safeguards must be (1)_____ to some information, including special military plans and (2)_____ kinds of intelligence data.

The safety of American troops and the security of spring methods, must not be compromised by the careless disclosure of sensitive (3)_____ information. (4)_____ are mindful of that danger and act accordingly in deciding what to print or (5)_____. But much other information, including matters the government might like to hide to (6)_____ debate, belongs to the (7)_____. This principle rests at the heart of the U.S. system of governance.

As the U.S. learned in Vietnam, the **military** cannot successfully (8)_____ wars in the absence of (9)_____ support. So far the Bush administration has struggled (10)_____ the appropriate balance. On Wednesday, for example, the White House (11)_____ the network executives *not* to (12)_____ in full the prerecorded statements of Osama bin Laden and his aides. The White House expressed (13)_____ about giving the terrorists unchecked outlets for their propaganda.

The five (14) _____ television news organizations agreed **jointly** (15)_____ future videotaped statements. This effort seems to be ill advised because American people should have (16)_____ to information about the terrorist leader and his views.

➤ Now read the text through again and comment on the policy of the American government in covering up certain information.

Which information is to be kept from the public? **Why?**

Exercise 43

Read the text below and write its summary of about 100 words.

Freedom of the Media and the Internet: Resisting the **Regulatory** Reflex,

By Christian Moller

(Project Assistant in the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.)

How to ensure the free flow of information over a vast network of online resources while keeping out illegal content, was the focus of recent discussions among more than 25 experts from international organizations, the media, academic and specialized non-governmental organizations. The Conference on Freedom of the Media and the Internet was organized by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve.

The Internet offers an unprecedented means for the global exchange of ideas and a free flow of information. In the OSCE region, it can even affect freedom of the media, just as the Serbian radio station did in 1999, when it continued to disseminate its programmes on the Internet with the help of the Dutch provider.

The decentralized structure of the Internet would seem to guarantee unrestricted access to just about any existing material. Whenever an obstacle arises that threatens the free exchange of data, some computer experts - mostly young people - inevitably figure out how to circumvent it.

However, the ability to use the Internet's technical framework serves not only those trying to avoid the censors, but also the censors themselves. Indeed, in tandem with its growing usage, the relatively new and seemingly disorganized world of the Internet is being structured, regulated and rated. Governments, companies and copyright holders are just some of the many forces that attempt to restrict Internet users⁵ access to content that they feel is unsuitable or inappropriate. Filtering and blocking, developing new instruments and lobbying for stricter legislation are among the methods employed.