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SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 24 April 1980, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. NAGY (Hungary)

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Draft resolution proposed by the Bureau

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session.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1988 (LX) BY STATES PARTIES TO THE COVENANT CONCERNING RIGHTS COVERED BY ARTICLES 6 TO 9 (continued)

Report of Poland (continued) (E/1978/8/Add.23)

1. Mr. CHARKIEWICZ (Poland) said that in view of the questions asked by the representatives of Iraq and the Federal Republic of Germany, some background information on trade union activities in Poland was called for. With a view to protecting the social rights and the interests of workers, Polish legislation provided for the establishment of trade unions, which often submitted comments on draft legislation of relevance to workers prepared by government agencies. Trade unions also had an important role in the negotiation of collective agreements and as mediators in disputes between management and employees. They were active in all sectors of economic life, influencing decisions concerning environmental planning, socio-economic planning, national income and living conditions, and playing a crucial role in the management of enterprises in the interest of society as a whole. At the moment 96 per cent of the labour force belonged to trade unions. Membership was not compulsory. The Constitution guaranteed total autonomy to trade unions, which drew up their own statutes; they were subject to no control by State bodies and were free from outside interference in their affairs. All trade union organs were responsible to voters for their statutory activities and had to be registered.
2. In periodic reports to ILO, his Government had endeavoured to answer the questions asked by the Committee of Experts about the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87). Harmonizing national legislation with the provisions of Convention No. 87 was a lengthy process, especially as it involved a host of multilateral problems and the role of trade unions in the social and economic life of the country.
3. With respect to the questions asked by the representatives of Iraq and the Federal Republic of Germany about the right to strike, he said that the situation in Poland was as reported in document E/1978/8/Add.23. The most recent strike in Poland had taken place in 1970, and no one had been penalized.

(Mr. Charkiewicz, Poland)

4. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had inquired about the remuneration of foreign workers. In practice, there were no foreign workers in Poland, except under special agreements for, inter alia, construction projects. While, in principle, nationals and non-nationals would receive the same remuneration, in the specific case of Swedish construction companies building hotels in Warsaw, the level of remuneration for the workers was different. In response to the question asked by the representative of Finland about management, he offered to make available a detailed paper which had been published on the subject.

5. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany had asked about the conciliation machinery in enterprises. Under the labour ordinances of Poland, enterprises with fewer than 100 employees had internal machinery to examine workers' complaints. The members of conciliation boards were appointed by the workers, and the size of the boards was determined by management in accordance with trade union rules. More information on that question was contained in Polish labour legislative texts, which he could make available.

6. As to the question about trade unions and the central administrative bodies, there were trade unions for every major branch of the national economy. Although there were trade unions in the agricultural and forestry sectors, there were no trade unions for self-employed agricultural workers. That category was very small, consisting mainly of seasonal workers. In conclusion he pointed out that recent political events and decisions in Poland reflected an ongoing commitment to the implementation of articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant.

Report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (E/1978/8/Add.9)

7. Mr. WHYTE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was somewhat disappointed that it had not been possible for the United Kingdom report, which had been submitted in September 1977, to be considered earlier. While it realized that the Working Group was only beginning its task of examination and was still reviewing its methods of procedure, it hoped that ways could be found considering all reports of States Parties effectively and speedily.

8. Since the submission of the report in 1977, there had been no significant legislative changes in the areas covered by articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant. Progress had been on the lines envisaged at the time the report had been written. The figures quoted in the report for pensions and unemployment and other benefits had naturally been revised upwards since 1977. The fact that six of the non-metropolitan territories covered in part II of the report had become independent since 1977 was further proof of the way in which the United Kingdom had continued to implement the policy of self-determination for those peoples under British sovereignty that wished to become independent.

(Mr. Whyte, United Kingdom)

9. The United Kingdom had no written constitution. The absence of references in the report to constitutional provisions complementing the provisions of the Covenant did not mean that the Covenant was not being implemented. On the contrary, the United Kingdom had always regarded economic, social and cultural rights, along with civil and political rights, as matters of the highest importance. The value it attached to them had been reflected in national life and legislation long before the ratification of the two Covenants. For instance, the first regulations on health and safety at work had been adopted in the mid-nineteenth century by such pioneers as Lord Shaftesbury. Legislation in that field had naturally become more developed and comprehensive, culminating in the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974. The foundations of the social security system, laid just after the First World War, had since evolved into a comprehensive and highly sophisticated system covering the entire population. A national health system had been created in the period immediately following the Second World War. The United Kingdom had been among the pioneers in Western Europe in providing a free and comprehensive medical service for the entire population. Trade unions had played a full and important role in society for many years and exercised their rights, as defined in the Covenant, in a free and unfettered way.

10. His delegation welcomed the participation of the specialized agencies in the consideration of the reports and believed that the expertise and competence of ILO was of the greatest assistance in the proper assessment of those reports.

11. Mr. SKOTNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that according to paragraph 14 of part I of document E/1978/8/Add.9, the United Kingdom Government accepted as one of its primary aims and responsibilities the maintenance of a high and stable level of employment. His question was whether that meant that the Government did not see full employment as an objective. Since its ratification of the Covenant, the United Kingdom had introduced no provisions guaranteeing the right of everyone to employment. He asked whether the level of unemployment had risen or declined since ratification of the Covenant.

12. The information contained in paragraphs 1 to 5 of part I suggested that problems of racial discrimination did exist in the United Kingdom. He would like to have the figures on the number of court decisions in favour of complainants in cases brought under the Race Relations Act. He also wished to know what penalties, if any, existed for the systematic practice of discrimination. Finally, he would welcome information on experience in Northern Ireland with regard to the prohibition of discrimination in employment on religious or other grounds.

13. Mr. DIA (Senegal) said that in part II, annex A, of document E/1978/8/Add.9 it was stated that it remained the policy of the United Kingdom Government to regard the reasonable needs of the British non-metropolitan territories as a first charge on United Kingdom aid funds and to provide generally for rather more favourable terms in recognition of the special relationship with those territories. He inquired what criteria were used to determine such "reasonable needs". In the ILO report (E/1979/33) it was stated that in some of the non-metropolitan territories, certain classes of workers were excluded, wholly or partly, from the scope of social security. He requested some clarification concerning those exclusions.

14. Mr. VOLLERS (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he was impressed to see British society trying to abolish injustice while at the same time leaving room for the freedom of individual beliefs. In many countries, despite legislation designed to ensure equality between the sexes, such equality was not yet a fact. The unemployment statistics given in the United Kingdom report showed no improvement in the female unemployment situation, and he would like to know what the Government had been doing to promote employment opportunities for women. Another question was whether, in the recruitment or promotion of employees, there was any discrimination on the basis of political opinion.

15. He inquired whether there were any restrictions on aliens seeking employment or social benefits in the United Kingdom, and what the percentage of aliens in the total labour force was. He realized that trade unions were free to organize and act under United Kingdom law, but he wondered whether there were any relationships between trade unions and political parties which might enable a party to influence trade unions or vice versa.

16. Ms. RICO (Spain) said that the United Kingdom report dealt with the problem of unemployment among young people, a problem afflicting many countries throughout the world, and referred to programmes to provide opportunities for young people in Northern Ireland. She asked whether the Government was taking other measures to combat the problem in the rest of the country. The report was the only one so far considered which had referred to any provision for elderly men to obtain a pension by virtue of contributions paid by their wives, although only invalids and retired persons appeared to be eligible. She asked whether in practice the provision covered other elderly men.

17. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the fact that experts had come from the United Kingdom for the sole purpose of attending the Working Group's session testified to the Government's readiness to answer the Group's questions. Referring to the Race Relations Act 1976, he requested clarification on the provisions relating to indirect discrimination.

18. Mr. SALMENPERÄ (Finland) congratulated the United Kingdom on its very thorough report. He noted that the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act, 1974 did not apply to those employed as domestic servants in private households, and asked whether that meant that such persons were not covered by any legislation on the subject. His Government believed that workers could do much to improve safety at their places of work, and he asked to what extent workers in the United Kingdom took part in planning safety measures.

19. Referring to the statistics on benefits contained in appendix I, he observed that unemployment benefits varied from case to case and requested further details.

20. Mr. SAMSON (International Labour Organisation) said that the comments of the ILO Committee of Experts on the United Kingdom itself were contained in its first report (E/1978/27), and those concerning the non-metropolitan territories in its second report (E/1979/33). Since the preparation of the first report, there had been some developments with regard to the ratification of ILO conventions, in particular, the 1977 Convention regarding the protection of workers against air pollution, noise and vibration. There had also been some declarations of applicability of ILO conventions to non-metropolitan territories. The Government had sent a further report to ILO on its implementation of the Employment Policy Convention, and the Committee of Experts had submitted some questions to the Government on the application of that Convention.

21. The Committee had noted the information provided by the Government on measures taken in favour of unemployed young people, women and disabled workers, and on the legislation on race relations. It had requested information on policies to achieve full employment, and in particular, on the impact of measures taken by the Government in pursuance of policies on investment, taxation, money supply, trade, prices, incomes and wages. The Committee had also noted the information on legal provisions designed to prevent discrimination in employment and had requested information on the results of the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act 1976 and on the work of the Fair Employment Agency established under that Act.

22. With regard to article 7 of the Covenant, the United Kingdom had ratified the Equal Remuneration Convention. ILO had requested information on the practical application of the Equal Pay Act of 1970, which the Government had subsequently supplied. At its March 1980 session, the Committee had requested further information on judicial decisions pertaining to that Act. It had also requested more information on equal opportunity for promotion, with particular reference to Northern Ireland. Information had also been requested on the right of trade unions to function freely in Northern Ireland.

23. With regard to the non-metropolitan territories, the United Kingdom Government had made use of the provisions of the Covenant entitling it not to report in detail but to cite information already given to the United Nations or ILO. The report had therefore consisted largely of references to previous information and legislation. It should be noted that two of the territories covered in the ILO report had since become independent.

24. The Committee of Experts had stated that the Employment Policy Convention was applicable to Guernsey and the Isle of Man and had submitted questions to the United Kingdom Government on its application, particularly with regard to full employment, in those islands. With regard to other territories in which the Convention had not yet been declared applicable, the Committee had suggested that information should be supplied on their development policies and in particular on how they intended to promote full employment. In connexion with bilateral aid provided by the United Kingdom to its territories, it had reported that more information would be desirable on the extent to which the United Kingdom Government sought to ensure that employment goals were taken into account in development planning and in selecting projects.

25. With regard to article 7, the Committee had expressed a desire for information on the level of remuneration of workers not covered by collective bargaining or by minimum wage orders and on how the principle of equal remuneration for equal work was applied in the private sector in non-metropolitan territories other than those which had appropriate legislation or in respect of which the application of that principle had been reserved at the time of ratification of the Covenant. It had also requested more information on the criteria adopted in the various territories on promotion in employment.

26. With regard to safe and healthy working conditions, the ILO report suggested that some territories had rather limited safety regulations. The Committee of Experts would welcome information on measures contemplated in those territories to supplement existing provisions. In connexion with the limitation of hours of work, the main question requiring clarification had been that of overtime.

27. With regard to article 8 of the Covenant, the questions raised by the Committee of Experts had related to the application of the ILO conventions on freedom of association in certain territories. In connexion with article 9, the Committee of Experts had recognized that new developments were taking place in the field of social security in a number of territories. The Committee had requested more information on the coverage of social security systems and prospects for improving their coverage and the benefits available under them.

28. Mr. FUJII (Japan) complimented the United Kingdom Government on its diligence in compiling the report and on its determination to implement the Covenant. Such efforts deserved the Working Group's respect. The United Kingdom had been the first country in the world to experience the industrial revolution and to have dealt effectively with labour problems. It had been a world leader in the field of social security, renowned for providing security from the cradle to the grave.

29. The unconstrained exercise of human rights by one person could infringe on those of another. Thus, the rights enshrined in article 4 of the Covenant were subject to certain limitations. He would welcome the view of the United Kingdom on provisions which limited personal rights

30. Mr. JAMES (United Kingdom) in reply to questions asked by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, said that he understood that the point being made by that representative was that a high and stable level of employment -

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(Mr. James, United Kingdom)

a primary aim of United Kingdom policy - was not synonymous with full employment. In fact, the right to work was a very intricate concept. The United Kingdom Government attached importance to the words "the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts" in article 6. He had frequently been informed that there was no unemployment in the Soviet Union; he had also seen references in publications emanating from the Soviet Union to members of the economically active population experiencing periods of economic inactivity. The difference between economic inactivity and unemployment was not very great. At all events, it was doubtful whether absolute full employment was compatible with the right of a worker to do work which he freely chose or accepted. Representatives of the Soviet Union frequently affirmed in ILO that in the Soviet Union "he who will not work shall not eat". If the price of no unemployment was compulsion to do work which one did not freely accept, most workers in Western countries, and perhaps throughout the world, would accept some unemployment as the lesser evil. That said, it remained a primary aim of the United Kingdom to achieve full employment.

31. The Government's strategy was largely concentrated on the conquest of inflation, that being the prerequisite for the establishment of a strong economy which alone could ensure full employment. To some extent inflation in the United Kingdom resulted from external factors over which the Government had little control, such as the cost of oil. The Government could, however, control some factors: it could, for example, keep public expenditure at a level which could be supported out of productive earnings. The United Kingdom was undergoing certain problems of adjustment to current conditions but was trying to put the economy on a sound basis, which was the only way in which full employment could be assured in future. Among the steps it was taking to encourage as high a level of employment as possible were an effective employment service, large-scale vocational training and careful vocational guidance. The Government was also continuing the special employment measures, which had been introduced on an emergency basis and provided jobs for just over 400,000 people who would otherwise be unemployed. Those measures should, however, be distinguished from the far-reaching readjustment of the economy which was being implemented and which would provide the conditions giving as many people as possible full, productive and freely chosen employment.

32. The representative of the Soviet Union had also asked whether employment in the United Kingdom had risen or fallen since ratification of the Covenant. The United Kingdom report, prepared in mid-1977, gave an unemployment figure of 5.7 per cent of the work force. Six months later unemployment had risen to 6.1 per cent, but for 1978 and most of 1979, employment had declined finally reaching 5.3 per cent. In 1980 the figure had risen to 5.7 per cent. That relatively high rate should be seen in the context of world-wide recession and slower economic growth.

33. The representative of the Soviet Union had also asked for information on the decisions of the industrial tribunals on complaints of racial discrimination in employment. He had no figures for the proportion of decisions in favour of the plaintiff. The procedure designed by the Race Relations Act and the Commission for Racial Equality was aimed at reaching an amicable settlement without, if possible, going to the tribunals, and most complaints to the Commission were in



(Mr. James, United Kingdom)

fact settled by negotiation. Employers in general did not wish to violate the law, but were often simply unaware of the requirements of the Act. When notified by the Commission of the complaint and the requirements of the law, employers usually complied immediately. It was not, however, always possible or desirable to reinstate the plaintiff because of the feelings generated by the affair, and in such cases compensation was negotiated by the Commission and paid by the employer.

34. In reply to a further question asked by the representative of the Soviet Union, he said that the Sex Discrimination Act did not for constitutional reasons apply to Northern Ireland, but Northern Ireland had similar regulations of its own. The 1979 report of the Equal Opportunities Commission of Northern Ireland, which was modelled on its United Kingdom counterpart, showed that 245 complaints had been received, which was some 30 per cent more than in 1977-1978 and probably reflected wider public awareness of the Commission. Of those cases, 17 had related to equal pay, of which 5 had been submitted to a tribunal; in two cases the plaintiff had won, in one case the complaint had been withdrawn and in two cases proceedings were still pending. Of the remaining cases, 63 had related to sex discrimination in employment not involving pay and eight of them had gone to the tribunal: in one case the plaintiff had won, in another case the complaint had been withdrawn, four cases were still pending and two had been dismissed as having no merit. A further six cases had related to sex discrimination in education, 26 to the provision of good services, facilities and premises, 76 to discriminatory advertising - all of which had been settled out of court - 11 cases had been classed as miscellaneous and 46 had been deemed non-receivable.

35. The representative of Senegal had asked, with reference to the discussion of bilateral aid for non-metropolitan territories in annex A of part II of the report, about the criteria for "reasonable needs of the British non-metropolitan territories". The term "reasonable", of course, was simply a practical guideline for establishing priorities in the allocation of aid funds between United Kingdom non-metropolitan territories, which generally had first priority, and other developing countries. It was difficult to provide precise information about those territories, since each of them was self-governing with respect to internal matters, in particular those covered by the articles of the Covenant. His Government could request information from the local governments about the local situation and it would try to do so and include it in its next report.

36. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany had asked about government action to encourage the employment of women. A great deal had been accomplished by the Government since the Second World War. The proportion of women in the work force had risen steadily, reaching 40 per cent in 1979. Of the 10 million women workers in 1979, 70 per cent were married, and one third of married women workers had dependent children. Some 85 per cent of all part-time workers were women. Unemployment figures for January 1980 showed that 4.5 per cent of the women in the labour force were unemployed, compared to 70 per cent of men. However, those areas of the economy in which women were most heavily represented, such as teaching or the textile industry, were among those showing the least growth; in fact some of them were even declining. There was no evidence, however, that women were declared redundant before men. All managers of labour exchanges were duty bound to remind employers of the availability of women and to advise both employers and employees of the operation of the Sex Discrimination Act.

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(Mr. James, United Kingdom)

37. Women were also encouraged to broaden their occupational horizons. Training facilities were providing vocational training for an increasing number of women. A major activity of the Department of Employment was the training opportunities scheme established by the Manpower Services Commission, which sought to provide vocational training to workers who wished to change course at any stage in their career. Of the 75,000 participants in 1978-1979, 40 per cent had been women. Courses had been established to assist women re-entering the labour force and to introduce women to the engineering trades and to the industrial or workshop environment. The number of women registering for employment services had risen each year since 1976 by between 7.7 and 14.5 per cent, whereas in some cases the figures for men had shown a small decline.

38. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany had also asked if there was any evidence of discrimination in recruitment or promotion on the basis of political opinion. He knew of no such cases except in organizations where political opinion was the main criterion, such as the party organizations themselves.

39. The representative of Spain had asked about measures to promote youth employment. The relevant information had already been provided to a specialized agency, namely the International Labour Organisation, and the Government had taken advantage of the accepted practice of referring to reports submitted to the other bodies. It might be useful if in future the Secretariat obtained copies of information already supplied to other bodies and reproduced it in an annex to the State Party's report. The major activity of interest to young people was the youth opportunities programme, which had set targets of 210,000 new jobs for youth by mid-1980 and 250,000 by mid-1981. The mid-1980 target had been 95 per cent attained. The main idea was to provide a wide range of opportunities for unemployed youth through training courses and work experience, often on the employer's premises. Special consideration was given to young people with physical, educational or cultural handicaps and to those living in areas where unemployment was high. Particular attention was also devoted to those who had left school at the age of 16, at the end of the compulsory schooling period. Of 860,000 such school-leavers in 1979, between 200,000 and 300,000 had entered employment without further training. There were 250,000 young persons between the ages of 16 and 18 who were given time off by their employers for post-secondary education and training. The United Kingdom also welcomed the European Economic Community resolution on "alternance", which linked work and training for young people. The number of careers guidance counsellors had also been increased. The representative of Spain had also asked whether widowers who were not disabled could receive pensions based on their wives' earnings; he did not know the answer to that question but would ensure that the next report provided the information.

40. In reply to the question asked by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning restrictions on the employment of aliens and their right to social security, he said that there was very little migrant labour in the United Kingdom in the sense in which it was understood in other Western European countries. With the exception of nationals of the European Economic Community and their families, foreigners were allowed to work only if their employers obtained a work permit for them from the Department of Employment. Before issuing the

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permit the Department had to be satisfied that there was no British worker available to fill the vacancy. A work permit was valid only for the job for which it was issued, and if the worker lost that job, he could continue to work in the United Kingdom only in a similar position for which no British worker was available. Those restrictions applied to a foreign worker for four years, after which time all restrictions were removed and he was allowed to work indefinitely in the country. He had no exact figures for the percentage of aliens in the work force, but the number was extremely small in comparison with the migrant labour force in some European countries. There were no restrictions on social security entitlement for foreign workers; provided they were in the United Kingdom legally, they were entitled to social security benefits on the same basis as other workers.

41. With regard to relations between the trade unions and the political parties, he said that the Labour Party had been founded as the political voice of the trade union movement, and its relations with the trade unions were extremely close. Accordingly, when the Labour Party formed the Government, trade unions exercised a strong influence on legislation and the running of the country, and even in opposition the Labour Party was still greatly influenced by the views of the trade union movement. In the previous 60 years, the electorate had tended to elect labour and conservative governments alternately. As to whether the Government could use its links with the trade unions to influence them in favour of the execution of government policy, there was no simple answer to that question. Every member of Parliament was elected to represent all residents in his or her constituency, regardless of how they had voted. When a political party took office, its first priority became the government of the entire country. Therefore, although its policies had been shaped by the trade unions, once in office the Labour Party was often obliged to adopt policies not supported by the trade unions. It was certainly possible in theory for it to take advantage of its influence with the unions to get its policies accepted by society as a whole.

42. With regard to the question raised by the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, concerning the applicability of the 1976 Race Relations Act to indirect discrimination, he said that the new Act covered such matters as employment advertisements which, without specifying that only white candidates were wanted, specified some qualification, such as a knowledge of British customs, which made it clear that non-white applicants were excluded.

43. In reply to the question of the representative of Finland concerning responsibility for the safety and health of domestic servants, he said that the regulations applicable to workers under the existing legislation would be quite impossible to enforce in the case of domestic employees; it was difficult enough for the inspectorate to enforce them in factories. The reason why the Health and Safety at Work Act did not extend to domestic servants was therefore purely practical, but there was no evidence that the health or safety of domestic employees was being placed at risk. With regard to the higher rate of unemployment benefit payable to men and single women, he said that those groups were regarded as principal breadwinners, whereas married women had another breadwinner in the family. It was true that the disparity seemed hard to reconcile with the Sex Discrimination Act. However, unemployment benefit was supplemented by the supplementary benefits scheme, so that persons with an insufficient income - one below levels decided by Parliament - could draw supplementary benefit to prevent hardship.

(Mr. James, United Kingdom)

44. As for the participation of workers in monitoring safety practices in enterprises, the Health and Safety at Work Act provided for the appointment, in all factories and work places, of safety officers. In enterprises of a certain size, there were safety committees consisting of representatives of employers and workers. That machinery enabled workers to participate fully in the planning and enforcement of safety measures.

45. He fully agreed with the representative of Japan that the individual's enjoyment of human rights could never be absolute, as it was dependent upon the human rights of others. The United Kingdom attached full importance to two limiting clauses in article 8 of the Covenant: the stipulations that no restrictions might be placed on the exercise of the right to form and join trade unions other than those prescribed by law and that the right to strike must be exercised in conformity with the laws of the country. However, the United Kingdom had ratified the ILO Convention on freedom of association, which contained a clause stipulating that the law must not be such as to restrict the formation of trade unions. The right to strike was not absolute, as in many cases it could not be exercised without causing great hardship to the fellow-citizens of strikers.

46. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom) said that he was in a position to supplement the information given earlier to the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning cases of alleged racial discrimination heard by industrial tribunals. From 1 July 1978 to 30 June 1979 there had been 364 complaints of discrimination. Of those cases, 34.6 per cent had been withdrawn as a result either of prior settlement or of legal advice given to the complainant. Of the remaining cases, the tribunals had upheld 58, or 16 per cent, and 130 cases had been dismissed for lack of sufficient evidence.

47. Mr. SKOTNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the representatives of the United Kingdom for their extremely detailed replies. With regard to his first question concerning the right to work, the reply given related, in his view, to the right to be unemployed. He hoped that the next report to be furnished by the United Kingdom would provide an answer.

48. Mr. VOLLERS (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he had been greatly impressed by the willing, full and pertinent answers given by the representative of the United Kingdom, which were a model for future replies by States Parties.

DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE BUREAU (E/1980/WG.1/L.2)

49. Mr. JOHNSON (Ecuador), Rapporteur, said that certain corrections should be made to the draft resolution recommended to the Council. In the third preambular paragraph, the word "twenty-four" should be added before the word "reports". In paragraph 2 (b), the words "clarification of" should be replaced by "clarifications or". In the foot-note, the figure 21 should be replaced by 20.

50. Mr. SKOTNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it would be premature to adopt a draft resolution, since some States Parties had not yet submitted reports. He therefore suggested that the proposal should be in the form of a draft decision.

51. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. MWANJABALA (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. SKOTNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. VOICU (Romania), Mr. SALMENPERA (Finland), Mr. DIA (Senegal), Mr. VOLLERS (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados) and Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) participated, the CHAIRMAN said that the Working Group was clearly not in a position to adopt the proposal at the current meeting and urged members to reach agreement in informal consultations before the final meeting of the session.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

