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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

SECOND SESSION

Report of Questionnaire Committee

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Considers that, in order to obtain the needed background data on which to base its work of determining general policies, making specific recommendations for action and planning publications and other publicity and educational materials, the Secretariat must supply it with pertinent facts as to the various discriminations existing against women, which facts can be obtained from:

1. Governments
2. Non-Governmental Organizations
3. Individuals able and interested to supply them
4. General research

It therefore recommends to the Secretariat that

- A. Emphasis in its questions to Governments should be on the existence and extent of discriminations rather than on equality and to this end, questions must be fewer, shorter and more searching than is the case with the questions contained in the present questionnaire.
- B. The material collected from Governments should be regarded as only one source of information which must be supplemented and, where necessary, checked by other sources to insure a complete, accurate and rounded picture.
- C. The presentation should be by topics to permit comparative analysis of subject matter. Examples of this method can be found in the current report of the Inter-American Commission on Women on political rights accorded women in the American Republics and also in the report on private law of the League of Nations Committee to study the legal status of women.

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Recommends therefore the following as the program for future work for the coming year:

A. Part I of the Questionnaire should be completed. Governments which have not yet replied to it should be asked to do so on or before the following dates: SECTIONS A and B, Political RightsJune 1, 1948
SECTION D, Educational Opportunities....June 1, 1948
SECTION C, NationalityJuly 1, 1948
Remaining SectionsDecember 1, 1948

It is understood that the Secretariat will have considerable work to do following receipt of this material as it will have to be supplemented from other sources, analyzed, etc., as indicated above.

B. The Secretariat should proceed at once to draft short, simple questions dealing with the rights of married women, particularly as to domicile, marriage, divorce and control of property, and distribute the text of these proposed questions to the Commission for its review by September 1, so that the Commission may discuss this text at its next session and decide on the time and manner of its distribution to Governments as well as on any revision in it.

C. In line with the Resolution presented by Denmark on the political rights of women in the First General Assembly, the Memorandum, E/CN.6/30, relating to the franchise rights of women and their eligibility to public office prepared by the Secretariat for the Commission, should be brought up to date and presented to the Third General Assembly and annually to succeeding Assemblies until all women throughout the world have the same political rights as men.

D. A popular pamphlet on Political Rights accorded or denied women should be prepared for general use, if possible to include charts and maps to display effectively the nations where women have full political rights in contrast with those where they are denied them in whole or in part. If possible, this should be published within the year.

E. The information obtained on Education (Section D of the Questionnaire) should be made available to UNESCO with the consent of the Governments concerned.
