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ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Third session

(Item 8 of the agenda)

Mr. Ekstrand and Mr. Black: draft resolution
on the protection of minorities

The Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of
Minorities,

REQUESTS the Commission on Human Rights to recommend that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

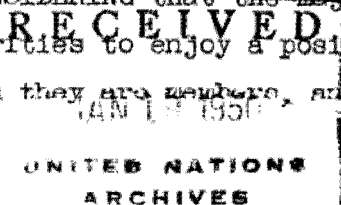
CONSIDERING that the problem of minorities was referred to the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities by the General Assembly in Part C of resolution 217 (III),

CONSIDERING that the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities has adopted the definition and classification of minorities embodied in its resolution No. ____ of January ____, 1950 annexed hereto,

CONSIDERING that the rights traditionally desired by the minorities as therein defined are those described in the minorities treaties and declarations which came into force after the First World War, and include protection of life and liberty; equality before the law, equality of political rights, equality of admission to public posts, functions and honours; equality in the establishment of charitable, religious, social and educational institutions; use of the minority language in such private matters as commerce, religion, the press, and other publications and, finally, use of the minority language in such public matters as judicial procedure and in State-supported schools,

CONSIDERING that the majority of these rights represent no more than the desire of minorities to enjoy a position of equality with the other citizens of the States of which they are members, and that this category of rights has been set forth in

/the Universal



the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Article 2 which states that "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status", and more specifically in other articles including Article 3 on the protection of life and liberty; Article 7 on equality before the law; Article 18 on religious freedom; Article 20 on freedom of assembly and association; Article 21 on equality of political rights and of access to public service; Article 26 on equality of educational opportunities; and Article 27 on cultural equality,

CONSIDERING, moreover, that provision is being made for the protection of the most important of these rights in the Draft International Covenant on Human Rights, and

CONSIDERING that of the rights traditionally desired by minorities, it is the initial finding of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities that only the right to use minority languages before the courts and in State-supported schools goes beyond the scope of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Draft International Covenant on Human Rights;

DECIDES that the most significant step that should be taken at the present stage for the protection of minorities is the preparation of recommendations regarding the use of a minority language before the courts and the teaching of a minority language as one of the courses of study in State-supported schools; and, accordingly,

CALLS UPON:

- (1) The Secretary-General to make arrangements with the Members of the United Nations to obtain reports on the steps taken by them to afford protection to minorities in these two linguistic fields, and
- (2) the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities to undertake further studies in these two linguistic fields with a view to determining in greater detail the problems which the protection of minorities in this regard would entail.
