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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Third Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 17 April 1967, at 11 a.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. SLIM	(Tunisia)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. BEEBY	New Zealand
<u>Members:</u>	Miss FLETCHER	Canada
	Mr. PAOLINI	France
	Mr. JHA)	India
	Mr. PIPARSANLA)	
	Mr. JALILI	Iran
	Mr. SCOLAMIERO	Italy
	Miss MARTINEZ	Jamaica
	Mr. FAKIH	Kenya
	Mr. MOHAMMED	Nigeria
	Mr. RIOS	Panama
	Mr. YANGO	Philippines
	Mr. WYZNER	Poland
	Mr. FARAH	Somalia
	Mr. BEN AISSA	Tunisia
	Mr. VERENIKIN)	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. NASINOVSKY)	
	Miss RICHARDS	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mrs. PAULOS	United States of America
	Mr. LAZAREVIC	Yugoslavia

Observers for Member States:

Mr. KRAVETS	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
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Observers for inter-governmental organizations:

Mr. PENTEADO	Organization of American States
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Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. ABDEL-RAHMAN	International Labour Organisation	
Mr. SALSAMENDI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	
Dr. THOMEN	World Health Organization	
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. SCHREIBER	Director, Division of Human Rights
	Mr. ROMANOV	Secretary of the Committee

DOCUMENTATION FOR THE CONFERENCE (A/CONF.32/PC/R.1 and Add.1, R.2; A/CONF.32/PC/5 and Corr.1 and Add.1; Conference Room Papers Nos. 8-10) (continued)

Mr. SALSAMENDI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) informed the Committee that his agency was ready to provide the International Conference on Human Rights with all available documentation relating to the implementation of the Convention against Discrimination in Education, referred to in paragraph 2 of document A/CONF.32/PC/5/Add.1.

The paper which UNESCO intended to submit to the International Conference on Human Rights, an outline of which appeared in Conference Room Paper No. 9, would be divided into four parts. The first part, the introduction, would deal with the nature and purpose of UNESCO action and would follow the general lines of the report on UNESCO's contribution to the United Nations Development Decade. As the Director-General had said, UNESCO's vocation was essentially ethical and its aim was to act on men's minds in such a way as to predispose them towards tolerance, co-operation, respect for human rights, and peace. For example, UNESCO's eighteen-year campaign against racial prejudice had, by putting on record the findings of modern science and the conclusions to be drawn from the great religious and philosophical traditions of the past, placed the agency in the vanguard of the intellectual movement supporting human rights. In view of the proliferation and exacerbation of racial conflicts throughout the world, there was clearly a need for a fresh impetus in that campaign.

The second part of the document would have two main chapters, the first dealing with the decisions of the General Conference and the Executive Board in the field of human rights, and the second describing the agency's activities in that field. All UNESCO's activities were directed not only towards the achievement of peace but also towards the defence of human rights, either directly, or indirectly - by creating the material, intellectual, moral and cultural conditions required. From UNESCO's point of view, development could be defined as the realization of the conditions vital to the exercise of human rights, and education was not only a condition for development but also a means of giving every human being the inner resources he needed to exercise his rights and give them substance. Among UNESCO's activities, cultural exchanges made it possible

(Mr. Salsamendi, UNESCO)

to fight prejudice, and sociological surveys facilitated the analysis of the different concepts men had of their rights and of the difficulties they encountered in implementing them. In that respect, philosophically, the universality of the human rights must be considered in the light of the different religions, values and traditions prevailing throughout the world. The second chapter would therefore deal with action relating to philosophy, social sciences, education and mass information. The order followed would be, first, to express principles; secondly, to suggest how those principles could be implemented; and thirdly, to indicate how they could be made known. The section on "educative action" would cover such activities as education for international understanding, a programme designed to aid teachers in working towards the ideals of the United Nations; the improvement of curricula and teaching methods and materials; teacher training and associated school projects; and youth activities. The section dealing with action relating to mass information would be given special emphasis.

The third part of the paper would deal with the specific human rights within UNESCO's field of competence. It would begin with general observations, followed by a statement of the normative action taken to promote the rights enunciated in articles 26, 27 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It would contain a description of UNESCO's methods in elaborating and implementing international instruments and an enumeration of the instruments it had adopted. The section dealing with the implementation of article 26 - the right to education - would describe UNESCO's efforts to promote literacy, the access of women to education, and the development of primary, secondary, technical and higher education. Since article 27 was somewhat general, the section dealing with action for the implementation of that article would follow the more precise formulation laid down in article 15 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and would therefore take up successively the preservation of the cultural heritage, the development and dissemination of science, the encouragement to international co-operation and statement of the principles of cultural co-operation, and the protection of the rights of authors, artists, etc. The section dealing with action for the implementation of article 19 would define the particular aspects of the right to information falling within UNESCO's competence and describe UNESCO's

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(Mr. Salsamendi, UNESCO)

activities in promoting the free flow of information, reducing obstacles to that flow, and improving the utilization of information.

The fourth part of the document would be devoted to prospects for the future and future programmes. Subject to final approval at the Executive Board's next meeting in October, it would include a report on the continuation and possible intensification of UNESCO's action concerning literacy, assistance to women and the fight against racial discrimination, areas to which the last General Conference had given priority.

UNESCO also planned four new activities. First, if the United Nations wished to initiate a concerted effort to bring about a better understanding of human rights, taking into account the diversity of religious, philosophical and political traditions and differences in economic and social status, UNESCO would gladly participate in it. Secondly, it would seek to clarify the meaning of article 15 of the Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and develop the meaning of article 27 of the Universal Declaration. Thirdly, it would make recommendations on what the content of education should be from the point of view of peace and international understanding. Fourthly, it wished to develop the idea that the cultivation of the scientific mind was a human right fundamental to the whole concept of human rights. The Universal Declaration and the International Covenants on Human Rights had not given science the place it deserved. At a time when science was changing the face of the planet and deeply affecting the lives of its inhabitants, the cultivation of the scientific mind was indispensable to man if he was to understand the world he lived in, adapt himself to it and appreciate his own abilities and limitations.

Mr. JALILI (Iran) expressed satisfaction with the status of the documentation for the Conference. In preparing that documentation, the Secretariat should keep in mind the need for documents to be concise as possible and to be made available to the participants sufficiently in advance of the opening of the Conference to allow of thorough study.

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Mr. VERENIKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the Secretariat for responding to his delegation's request for a report on the status of the documentation to be submitted to the Conference. It was obvious from the list prepared by the Secretariat (Conference Room Paper No. 10) that the documentation would be voluminous, perhaps running to as many as 4,000 pages. Not only would that mass of documentation create difficulties, especially for some of the smaller delegations, but the Conference itself could hardly study it adequately without neglecting the more important task of evaluating achievements in human rights and making recommendations for future action. For that reason, he suggested that the Preparatory Committee might prune the list by deleting documents of secondary importance. For example, he could see no reason why the Secretariat should duplicate and translate the 108-page report to be submitted by the Council of Europe. It might be better to prepare only a brief summary of the reports submitted by regional inter-governmental organizations for distribution to the Conference. If such an organization wished the complete text of its report to come before the Conference, it could publish it on its own initiative and at its own expense. The reports dealing with women's rights should also not be reproduced in extenso, because they were popular expositions unlikely to be of interest to the experts participating in the Conference. All documents should be as concise as possible.

The two Secretariat reports would undoubtedly prove highly useful. The Committee should refrain from discussing those reports, however, because they expressed the point of view of the Secretariat and not of the Committee itself, and should be submitted to the Conference as Secretariat reports. With the exception of the studies to be prepared by expert consultants, no document should contain any judgements or evaluations, for that was the task of the Conference.

His delegation was also opposed to the printing of documents; the only document to be printed should be one summarizing the results of the Conference's work.

Mr. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) expressed appreciation for the lucid and informative statement made by the UNESCO representative. He trusted that UNESCO

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(Mr. Mohammed, Nigeria)

would continue to give its attention to the concept of the cultivation of the scientific mind as a basic human right.

He hoped that the documents to be prepared for the Conference would be described in somewhat more detail so that the members of the Committee could form a more accurate idea of them. He would, in particular, welcome statements like that of the UNESCO representative by representatives of other specialized agencies. While he agreed with the Iranian and USSR representatives that the documents should be as concise as possible, on some highly technical subjects, such as those dealt with in the UNESCO report, brevity would probably not be possible and might sometimes not even be desirable, since the final recommendations to be made by the Conference would be largely based on the material provided in those documents.

Mr. RIOS (Panama) thanked the representative of UNESCO for his valuable statement.

He emphasized the capital importance which his delegation attached to item 3 of Conference Room Paper No. 10 concerning the texts of the conventions and the declarations in the field of human rights adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. He was aware that the Secretariat was overworked but, in view of the significance of the texts concerned, he wondered whether priority might not be given to them. Such a compilation would be invaluable, not only at the Conference and at United Nations meetings in general, but, at the national level, in universities and government offices.

Mr. WYZNER (Poland) said that the Committee was not a board of censors which should pass final judgement on the documents before it. Its real task was to lay down guidelines for the Secretariat in preparing the documentation for the Conference.

His delegation had welcomed the statements by the representative of UNESCO and the Director of the Division of Human Rights. The documents so far prepared by the Secretariat contained many interesting ideas. He recalled that the Preparatory Committee had originally set aside \$69,600 for pre-conference documentation, which, as it had specified in its first progress report (A/6354), should not exceed 900 pages. He doubted whether the documentation referred to in Conference Room Paper No. 10 could be contained within those bounds. The report to be submitted

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(Mr. Wyzner, Poland)

by the Council of Europe, for example, would be more than 100 pages long. He therefore strongly endorsed the recommendations of previous speakers who had urged that, wherever possible, concise summaries should be made. The Committee might consider whether the documents of regional inter-governmental organizations, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and the documents referred to in resolution 15 (XX) of the Commission on the Status of Women might not be submitted to the Conference in summary form.

His delegation felt that there was a need to provide the Conference with further documentation on economic, social and cultural rights. A United Nations Seminar was to be held at Warsaw from 12 to 28 August 1967 on the realization of the economic and social rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He suggested that a very brief summary of the results and proposals of the Seminar would be a useful addition to the Conference documentation.

Miss MARTINEZ (Jamaica) thanked the Director of the Division of Human Rights for his statement on the status of the documentation for the Conference. Her delegation had welcomed the statement by the UNESCO representative and hoped that similar statements would be forthcoming from other agencies.

She disagreed with the USSR representative in regard to summarizing reports by regional inter-governmental organizations, and she agreed with the Polish representative that the results of the Warsaw Seminar could be usefully included in the documentation of the Conference.

An up-to-date summary of the status of conventions and declarations in the field of human rights adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies would be another useful addition to the documentation. It could be presented in tabular form, showing the date on which the documents came into force, the number of signatories and the names of the ratifying countries.

She suggested that, in addition to the pre-conference documentation as such, a second list of reference documents could be prepared. Delegations attending the Conference could obtain such documents, on their own initiative, as useful background material.

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Mr. PAOLINI (France) thanked the UNESCO representative and the Director of the Division of Human Rights for their statements, which were extremely helpful in view of the bulk of the documentation for the Conference. As the Polish representative had pointed out, the Committee should not select that documentation; it could only give very general directives. While he endorsed the Iranian representative's appeal for concision, and was aware of the budgetary considerations, he warned that the documentation could be condensed only within certain limits. He shared the Nigerian representative's doubts as to whether a subject as broad as that of human rights could be satisfactorily compressed; the Committee must be careful not to be restrictive. In that connexion, he differed from the USSR representative in that he considered that the Committee could not impose limitations on the Conference. It would be the first major international conference on human rights and it was to consider the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered in implementing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Bearing in mind the complexity of the rights involved - which were all closely interrelated - some degree of repetition was unavoidable. Some of the suggestions made might even mean an increase in the volume of documentation. Regional inter-governmental organizations and the specialized agencies had been asked for studies of their achievements in the field of human rights and, at the present stage, it was unreasonable to ask them to condense the summaries they had made. It had been agreed that there should be an annotated agenda and that was a possible way out of the difficulty, since it would provide the delegations to the Conference with a succinct analysis of the documentation. The Secretariat would in any case have to prepare the annotated agenda and such items as a summary of the results of the Warsaw Seminar should be included in it. Obviously the full report of the Seminar must be made available to the Conference but it could be included in the reference documentation proposed by the Jamaican representative. The possible additional documentation referred to in items 13, 14 and 15 of Conference Room Paper No. 10 would not involve any expenditure over and above the allocation for pre-conference documentation.

The CHAIRMAN stated that there was general agreement that the documents referred to in items 1 to 4 of Conference Room Paper No. 10 were the sole responsibility of the Secretariat or the experts appointed by it. He understood

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(The Chairman)

that item 1 would involve documentation of some 200 pages, item 2 300 pages, item 3 150 pages and item 4 not more than 200 or 250 pages. That was well within the 900-page limit previously laid down by the Committee. He drew attention to the suggestion by the Director of the Division of Human Rights that the texts of the conventions and the declarations in the field of human rights adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies should eventually be printed and put on sale. It would be helpful if the Committee endorsed that suggestion.

The documentation under items 5 and 6 was being prepared by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and, he assumed, under the Institute's budget.

It was hoped that the specialized agencies and the regional inter-governmental organizations would submit their documents in all the working languages.

The remaining documents, which some delegations had suggested should be summarized, could probably be regarded as reference documents of the type referred to by the Jamaican representative. The Committee's primary task was to give guidance to the Secretariat in preparing the documentation under items 1 to 4.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Secretariat', replying to the questions raised during the debate, said, first, that the Secretariat would be happy to report to the Committee on the progress achieved in the preparation of the further documentation, as requested by the Philippine representative at the previous meeting. Secondly, referring to the two points made by the Iranian representative at the present meeting, he said that the Secretariat would do its best to make its documents as concise as possible but that, as the French representative had pointed out, it was difficult to condense twenty years' experience into a short text. In addition, the documents must not be so concise that participants in the Conference who were not well versed in United Nations affairs would not be adequately briefed on the background of agenda items. The documents would be distributed as soon as possible and, it was hoped, at least three months before the opening of the Conference; the bottle-neck in the production of the documentation would not be so much in drafting as in translation and reproduction.

Thirdly, as to the points raised by the USSR representative, the Secretariat would of course take responsibility for its own reports and it would endeavour to

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(Mr. Schreiber, Secretariat)

make them as factual and objective as possible. He hoped that delegations would show understanding of the difficulties inherent in that task. As to the number of pages, the Secretariat's reports under the first two items of Conference Room Paper No. 10 would amount to about 200 stencilled pages each, or 100 printed pages, the compilation under item 3 to about 150 to 200, and the evaluation studies by the expert consultants to between 250 and 300 pages. Of the documents to be supplied by UNITAR, he had been informed that the report under item 6 would be relatively brief. As to the documents to be supplied by the specialized agencies, he had discussed the matter with the agencies' secretariats, in the hope that the agencies themselves would be able to supply enough copies of their own documents in the working languages of the Conference, thus relieving somewhat the burden on United Nations technical services, but the agencies were experiencing similar difficulties to those of the United Nations Secretariat and, in addition, their working languages were not always the same as those of the Conference. With their assistance, the Secretariat would do its best to see that those reports were available in the number and languages required. The USSR representative's suggestion that reports to be submitted by regional inter-governmental organizations should be cut down seemed inconsistent with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX), which invited those organizations to provide the Conference "with full information on their accomplishments, programmes and other measures", for the protection of human rights. There again, the working languages of the organizations were not always the same as those of the Conference, but the Secretariat would do its best to see that the reports were available in the required languages and request the organizations concerned to provide copies and translations. He felt that the USSR representative's estimate was in excess of the number of pages to be supplied by the Secretariat, which would probably not exceed 1,750.

He sympathized with the Nigerian representative's request for information about the volume of the documentation to be provided. Drafts of the major part of the first two reports to be submitted by the Secretariat were already available (A/CONF.32/PC/R.1 and Add.1 and R.2), the representative of UNESCO had given a very full outline of the UNESCO report, and the representatives of the other specialized agencies would probably follow suit. All the specialized

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(Mr. Schreiber, Secretariat)

agencies and inter-governmental organizations had been asked to supply outlines of their papers, which would be distributed to Governments. He would endeavour to obtain priority for the background documents mentioned by the Panamanian representative, which would probably be of use to Governments and private persons in preparation for, as well as during and after, the Conference. It was probable that they were already available in the working languages of the Conference. He felt that documentation such as the reports of the seminars on human rights to be held at Warsaw and in Jamaica and of the seminar on racial discrimination to be held at New Delhi might be brought to the attention of the Conference. It would be possible to provide a list of reference documents other than the documentation specially prepared for the Conference, as proposed by the Jamaican representative, either as part of the annotated agenda or as a separate document. That list could include documents relating to the status of women, the report of the Special Rapporteur on Slavery, etc. Lastly, there would be no difficulty in making the tabular presentation of the status of the different instruments relating to human rights, as suggested by the Jamaican representative. It might be issued as an appendix to the compilation mentioned in item 3 of Conference Room Paper No. 10.

Mr. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) asked what progress had been made in recruiting expert consultants to prepare evaluation studies.

Mr. SCOLAMIERO (Italy) asked whether the Committee would be informed when the experts had been recruited.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Secretariat) replied that some of the experts had already agreed to serve and that the others were expected shortly. As soon as all the replies to the offers made by the Secretariat had been received, the Committee would be informed.

Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) emphasized the importance of including the report of the Special Rapporteur on Slavery in the documentation of the Conference in view of the Committee's decision to include an item on slavery, apartheid, and colonialism in the provisional agenda of the Conference.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.