

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.216/Add.1
9 December 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES
Thirteenth session
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND OTHER FORMS OF RACIAL PREJUDICE
AND RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE OF A SIMILAR NATURE

(Addendum)

NORWAY^{1/}

Comments of the Government
(Communication dated 15 November 1960)

"Norwegian law recognizes as a fundamental human right the right for everyone freely to manifest his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance. It goes therefore without saying that no one is being persecuted because of his religious belief.

"That religious freedom exists does, however, not mean that all religions legally enjoy the same position. In accordance with the Norwegian Constitution the Evangelical-Lutheran religion is the public religion of the State. Consequently, there is in Norway a State Church. This entails that the Evangelical-Lutheran religion is being preached in public churches and taught in public schools. As a further consequence of the established principle on preserving the State Church, the Cabinet Member in charge of Educational and Ecclesiastical Affairs must profess the Evangelical-Lutheran religion. The same rule does also apply to teachers who are actually giving or supervising lectures on the subject of religion in public schools.

"A person may, however, become Prime Minister without professing the public religion. There is no legal provision preventing for example a Catholic from becoming Prime Minister in Norway.

"It ought to be pointed out that no one is under obligation to have his children educated in public schools, provided the children otherwise are being given appropriate tuition.

^{1/} See information furnished by the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.216).

"Those who do not profess the public religion, but whose children are pupils in public schools are at liberty to have their children exempted from attending lectures on religion. In these cases, the parents may of course let their children be given lessons on religion outside the school in accordance with their own belief."
