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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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OF MINORITIES
Twelfth session
Item 10 of the agenda

OBSERVATIONS ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE OF
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN THE ERADICATION OF PREJUDICE
AND DISCRIMINATION

(Statement submitted by the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations,
a non-governmental organization in Category B consultative status)

The Secretary-General has received the following statement which is
circulated in accordance with paragraphs 28 and 29 of Economic and Social Council
resolution 288 B (X).

Dated: 12 January 1960

Received: 12 January 1960

1. In connexion with item 10 on the proceedings of the Second United Nations
Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations Interested in the Eradication of
Prejudice and Discrimination, the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations
invites the attention of the members of the Sub-Commission to resolution 9(II).
The resolution was unanimously adopted by the Conference and recommends;
inter alia,

that the Regional Economic Commissions of the United Nations and the
Economic and Social Council undertake studies of the effects of
discriminatory practices.

2. Much evidence has been accumulated which demonstrates the high cost of
discrimination, economically no less than psychologically, socially and
politically. Discrimination is a very real barrier to the advancement of economic
welfare and is an expensive and unrewarding luxury paid for both, by those who

practice it and those who suffer it. It is therefore appropriate for the Economic and Social Council and its Regional Commissions of the United Nations, which are concerned with the removal of all artificial barriers and other obstacles to economic progress, to investigate the corroding effect of discrimination and to deal with its economic consequences in a qualitative and quantitative manner.

3. But the question of the economic consequences of discrimination is also a basic concern of the Sub-Commission and is part of its general programme for combating discrimination. It is respectfully submitted that the Sub-Commission's present programme of studies of differential treatment of persons and groups classifiable on the basis of race, religion, colour or another common characteristic must be complemented and completed by studies of the effects of discriminatory practices. Such studies will enhance the practical character of United Nations concern with discrimination and give added authority to its conclusions and recommendations.

4. We earnestly hope that the members of the Sub-Commission will give the most careful consideration to the recommendation of the Conference and examine its relevancy to their own responsibilities and to the responsibilities of the United Nations in general, in the field of discrimination. We respectfully suggest that it is proper for the Sub-Commission, as the United Nations organ immediately concerned, to take the necessary steps looking towards the implementation of the Conference's recommendation. Among other things, the Sub-Commission is in a singularly favourable position to co-operate with the Regional Commissions in preparing and co-ordinating the proposed studies of the economic effects of discriminatory practices. Past experience in connexion with the Sub-Commission's initiatives in the matter of discrimination in the fields of education and employment and occupation proved the value of close co-operation with the specialized agencies. We are certain that similar co-operation between the Sub-Commission and the Regional Economic Commissions will yield equally beneficial results.
