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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

SPECIAL STUDY OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE POLITICAL,
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SPHERES

Statement submitted by the International Humanist and Ethical Union,
a non-governmental organization in consultative status (Register)

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 28 and 29 of Economic and Social Council resolution 238 B (X).

Received: 9 January 1967

The International Humanist and Ethical Union commends the Special Rapporteur for the excellent, thorough and comprehensive report he has submitted on the Special Study of Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres (E/CN.4/Sub.2/267).

After mature reflection the International Humanist and Ethical Union suggests that, in a separate section, the matter of racial discrimination in marriage and adoption should be discussed, with the de facto and the de jure situations presented. The negative position taken by various ethnic groups towards one another concerning marriage and adoption, the scientific findings which refute the reasons ethnic groups often advance, and the principles against racial discrimination in all spheres of life, ably and forcibly expressed in United Nations resolutions in the total United Nations complex, point to the need for considering these items.

After World War II, the United Nations considered the need for legislation to protect the thousands of legitimate and illegitimate children in various occupied areas - most of them born of parents of different ethnic background.

The International Humanist and Ethical Union believes in the worth of the individual, irrespective of his colour, creed, ethnic or religious origin, or philosophical orientation. The IHEU believes that people should be treated in the light of the aforesaid principle.

Several members of our organization have adopted children of ethnic backgrounds other than their own. They have proven their conviction in their own lives.

Therefore the International Humanist and Ethical Union recommends for inclusion in the study a section relating to Action to Eliminate Racial Discrimination in Marriage and Adoption.
