

CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES
ON THE STATUS OF REFUGEES AND
STATELESS PERSONSDual DistributionOBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE DRAFT CONVENTION
AND DRAFT PROTOCOL

Statement submitted by the Catholic International Union
for Social Service, a non-governmental organization
in consultative relationship with the Economic and
Social Council.

The Executive Secretary has received the following statement, which is
circulated in accordance with Rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the Conference.

Submitted: 6 July 1951

Received: 9 July 1951

It is greatly to be hoped that the draft Convention and draft Protocol
submitted to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and
Stateless Persons will become diplomatic instruments signed and ratified by a
large number of governments, for they represent a genuine improvement in the
lot of refugees.

While the draft Convention in its general lines is worthy of wholehearted
support, the Catholic International Union for Social Service would like the
following points to be taken into consideration, with a view to the possible
inclusion of additional articles or recommendations:

(a) In the various moral, legal and material fields, refugees need the help
of the appropriate social services and, more particularly, of qualified non-
governmental organizations. It is therefore to be hoped that governments will
assist and encourage such organizations in their work. The matter might be
covered by a special article in Chapter V of the draft Convention.

(b) No mention is made in the draft Convention of under-age refugees, for whom special protective measures should be taken, particularly by the inclusion of suitable texts in the Convention and Protocol, so as to prevent the growing up of a new generation of refugees and stateless persons.

(c) The draft Convention does not guarantee refugees freedom to practise their religion, and a special article should therefore be prepared to safeguard this fundamental right.