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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

FIRST SESSION

TWELFTH MEETING

CORRIGENDUM TO SUMMARY RECORD

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 2 December 1947, at 9.30 a.m.

The speech of Mr. BORISOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) on page 10 has been amended. The following is a translation of the text sent in by Mr. Borisov:

Mr. BORISOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated that Mr. DANIELS could not and did not attempt to reject his (Mr. BORISOV's) argument against the "procedure" suggested by Mr. DANIELS.

This "procedure" not merely curtailed rights, but deprived the Sub-Commission of its full powers by assigning the study of the main questions of principle to the "Small Committee", the Secretariat, and UNESCO; while at the same time it raised obstacles to any real prevention of race discrimination, and to the examining of the petitions of important progressive democratic organizations. The object of this "procedure" was clear. It was to put such petitions into cold storage, as the League of Nations had done in its day.

Under various pretexts the petition of 15 million negroes suffering from discrimination in the United States of America had not been examined for a considerable time; it was no accident that this fact fitted in with the aims of Mr. DANIELS' "procedure".

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Mr. DANIELS had refrained from defending his "procedure" but stated instead that he did not know what was happening in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. To this Mr. BORISOV replied that the USSR had nothing to hide, and that it was not a question of ignorance on Mr. DANIELS' part but of a lack of desire to learn facts well known to the whole world. For Mr. Daniels' information Mr. BORISOV would, by way of example, read Article 123 of the Fundamental Law of the USSR:

"Equality of rights of citizens of the USSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life, is an inderfeasible law. Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or, conversely, any establishment of direct or indirect privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, is punishable by law."

This Article of the Fundamental Law was so explicit as to merit comparison with the discriminatory articles of regulations in the United States, particularly the South, a comparison which he suggested Mr. DANIELS might make.

Referring to Mr. DANIELS' second unfortunate and irrelevant allusion to certain "wives", Mr. BORISOV stated that unlike Mr. DANIELS he was not interested in the question of "other men's wives". He was more concerned about the fate of the hundreds of Soviet citizens who had spent years in camps in the American and British Zones, and who wished to return to their own country - but were prevented by endless obstacles and threats from the camp authorities and criminals that had collaborated with the Fascist Germany against the Allies in the War.