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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (SEVENTH SESSION)

Observations of Governments on the Draft International

Covenant on Human Rights

1. At its 250th meeting on 19 May 1951 the Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution (E/1992, paragraph 21) concerning the draft International Covenant on Human Rights in paragraph 5 of which it requested the Secretary-General to transmit the draft Covenant on Human Rights to Governments and to specialized agencies, with a view to their making their observations thereon for the thirteenth session of the Economic and Social Council (30 July 1951).
2. The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the Council in the present document the observations of the Government of the United States of America. Observations from other Governments which may be received will be circulated in addenda thereto. The observations of the specialized agencies are submitted in a separate series of documents.

1. UNITED STATES

(Note dated 6 July 1951 from the Representative of
the United States to the United Nations)

In response to the request of the Commission on Human Rights at its 7th Session for the observations of governments concerning the Draft International

Covenant on Human Rights, as revised at that Session of the Commission, the United States Government, while not desiring at this time to enter into detailed observations, wishes to call attention briefly to two matters:

1. The United States feels that the provisions on economic, social and cultural rights in Part III and the provisions on reporting in Part V which were drafted for the first time at the 7th Session of the Commission warrant careful re-examination upon further consideration of the draft Covenant in the United Nations.

2. The United States wishes to stress the importance of including a federal-state article in the Covenant in order that a federal state such as the United States may be in a position to adhere to the Covenant.

The United States calls attention to Section C of Resolution 421 (V), adopted by the General Assembly on December 4, 1950, which reads as follows:

The General Assembly . . .

Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights to study a federal State article and to prepare, for the consideration of the General Assembly at its sixth session, recommendations which will have as their purpose the securing of the maximum extension of the Covenant to the constituent units of federal States, and the meeting of the constitutional problems of federal States.

As pointed out in this Resolution, careful consideration should be given to meeting this problem.