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LINGUIS STATELESSNESS

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Comments received from Governments on the subject of the
draft protocol relating to the status of stateless persons

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith the communication received from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in reply to the letter addressed by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 629 (VII) of 6 November 1952 to all the governments invited to the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons (held at Geneva in July 1951) with a view to obtaining their comments on the draft protocol relating to the status of stateless persons.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Note dated 16 July 1953 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's note SOA 325/5/05 (1) of December 1st, 1952, to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the United Kingdom, concerning the draft Protocol on the Status of Stateless Persons.

In general the treatment accorded to stateless persons in the United Kingdom does not differ from that accorded to refugees and Her Majesty's Government see no objection in principle to applying the provisions of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees to stateless persons who are not refugees insofar as these provisions are susceptible of application to such stateless persons.

The United Kingdom would accordingly have no difficulty in applying mutatis mutandis to stateless persons the provisions listed in Annex II to the Secretary-General's Note SOA 325/5/05 (1) and the same consideration applies to Articles 4, 8, 11, 17 (2) and (3), 19 (2), 30 and 33 which are among those listed in Annex III. Such application would of course be subject to any reservations which Her Majesty's Government may deem it necessary to make under Article 42 to any of the Articles listed in Annexes II and III of the Secretary-General's Note on ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Articles 9 and 31 would appear, by their terms, to be inappropriate to stateless persons as such and in the view of Her Majesty's Government, ought not to be included among the articles to be applied by the Protocol.

It is assumed that the standard final articles referred to in the last paragraph of Annex I and Annex III, footnote 1 of the Secretary-General's Note SOA 325/5/05(1) will be identical in form with those contained in the Convention on the Status of Refugees.