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STATELESSNESS

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 a communication received from the Government of Norway 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.

NORWAY

Note of 4 March 1954 to the Secretary-General from the Acting  
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

"Acting upon instructions from his Government the Acting Permanent Representative of Norway has the honour to submit the following observations on the Draft Protocol:

It is the view of the Norwegian Government that the Protocol relating to the Status of Stateless Persons should include a definition of the term 'stateless person' in order to facilitate understanding of the scope of the Protocol.

"The Norwegian Government considers that the following articles of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which are mentioned in the Draft Protocol relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, could be made applicable, mutatis mutandis, to stateless persons without reservation: 10, 12, 14, 16, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 32 and 34. Article 17 could be applied with the reservation made by the Norwegian Government with regard to refugees. Certain reservations would probably have to be made also with regard to articles 23 and 24. As far as articles 27 and 28 are concerned the Norwegian Government is of the view that these articles should only be made applicable to stateless persons who are resident in the territory of Norway. Incidentally, this is also a requirements for the issue of a Norwegian certificate of identity and travel according to regulations now in force.

As regards those articles of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees which are not mentioned in the Draft Protocol relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the Norwegian Government considers that articles 4 and 9 without difficulty could be applied to stateless persons. With regard to article 11 it is noted that the application of this article to stateless persons would necessitate a reservation to the effect that it will be a precondition for the sympathetic consideration of applications mentioned in the said provision that the stateless person concerned is able to document satisfactory service on board a Norwegian ship of at least 3 years duration. Article 30 could also be applied to stateless persons provided that this article be interpreted to the effect that the unrestricted right, according to paragraph 1 of the article, to transfer assets to another country is confined to assets which the stateless person concerned brought into the country in connection with his arrival in Norway and that all other assets should be treated in conformity with paragraph 2 of the said article.

The Norwegian Government is of the opinion that articles 31 and 33 should not be applied to stateless persons."

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