

**United Nations**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**AND**  
**SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED  
E/AC.7/SR.21  
11 August 1947  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**FIFTH SESSION**  
**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING**

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Friday, 8 August 1947 at 2:45 p.m.

**Present:**

Chairman:	Mr. Moe	
	Mr. Blais	(Canada)
	Mr. Sun	(China)
	Mr. Osuna	(Cuba)
	Mr. Radimsky	(Czechoslovakia)
	Mr. Boris	(France)
	Mr. Ahmad	(India)
	Mr. Hakim	(Lebanon)
	Mr. Van der Mandele	(Netherlands)
	Miss Hampton	(New Zealand)
	Mr. Haarr	(Norway)
	Mr. Sur	(Turkey)
	Mr. Icmakin	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. Mackenzie	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. Stinebower	(United States of America)
	Mr. Zuloaga	(Venezuela)

**Representatives of Specialized Agencies:**

	Mr. Carnes	(UNESCO)
Secretariat:	Professor Humphrey	(Director, Division of Human Rights)
	Mr. Hogan	(Division of Human Rights)

**1. Consideration of Chapter IV of the Report of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press (Document E/441)**

Mr. HAARR (Norway) stated that, in view of the adoption of the Indian proposal for a new Item 6 to the provisional draft agenda (document E/AC.7/35), which dealt with the same point as the proposed Norwegian resolution (document E/518), his Government withdrew the resolution.

**DECISION:** The Committee took note of Chapter IV of the Report.

**2. Consideration of Chapter V of the Report of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press (Document E/441)**

**DECISION:** The Committee took note of paragraph 1, and of the fact that the request contained therein had already been made.

Paragraph 2 was held over for discussion later.

**3. Consideration of Chapter II, Paragraph 8 of the Report of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press (Document E/441)**

Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) proposed that an appropriate change be made in the wording of (c) to bring it into line with the decision reached /in the corresponding

in the corresponding chapter of the agenda.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the paragraph would have to be revised in accordance with changes made in the agenda.

DECISION: Paragraph 8 was adopted, subject to necessary editorial changes.

4. Consideration of Chapter I, Paragraph 9, of the Report of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press (Document E/441)

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that sub-paragraph (a) had already been adopted, and stated that the Committee should now consider sub-paragraphs (b) and (c)

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) expressed the opinion that it would be prejudging a decision for the Committee to take any action since the Commission on Human Rights was the appropriate body to act, and pointed out that the Economic and Social Council had previously acted only at the request of the Commission.

Mr. BLAIS (Canada) felt that there would be an advantage of continuity in providing that there would be no break before the work of the Conference had been completed.

Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) pointed out that the recommendation made specific mention of the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) felt that the Committee should take no action with regard to sub-paragraph (c).

The CHAIRMAN, drawing attention to the fact that the Commission on Human Rights would probably be meeting in November, ruled that it should be left to the Commission to take up sub-paragraph (c).

DECISION: The Committee, having already approved sub-paragraph (a), approved sub-paragraph (b) provisionally, subject to the decision of the Commission on Human Rights, and took note of sub-paragraph (c).

It was agreed that, in the event that the calendar of meetings made it impossible for the Sub-Commission to report to the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission might report directly to the Economic and Social Council.

5. Additional Items for the Provisional Draft Agenda

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that items might be added to the draft agenda by the Sixth Session of the Council.

Mr. BLAIS (Canada) proposed that it should be stated that while new items could be submitted they would not necessarily be adopted.

/DECISION

DECISION: The Committee decided that its adoption of the Provisional Draft Agenda should not be changed by decisions made in the Sixth Session.

6. Consideration of Resolution Passed by Second World Congress of IOJ at Prague (Document E/448)

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the IOJ resolution was in many respects covered by the different items of the draft agenda. The subject perhaps could be disposed of with the following resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council appreciates the interest the IOJ has shown in the International Conference on Freedom of Information and of the Press, takes note of the resolution the Organization has submitted to the Council and recommends that the Conference discusses the issues raised by the IOJ under the corresponding items of the agenda, if it sees fit."

Mr. SMITH (Canada) felt that the Chairman's resolution would involve the Council in approving a confused matter of principle. There were two clearly defined ideas of equality; the first, that equality was based on the principle of non-discrimination and the second, that it was based on the principle of reciprocity. In paragraph (5) of the IOJ resolution, no mention had been made of the second idea of equality.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) considered that a distinction should be drawn between the action taken by the Council in respect of the adoption of the draft agenda and its passing on the IOJ resolution. He, therefore, proposed the substitution of the words "calls the resolution to the attention of the Conference in connection with the corresponding items of the agenda" for the end of the Chairman's text from the word "recommends".

The representatives of the United Kingdom and Canada supported the United States amendment, the latter suggesting the insertion of the word "proposed" before "Conference".

In reply to the remarks made by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that he would like to have an opportunity of studying the documentation of the IOJ Congress before deciding whether or not to accept its resolution, Mr. HOGAN (Secretariat) said that there was ample material available which he had brought back with him from Prague and that further data would be forthcoming.

To meet the point of view of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Chairman suggested the deletion of the words from "appreciates" to "Press".

DECISION: The Chairman's resolution, as amended, was accepted.



7. Consideration of the Netherlands Draft Resolution (Document E/495/Rev.1)

Mr. VAN DER MANDELE (Netherlands) drew attention to the UNESCO report on the question of newsprint (document E/507), on the basis of which his delegation had revised its earlier resolution. In order to save both time and money, the subject could be covered by UNESCO reports with the addition of certain extra studies which could be carried out by the United Nations regarding countries not dealt with by UNESCO.

In reply to the representative of the United Kingdom, Mr. CARNES (UNESCO) said that the UNESCO report covered both the question of the supply and distribution of newsprint.

Mr. STINEBOWER (United States of America) pointed to the essentially economic basis of the problem of the shortage of newsprint, although UNESCO had done a useful job in drawing attention to other important aspects of the question. Because of the extensive economic aspect of the problem, he thought that it should be referred to the Economic and Social Council rather than to the Conference, as the former would be better equipped to consider the economic difficulties. He therefore proposed the substitution of "Council" for "Conference" in the last paragraph, and the deletion of the penultimate paragraph.

The representative of the Netherlands accepted the United States proposal as it would make for greater speed in the study of the problem.

Mr. SMITH (Canada) suggested the retention of the penultimate paragraph with the deletion of the words "the above reports and", and the substitution of "Economic and Social Council" for "Conference on Freedom of Information". He had no objection to the UNESCO report being submitted to the Conference as well, with the instructions that it note the economic aspect of the problem.

DECISION: With the first United States amendment and the Canadian amendment, the Netherlands resolution was adopted. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics wished his abstention to be recorded.

The meeting rose at 4:15 p.m.

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