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Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

REVIEW OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN
CONSULTATIVE STATUS⁽¹⁾

Statements submitted by the World Power Conference, a non-governmental
organization in category B consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following two statements which are
circulated in accordance with paragraphs 22 and 23 of Council resolution
288 B (X).

4th July 1950

I. The World Power Conference (WPC) requests the Economic and Social Council not
to accept the recommendation of the Council NGO Committee, that the Conference
(which at present has Category B consultative status) "be placed on the register
of the Secretary-General". (E/1697).

The WPC was founded in 1924. It has at the present time 36 member-countries,
in 34 of which there are National Committees. The number of member-countries
is expected to be increased to 38 when action has been taken on applications for
admission to membership from two further countries at a meeting of the
International Executive Council to open in London on 10th July 1950. Provisional
National Committees have been constituted in the two countries in question, viz.
Israel and Iceland.

The National Committees of the WPC consist of representatives appointed by

(1) See item 45(b) of the Agenda of the Economic and Social Council.

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government departments, learned and professional institutions and manufacturers' associations, concerned with the getting and preparation of fuels and the generation and utilisation of power. It is wished to stress that, in accordance with its constitution, the WPC is concerned with economic as well as with technical aspects. For example, at the Fourth Plenary World Power Conference opening in London on 10th July, 1950 (at which nearly 1,600 delegates and members will be present from 46 countries) consideration will be given to 157 papers submitted by 28 of the National Committees of the Conference. These papers have been prepared in conformity with a Programme, approved at a meeting of the International Executive Council (the governing Body of the Conference) held at Stockholm in 1948. The programme includes among its directives the statement that papers should deal with the economic aspects of the Theme of the Fourth World Power Conference, which is: "World Energy Resources and the Production of Power".

It is also wished to stress the fact that, despite its title (World Power Conference) the WPC engages in many activities in addition to the organisation of periodical Plenary and Sectional Conferences. Its National Committees and Central Office (Secretariat) are permanent bodies, available at all times for consultation within their sphere of competence. To mention one activity only: the WPC publishes a Statistical Year-book which is the authoritative book of reference within its field, and which does not duplicate with any publication issued by the United Nations or other authoritative body.

The WPC is concerned with, and is broadly representative of, four great industries which lie at the roots of the material civilisation of the world, viz. electricity, coal, oil and gas. It is especially concerned with their economico-technical aspects (as already stressed) and with their inter-relationship.

The WPC claims that its qualifications for Category B consultative status correspond perfectly with the criterion laid down in paragraph 16 (b) of the Resolutions adopted by the Council on 27 February 1950 (E/1646), in that it has "a special competence in" and "is concerned specifically with, only a few of the

fields of activity covered by the Council". The impression has been obtained that the organizations on the Secretary-General's register will normally be concerned with a single field of activity.

It is not wished to make comparisons which might be deemed invidious. It is however desired to point out:-

- A. That there is a great preponderance of organisations with Category B consultative status, whose concern is with the social rather than, as is the WPC, with the economic activities of the Council.
- B. That a large proportion of the non-governmental organisations, which are not recommended for transfer to the Secretary-General's list, have much narrower fields of competence than the WPC.
- C. That very few non-governmental organisations have effective National Committees in as many countries as the WPC.
- D. That good use has been made by the WPC of its Category B consultative status. The following are examples only, since there has been continuous contact between the WPC and the Economic and Social Council, Committees of the Council and the Secretariat:-
 - (i) The WPC accepted an invitation to assist in the preparation of the Programme of the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilisation of Resources (UNSCCOUR) convened by the Economic and Social Council. The WPC accepted an invitation from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to arrange for the preparation of a paper for presentation at this Conference and to arrange for the attendance of representatives. Sir Harold Hartley, who led the United Kingdom Delegation to UNSCOUR, was also present in his capacity as Chairman of the International Executive Council of the WPC.
 - (ii) The WPC was consulted over the proposal to establish United Nations Research Laboratories, and the International Executive Council adopted a Resolution on the subject, the text of which was

communicated in a letter dated 4th August 1949.

- (iii) Since the foundation of the Power Committee of ECE, the WPC has been represented by an Observer. There has been consultation with the Power Committee over statistical questions and, at the request of the Secretariat of ECE, the WPC prepared a bibliography on legislation affecting the use for power purposes of international waterways and lent the Secretariat a large number of publications.
- (iv) The Secretary-General of the United Nations has demonstrated his interest in the work of the WPC by designating an Observer to attend the Fourth WPC.
- (v) Continuous contact with the Secretariat at the Temporary Headquarters has been maintained by the appointment by the International Executive Council, WPC, of a Consultant: Mr. Harold C. Dean.

(sgd) C.H. Gray

Secretary, International Executive Council

II. Radiogram to the President of the Economic and Social Council, dated 10 July 1950:

Following is text of resolution adopted unanimously by the International Executive Council of the World Power Conference attended by representatives of 25 national committees. International Executive Council World Power Conference strongly urges Economic and Social Council not to adopt so much of the recommendation of the Council NGO Committee as would result in depriving the Conference of category B consultative status and its transfer to Secretary-General's Register. World Power Conference founded in 1924 has national committees in 36 countries consisting of members broadly representative of the great fuel and power industries which lie at root of world material civilization. Fourth World Power Conference now in session in London with 1600 members is considering papers from 28 national committees dealing with economical and technical questions covering very wide field. Conference considers that it has unique contribution to make to Economic and Social Council which cannot effectively be discharged by any other organization.

Harold Hartley, Chairman.