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COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (SEVENTH SESSION)

Statement submitted by the International Council of Women, a non-governmental organization in Category B consultative status.

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 22 and 23 of Council resolution 288 B (X):

Dated : 13 August 1951

Received: 13 August 1951

The International Council of Women, taking note of the work of the Commission on Human Rights at its seventh session, expresses its appreciation of the magnitude and difficulty of the task before the Commission and commends it for the progress of its work.

However, the International Council of Women wishes, at this time, to express its deep concern that several items of grave importance to women were not treated in the proposed Draft Covenant on Human Rights and in this connection calls to the attention of the Economic and Social Council a resolution adopted by the I.C.W. at its Triennial Convention held at Athens, Greece, in April 1951, and previously communicated to the Commission on Human Rights at its seventh session (Document E/CN.4/NGO.25).

The I.C.W. believes it is essential that there be incorporated in the Covenant a clear, unequivocal declaration to the general effect that: "No state shall make or permit any law or regulation discriminating on account of sex".

Further, the I.C.W. notes that in the proposed Draft Covenant of Human Rights the right of petition is still limited to states and regards this fact as a vital weakness in the implementation provisions. If the right of petition continues thus limited, it seems likely that political and other considerations will prevent the full protection of those rights which the covenant seeks to secure. The I.C.W. urge that the right of petition be extended to include international non-governmental organizations in consultative status to the Council.

Our organization respectfully requests that in its consideration of the Report of the Human Rights Commission in its seventh session, the Council will take note of the views here expressed and will, in its report to the General Assembly, and in its recommendation to the General Assembly, take steps to remedy these serious omissions.