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GENERAL

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Statement submitted by the National Association of Manufacturers,
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: 18 July 1952
Received: 21 July 1952

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS APPROVED
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 27 JUNE 1952

"The aspirations of many people in the world for a better life, with higher living standards and cultures command the support of all men of good will. The National Association of Manufacturers believes that these worthy aims can only be achieved through voluntary co-operation by free men which results in more production of goods and services at prices which an ever-increasing number of people can afford and preserves the freedom and dignity of the individual.

However, the Association is concerned with the recent trend toward the use of international conventions as a device to advance these objectives. These conventions, drafted by international bodies and having the force of treaties, are presented to governments for ratification as binding obligations with respect to internal affairs.

It is recognized that there are many matters which can properly be the subject of international conventions. They deal with the relationship of a

national or his government to foreign citizens or their governments, such as for example aviation, patents and copyrights, shipping, the mails and cables.

International conventions should be restricted wholly to subjects in the field of international relations and many of these could more properly be negotiated as bilateral agreements.

As a principle of universal application it must be said that it is manifestly improper and impossible for an international group to formulate conventions having the dignity and effect of domestic legislation and which affect the relationship of an individual to his government and his political, social and economic environment, that are adaptable to the requirements of countries offering an infinite variety of political, social and economic structures.

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