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OFFICIAL RECORDS

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President: Mr. Manuel PEREZ GUERRERO
(Venezuela).

AGENDA ITEM 18

Non-governmental organizations (*continued*) (E/4476
and Corr.1, E/4485 and Corr.1, E/L.1207)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to continue its consideration of agenda item 18, on which the United Republic of Tanzania had submitted a draft resolution (E/L.1207).
2. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) introduced his delegation's draft resolution (E/L.1207), which he said was designed primarily to ensure that national non-governmental organizations from various regions of the world—especially Africa—and national organizations representing the black citizens of the United States and the United Kingdom should be accorded association with the United Nations Office of Public Information, the object being to bring about a more balanced representation of the national organizations of each State.
3. It was always a delicate matter to mention States by name; however, just as one did not hesitate to mention the names of South Africa and Portugal when compelled by the facts to do so, one could hardly refrain, in the present case, from mentioning the United States and the United Kingdom. The position of the black citizens of the United States was critical; the situation of the black population of the United Kingdom was seriously threatened, and the present attitude of the United Kingdom Government would not prevent it from deteriorating. National organizations representing the black citizens of those two countries should be given the opportunity of association with the Office of Public Information on the same footing as other national organizations, so that they could inform public opinion on the United Nations and on the Organization's efforts to promote human rights throughout the world. Association with the Office of Public Information, and perhaps even with the Council, would also enable those organizations to give an account of their own problems and of their situation.
4. In view of the number and variety of United States national organizations accredited to the Office of Public Information, it was surprising, to say the least, that they did not include the organizations representing the black citizens, which would obviously welcome the opportunity to be associated with the work of the United Nations. One could not, unfortunately, exclude the pos-

sibility that those organizations were being deliberately kept out by all sorts of devices. He wondered why, for example, such organizations as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference or the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People should not be accredited to the Office of Public Information. There was no doubt that they fulfilled the necessary requirements. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee had obtained its accreditation as the result of action by his own delegation; the African delegations had a duty to defend the interests of the black populations of the United States and the United Kingdom, as there was no one else to do so.

5. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) whole-heartedly supported the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania (E/L.1207), and proposed the addition of a new operative paragraph, reading as follows:

"Calls upon the Office of Public Information, while reviewing the status of present organizations or considering new applications, to exclude all those organizations which propagate racial or religious discrimination."

6. It was the duty of the Council, as a United Nations body, to decide that the United Nations would have nothing to do with organizations which preached racial or religious discrimination, thus proving once again that the United Nations was true to the principles and ideals enunciated in the Charter.

7. His delegation hoped that its proposal would be accepted by the sponsor of the draft resolution and supported by all members of the Council.

8. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone) said that the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania (E/L.1207) should be given serious consideration by the Council, since most of the problems currently afflicting mankind had their origin in racism and particularly in the false doctrines based on the superiority of certain races. The draft resolution was excellent, and the amendment submitted by the representative of Kuwait should be adopted.

9. Mr. NASINOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he fully endorsed the text contained in document E/L.1207 and the oral amendment submitted by the representative of Kuwait. His delegation proposed the addition of a new paragraph at the end of the operative part of the draft resolution, requesting the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the provisions of the resolution. He would also like to propose the insertion of the words "nazi ideology or" after the words "which propagate" in the new operative paragraph proposed by the representative of Kuwait.

10. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) reserved the right to comment later on the text of the draft resolution

submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. He wished to state at once, however, that he could not accept the allegation that his delegation did not represent all United Kingdom citizens, whatever their ethnic origin. No other delegation could arrogate to itself the right to represent United Kingdom nationals.

11. As the Tanzanian delegation had spoken of devices employed to keep out certain organizations, he wished to assure the Council that the United Kingdom Government did not deny any organization in the United Kingdom the right to be associated with the United Nations Office of Public Information; any national organization whose activities were in conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations could ask to be listed with the Office of Public Information.

12. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (United States of America) reserved the right to revert later to the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. He wished to correct the statement made by that representative, and affirmed that a representative of another State could in no case speak on behalf of the coloured citizens of the United States; only the United States delegation, which represented all the citizens without exception, was empowered to speak on their behalf.

13. In reply to the accusations made by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the effect that the United States Government was using various devices to prevent certain national non-governmental organizations from being associated with the Office of Public Information, he said it was true that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other organizations representing American Negroes were not on the list—a fact which he greatly regretted, since those organizations would be in a position to play an extremely useful role. He would like to know whether some of them had made applications which had not been accepted, or whether they had never made any application.

14. Mr. JANECEK (Director, External Relations Division, Office of Public Information) said that he was not able to provide the information requested by the United States representative immediately, and he would need some time to assemble the desired information on the procedure for associating non-governmental organizations with the Office of Public Information. In the circumstances, it would perhaps be better to defer the vote on the draft resolution.

15. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania), supported by Mr. NASINOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), said that what the Council needed to know was not so much the procedure whereby the Office of Public Information accepted application from non-governmental organizations as the answer to the specific question put by the United States representative. He therefore thought that the debate on the draft resolution should continue.

16. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (United States of America) observed that the scope of the question which he had put to the Secretariat was not so restricted as the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania and the USSR were suggesting. As a matter of courtesy to the Director of the External Relations Division of

the Office of Public Information, who had offered to provide some information, the vote on the draft resolution should be deferred.

17. Mr. FORSHELL (Sweden) agreed with the United States representative, since he thought that the draft resolution might to some extent affect the procedure by which non-governmental organizations were admitted by the Office of Public Information. Hence, it would be only natural and just to give those who would have to implement the provisions of the resolution an opportunity to state their views.

18. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) joined the representative of Sweden in requesting that no decision on the draft resolution should be taken at the current meeting, especially since his delegation had not yet had time to receive instructions from its Government.

19. He would like to ask the Office of Public Information whether any national non-governmental organizations in the United Kingdom had applied for accreditation with the Office of Public Information and had been refused. He hoped that the Secretariat would not confine itself to answering the questions which had been put to it, but would supply other information that the Council might need.

20. Mr. VIAUD (France) also requested enough time to obtain instructions from his Government in order to take a considered decision.

21. He wondered whether the draft resolution was calling into question the procedure by which non-governmental organizations were accredited to the Office of Public Information. Operative paragraph 3 affirmed that national organizations in Africa should, upon application, be accorded automatic association with the Office of Public Information; did that refer solely to organizations in consultative status with the Council, or to all national organizations? In that connexion, his delegation reiterated the reservations it had already expressed with respect to the admission of too many national organizations which might be causing interference in the internal affairs of a State.

22. With regard to operative paragraph 5, the Secretary-General had recommended in his report (see E/4476 and Corr.1, para. 41) that regional conferences of non-governmental organizations should be held to coincide with important official United Nations meetings in the area. The report also stated that it had not been possible to hold any regional conference in recent years because of lack of resources. It was for the General Assembly, and not the Economic and Social Council, to settle the question of resources, and the Council could not request the Secretary-General to hold meetings without telling him what the financial implications would be.

23. His delegation had some doubts concerning the expression "within the letter and spirit" in operative paragraph 4. In his view, the word "spirit" in that context meant "interpretation", and delegations might differ considerably in their interpretation of the resolution.

24. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 56 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the decision on the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the United Republic

of Tanzania (E/L.1207) would be deferred until the next meeting, especially as the Office of Public Information needed some time to supply the information which had been requested of it.

25. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone) said that he wished to clarify one point, because he felt that the statements made by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had been misinterpreted. That representative had never claimed to represent the people of another country. However, it was only natural that he should have a fellow-feeling for his coloured brethren and take a stand in favour of racial harmony in countries where there was a multiracial society and where the coloured population were the victims of discrimination. The sole aim of the draft resolution was to combat racism and to ensure that organizations representing certain segments of the population should have equitable representation with the Office of Public Information.

26. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he fully agreed with the explanation given by the representative of Sierra Leone. Some delegations were taking refuge behind specious legal arguments. However, his delegation had never claimed to represent some parts of the population of the United Kingdom or the United States, although there was good reason to wonder whether all the citizens of those States in fact considered that their delegations truly represented the whole population. For instance, it was most regrettable that the United Kingdom delegation never included any representatives of the so-called "associated" States of the Caribbean region, although the United Kingdom Government was responsible for their foreign policy, even in bodies which might take up questions relevant to the foreign policy of those States. Such a situation was, of course, entirely in keeping with the traditions of British imperialism.

27. His delegation could not remain indifferent to the fate of the population of African origin in the United States, who suffered discrimination which sometimes assumed the most brutal forms, just as the Italians and the Irish had a fellow-feeling for their former countrymen who had become United States citizens.

28. He did not see where the French delegation's difficulty lay. The delegations which were criticizing the text were those which were opposed to a more balanced representation of the national non-governmental organizations of each State and preferred to maintain the status quo.

29. He accepted the amendment submitted by the representative of Kuwait and the USSR sub-amendment, which were in keeping with the principles enunciated

in the international instruments relating to the elimination of racial discrimination in all its forms and in the draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief. Those amendments would be incorporated in the draft resolution.

30. The draft contained nothing new; it was based on the provisions of Council resolution 1225 (XLII) and fulfilled the universally acknowledged need to ensure equitable representation in United Nations bodies for all peoples. He did not see why the dissemination of information on the purposes and principles of the United Nations should be a prerogative of the white organizations in the United States; organizations representing the Afro-Americans were perfectly capable of participating in that task.

31. In his view, the report of the Secretary-General (E/4476 and Corr.1) was perfectly explicit. He did not see what further information the Office of Public Information could supply, and he was surprised that so much time should be needed to answer a very simple question. Several delegations had stated that they wished to consult their Governments, and he hoped that that would not delay the Council's proceedings unduly.

32. Mr. JANECEK (Director, External Relations Division, Office of Public Information) said that the time he had asked for was needed in order to allow him to give as precise an answer as possible to the questions put by the United States and United Kingdom representatives.

33. Mr. VIAUD (France) felt that the Council could not vote on the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania (E/L.1207) without discussing it. Most delegations, including his own, had not yet taken a position on the text. In order to do so and to be able to participate in the discussion, his delegation had to obtain precise instructions from its Government. At the moment, he could state that he considered the amendment submitted by the representative of Kuwait entirely reasonable; for no one could recommend that organizations which propagated doctrines of racial or religious discrimination should be associated with the Office of Public Information. The Soviet Union representative's sub-amendment was extremely important and deserved careful consideration.

34. In view of the importance of the text, it was desirable that it should have wide support, and it would be unfortunate if a hasty vote were to prevent some delegations from voting in favour of it.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.