

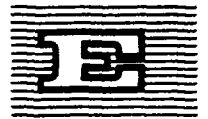
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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
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of Minorities
Thirty-eighth session
Agenda item 18

CONSIDERATION OF THE FUTURE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMISSION AND OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION

Written statement submitted by the United Towns Organization,
a non-governmental organization in consultative status
(category I)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[2 August 1985]

SPORT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Sport, as a factor for individual and social harmony, should be considered a
human right and obligation.

A social activity in its own right, sport is an important component of culture,
and its unique significance should not be overlooked. Sport is beneficial from the
viewpoint of health in general and individual health. The regular practice of a
sport is invaluable in preventing illness and in effectively combating chronic
disease. The many benefits derived by the disabled from sporting activities are
well known, as is the positive role of sport in helping to prevent delinquency.

Individual sport makes for self-discovery; collective sport stimulates a
team spirit.

As a preventive and therapeutic phenomenon, as a form of expression and in the
feeling it inspires of living life to the full, sport has become an activity
necessary to our civilization, sport must be in the service of mankind. But, if
this end is to be achieved, everyone, everywhere in the world, at every age must be
able to take part in a sport.

Through its specialized centre, the United Towns Sport Agency, the United Towns
Organization has taken as its motto: "Sport for all and at every age". The centre
is engaged in formulating a policy in which physical training in schools, health-giving

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and open-air sport, sport for all, sport for the disabled, and competitive and championship sport, all of which are inter-related, are viewed in a single fraternal perspective. Sport should teach people to live together in a world in which differences have been settled.

Every two years, and as from 1987, every year, the United Towns Sport Agency organizes "The World Peace Games", which combine:

- sport
- culture
- humanism.

The forms of sport that are selected are as simple as possible, so as to avoid the considerable outlay required to be able to participate in sport today, the outcome of which is a contest to acquire increasingly expensive and needlessly sophisticated equipment and material, a situation which is creating the conditions for a veritable segregation in sport between rich countries and poor countries.

The first Games, held at Bellegarde, in France, in 1983 attracted over 1,500 participants from 14 countries.

The second Games were held at Echirolles, in France, from 19 to 26 June 1985; 10,200 athletes from 28 nations took part. The third World Games will be held at Neuchâtel, in Switzerland, in July 1987.

The fourth Games are planned to be held in October 1988 at Ifrane, Fez and Meknes in Morocco.

The Games are regulated by a Charter whose provisions are set out below:

Considering that regular physical activity and sport at every age make a major contribution to improving the physical and mental health of the individual;

Convinced that sports meetings make for healthy competition and a peaceful rapprochement between peoples, and consequently have a very important part to play in the understanding and friendship between peoples and civilizations;

Affirming that "competitive" sport should continue to be at the service of physical training of which it is the ultimate manifestation;

Desiring that it should contribute to promote physical education and sport for all, the ultimate purpose of which is the fulfilment and enhancement of the human being.

The United Towns Sport Agency, as an integral part of the United Towns Organization, undertakes to ensure:

That everyone has the opportunity, from childhood to the twilight of life to engage in sport: "To make sport a companion throughout life" (Jean Guimmier).

That sports meetings are organized by separate age groups so as to give a genuine meaning to the sporting performance of an individual whatever his age.

That sport should be as close as possible to nature.

That sport becomes an integral part of culture.

That the Peace Games are:

- a phase in a vast movement in support of sporting activities for all to combat the negative aspects of civilization,
- a way for men and the peoples of the world, in a spirit of mutual respect, to express themselves peacefully in joy, friendship, brotherhood and altruism,
- a unique occasion to exchange ideas, thoughts, advice, and sporting, philosophical, political and religious ideas among people, the international sports movement and civilizations.

Through its Sport Agency, the United Towns Organization would like the Bureau of the Sub-Commission to include an item on sport and human rights for its future work.