

ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCILCONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

Dual Distribution for Council Members

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL N.G.O. COMMITTEE

(Item 31)

## PART II

## CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Council NGO Committee, acting in accordance with Council Resolutions No. 2/3 and 16(III) met on 27, 28 and 29 July 1948 and 2 and 4 August 1948 to hear the consultants of non-governmental organizations on the items of the Agenda of the Economic and Social Council as listed below and to consider their requests that the Committee recommend that the Economic and Social Council should hear them.

I. Requests of Category A Organizations under Resolution No. 95 (V), as amended by resolution No. 133 (VI) G, asking that the Council NGO Committee recommend to the Council to hear them.

A. American Federation of Labour.

Item 16. Report of the Secretary-General on Progress and Prospects of Repatriation, Resettlement, and Immigration of Refugees and Displaced Persons, Including a Specific Account of the Situation of Children Removed from Their Country of Origin During the Year. (Social Committee)

Item 17. Report of the Third Session of the Commissions Human Rights. (Human Rights Committee)

Item 18. Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information.

Item 25. Report of the Special Committee on the United Nations Appeal for Children.

B. International Cooperative Alliance.

Item 25. Report of the Special Committee on the United Nations Appeal for Children.

Item 44. Report of the Secretary-General, and of UNESCO, on the Teaching of the Purposes and of the Principles, Structures and Activities of the United Nations in the Schools of Member States.

Item 6. Reports of the FAO on the Progress in Coordination of Studies of Suitable Measures to Bring About an Increase of Food Production. (Economic Committee)

C. International Federation of Christian Trade Unions.

Item 17. Report of the Third Session of the Commission on Human Rights (Human Rights Committee)

D. International Organization of Industrial Employers.

Item 15. Report of the Third Session of the Social Commission. (Social Committee)

Item 25. Report of the Special Committee on the United Nations Appeal for Children.

(This request did not indicate if the Organization wished to speak before the Council in addition to appearing before the Council NGO Committee).

E. World Federation of United Nations Associations.

Item 25. Report of the Special Committee on the United Nations Appeal for Children.

Item 19. Draft Convention on the Prevention and the Repression of the Crime of Genocide.

II. Other Requests of Category A Organizations to be heard by the Council.

A. World Federation of Trade Unions.

(Note: This request was received after the expiration of the 48 hour period within which requests of organizations to be heard by the Council must be made in accordance with resolution No. 95(V), as amended by resolution No. 133 (VI)G. The representative of the WFTU stated that the request to speak to the Council arose from the fact that the documents submitted by the WFTU had not been listed on the daily agenda, a fact of which the WFTU learned, the representative stated, after the expiration of the 48 hour period. See Annex I for details)

The WFTU wished to be heard on the following items of the Council's agenda:

Item 5. Report of the Third Session of the Economic and Employment Commission.

Item 15. Report of the Third Session of the Social Commission.

Item 25. Report of the Special Committee on the United Nations Appeal for Children.

The WFTU also requested "to have included as in the past on the agenda for each meeting the documents issued by the WFTU when the questions in our documents are brought up for discussion before the Economic and Social Council" (See document E/C.2/109.)

III. Requests of Category B and C Organizations to be heard by the Council NGO Committee under the terms of paragraph 5, Part IV of resolution No. 2/3.

A. International Council of Women.

Item 17. Report of the Third Session of the Commission on Human Rights. The ICW proposed that certain points be added to Article 13 of the Draft Declaration of Human Rights.

DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Council NGO Committee, having heard the consultants of the above-named organizations - with the exception of the International Organization of Industrial Employers whose representative was not able to be present:

DECIDES to request the American Federation of Labor, the International Cooperative Alliance, the World Federation of Trade Unions, and the World Federation of United Nations Associations to appoint one representative to appear before the Council on the United Nations Appeal for Children.

RECOMMENDS to the Council that it hear the representative so appointed,

INVITES the International Cooperative Alliance to submit to the Council written statements on Item 44 (Report of the Secretary-General, and of UNESCO, on the Teaching of the Purposes and of the Principles, Structures and Activities of the United Nations in the Schools of Member States) and Item 6 (Reports of the FAO on the Progress in Coordination of Studies of Suitable Measures to Bring About an Increase of Food Production) and the World Federation of United Nations Associations to submit a written statement on the Convention on the Crime of Genocide, and

REQUESTS the Secretary-General

(1) to prepare for immediate distribution to the Members of the Council a list by categories A, B and C of communications from non-governmental organizations received since the end of the Sixth Session of the Council and up to the adoption of the agenda of the Seventh Session on 22 July 1948, indicating their titles and document numbers and which of them are specifically addressed to items on the agenda as adopted by the Council,

(2) to follow this procedure for each future session of the Council, it being understood that the establishment of such lists will not derogate from the right of non-governmental organizations in category A to request a hearing before the Council on any substantive item on the agenda of the Council.

At its meeting of 4 August 1948, the Committee was informed that the four organizations which had been requested to appoint one representative to speak on UNAC could not agree to do so. The Committee decided to request these organizations to limit themselves to written statements regarding UNAC or other subjects for this session of the Council. It was pointed out that the Council would be informed of their views not only through those written statements but also through the Report of the Committee and its Summary Records.

ANNEX I

The Council NGO Committee submits the following account of its consultations with the non-governmental organizations (see documents E/C.2/SR.42, 44, 45, 46 and 48).

I. ORGANIZATIONS WITH CATEGORY A CONSULTATIVE STATUS

World Federation of United Nations Associations.

Mr. John A.F. ENNALS first spoke on Item 25 dealing with UNAC. He stated that his organization played a very active part in this Appeal, on the local, national and international levels. His organization felt that the Appeal had been a marked success, not only financially, but psychologically and politically, since it had brought to the realization of the man in the street in fifty countries that the United Nations was resolutely concerned with human welfare, and that the ordinary citizen could contribute to its success. His organization, therefore, asked that serious consideration be given to the continuation of the Appeal. In reply to questions from members of the Committee, Mr. Ennals stated that there had been some discussion of the extent to which UNAC could be coordinated with the International Children's Emergency Fund and also on the possibility of joining the two into one Agency.

In reply to the suggestion that the Appeal might be continued under the full control of the non-governmental organizations, dispensing with the financial support of the United Nations, Mr. Ennals replied that in the opinion of his organization this would not work as the remarkable success of the Appeal was largely due to the fact that it was backed and launched by the United Nations. He, moreover, felt that UNAC was one aspect of the work of the United Nations which touched popular imagination, gave prestige to the United Nations and made the task of his organization to secure support for the United Nations much easier. Furthermore, it was essential to have Government support in such matters as travel and transfer of funds, and this support without the backing of the United Nations might not be forthcoming. He stated that UNAC was an example of successful cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations Secretariat to which these organizations attached enormous importance. He felt also that the first year's experience would enable various economies to be made, should the Appeal be continued in the future.

On the invitation of the Chairman Mr. Ennals then spoke on Item 19 concerning Genocide. His organization had had abundant proof that this item attracted more attention from non-governmental organizations than any other question. Even organizations of such different views as the World Federation of Trade Unions, the American Federation of Labor, the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, the World Jewish Congress, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, and the World Federation of United Nations Associations were all agreed on the importance of this issue. The present draft convention was good, but needed some

amendment in order to make it acceptable to all nations. He stated that the Convention could be amended by the Council, by the General Assembly, or be referred to the International Law Commission. He hoped that the changes would be made by the Council at the present time; public opinion would be deeply disappointed if action was again postponed. His organization was in consultation with eight other non-governmental organizations and hoped that it would be possible to secure complete agreement among the interested organizations as to the nature of the amendments which would be necessary in order to secure general agreement by governments on this convention.

On the suggestion of a member of the Committee Mr. Ennals stated that a text would be presented in writing if these organizations agreed.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Ennals for his statement and said that the meeting would have to discuss in closed session whether the statement would add substantially to what would be said by members of the Council. Should the Committee decide not to recommend to the Council that it hear his organization, this should not be taken to indicate any lack of respect for an organization held in high esteem. At this point Mr. Ennals withdrew and thereupon the Committee decided to hear the consultants of the other non-governmental organizations before coming to any decision.

#### International Federation of Christian Trade Unions

Mr. August A.J. VANISTENDAELE speaking on Item 17, the report of the Commission on Human Rights, stated that his organization was the only one in Category A explicitly inspired by Christian principles; the Council might, therefore, usefully hear its views. His organization felt that the proposed Declaration on Human Rights, should proclaim more explicitly the rights of the family in itself, and in the various fields of property, education, social security, etc. The declaration omitted limitations on the use of property whether individual or collective as well as any reference to the United Nations, to fundamental principles of human rights or, to the will of the people. The principle for equal pay for equal work for men and women workers should be recognized as well as the natural right of parents in regard to the upbringing of their children. The convention should provide for coordination of the work of various organizations notably the International Labour Organization. In regard to implementation his organization had noted that no speaker in the Human Rights Commission had stressed the importance of a national plane of organizations representing public opinion, or the value of an abridged form of the Declaration on Human Rights for the use of schools.

The CHAIRMAN made a statement similar to that which he had made to Mr. Ennals; as he did for each organization, following which Mr. Vanistendael withdrew.

#### International Cooperative Alliance

Professor Edgard MILHAUD, speaking on Item 25 stated

that the ICA was extremely porturbed at the prospect that UNAC might be suspended in 1949. In reply to a question he stated that if the Council heard the World Federation of United Nations Associations on UNAC, the International Cooperative Alliance would not also ask to be heard.

On item 6 Professor Milhaud stated that the 1st Springs Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization emphasized the part which his organization could play in economic reconstruction by setting up harmonious relations between production and consumption. No attention was now being given to this possibility. The ICA however believed that any marks of sympathy addressed to agricultural consumer's or producer's co-operative organizations, would meet with very considerable results. He asked the Council to draw the attention of agricultural producers to the services which could be rendered by consumer organizations (for example, by setting up model shops designed to fight against the black market) and producer cooperatives (to improve quality) and to the advantages which might accrue from the relations they could set up between them.

In reply to a request for precise indications Mr. Milhaud replied that the psychological effect of an appeal by the Council would be considerable. Such an appeal would spread the ideals of the United Nations among the rural masses, while the urban consumers cooperatives would find therein a new impulse in their efforts to ensure the quality of products and a reasonable price level. It would also encourage direct relations between agricultural producers and urban consumers, and the development of cooperation throughout the world.

At this point, Mr. Charles Henri BARBIER of the ICA presented the views of his organization on Item 44, dealing with the teaching of the principles of the United Nations in the schools. He praised UNESCO for its reports on this subject and gave an account of the educational activities of the ICA. However, with regard to teaching in schools of United Nations principles, etc., his organization preferred educational methods, aimed at very young children and would like to see wider distribution of the works of the International Bureau of Education and of the pamphlets of Mr. Maurice Colombin of the ILO on cooperation in schools. In reply to a suggestion that this was a matter for UNESCO Mr. Barbier stated that public opinion when it heard of UNESCO thought of education and that UNESCO reached mostly only educational circles. If, however, the Council took up this question it would reach a much wider group and it would demonstrate its view that such training was not merely an educational problem but was the very foundation of economic organization; thus linking up the ideas cherished by cooperators that economic activity is bound up with education and that bankruptcy on the educational and social levels would equally mean bankruptcy on the economic level.

American Federation of Labor.

In reply to the Chairman Mr. Nelson H. CRUICKSHANK confirmed the statement made in his letter of 22 July 1948 addressed to the Economic and Social Council, to the effect

that his organization was not asking to appear before the Council, except possibly on Item 25.

Mr. Cruickshank, in discussing Item 16 dealing with the repatriation, resettlement and emigration of refugees, and DPs, praised the report of the Secretary-General on this subject. He expressed the hope that all members of the United Nations would soon be represented in the International Refugee Organization, and that the work of repatriation would be vigorously pursued. He felt, however, that in spite of the priority which must be given to repatriation and resettlement the needs of the aged, the permanently disabled and the like must not be forgotten.

On Item 17, the report of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Cruickshank expressed whole-hearted agreement with the proposed Declaration on Human Rights believing that the affirmation of principles was in itself of inestimable value. The question of implementation of the Declaration should be proceeded with at the earliest possible date. In reply to a question he stated that the AF of L favoured the transmission of the Declaration to the General Assembly without waiting for the convention.

Speaking on Item 18, the final acts of the Conference on Freedom of Information, Mr. Cruickshank stated that an excellent job had been done; in particular he was pleased at the emphasis laid upon the responsibility which the press and other media of information had to the public. He felt that the method of competitive media dependent on public support provided the best available means of presenting information. State ownership was not a prerequisite of unbiased presentation. News disseminating organs should be imbued with an increased sense of public responsibility.

Speaking on Item 25, the only item on which he might wish to speak to the Council - Mr. Cruickshank stated that the AF of L wanted to see the United Nations Appeal for Children continued. Replying to a question he stated that he believed that the co-existence of UNAC and the UNICEF had caused confusion militating against the success of the campaign. Various difficulties were being overcome, however, since the World Health Organization had arranged to take over the health activities of the Fund, and practical arrangements were being developed by joint efforts of the UNAC and the Community Chests in the United States. On being asked if the AF of L would accept a proposal to give the major non-governmental organizations primary or possibly full responsibility for UNAC, Mr. Cruickshank stated that his organization would be prepared to play a major part in fund-raising activities. However, all round savings could be affected by coordination. Therefore, publicity work, distribution of literature, the coordination of collection drives and the like should be the responsibility of the United Nations. Some discussion on procedural matters arose from the fact that Mr. Cruickshank in his letter had made the following statement "permit me also to advise that on some of these items, as circumstances appear to warrant, I shall seek from the

Committee a recommendation that I be permitted to present the position of my organization to the Council." Mr. Cruickshank stated that he would like to reserve his right to request a hearing on UNAC before the Council, for he was not sure until the debate proceeded whether or not he would have new facts to present. However, if he ascertained that he could give additional information he would request an opportunity to place those facts before the Council. It was agreed that Mr. Cruickshank had the right to make a definite request to be heard by the Council as a follow-up to his letter which had been received within the 48 hours period provided for in Resolution 95 (V), as amended by resolution 133 (VI) G. Mr. Cruickshank then made this definite request with the understanding that he would not be required to speak should he deem it inadvisable when and if the occasion arose.

### World Federation of Trade Unions

Mrs. Lona SPIEGEL, Consultant of the WFTU, speaking in relation to point (d) of her letter (see document E/C.2.109), stated that the WFTU had submitted three documents (E/C.2/99, E/C.2/100, E/C.2/101;) asking that they be brought to the attention of the Council. They had been distributed but had not been listed on the daily agenda, as had been the case on previous occasions. Her organization requested to be allowed to speak to the Council on standards of living, in connection with the Report of the Social Commission, on the report of the Economic and Employment Commission, on the United Nations Appeal for Children, and also possibly on genocide. First, however, she wished to take up the question of the listing of documents submitted by WFTU on the daily agenda. She did not claim that there had been a breach of the Rules of Procedure, but there was a departure from previous practice. The Committee agreed at this point that the Secretariat should be asked to state the facts at a subsequent meeting. In reply to a question, Mrs. Spiegel stated that she was aware of the rule that requests to be heard on an item of the agenda of the Council by Category A organizations should be made within 48 hours of the adoption of the agenda. Her request to speak, however, arose from the fact that the written documents presented by her organization had not been listed, a fact which she had learned only two days ago.

## II. ORGANIZATIONS WITH CATEGORY B CONSULTATIVE STATUS

### International Council of Women

Dr. Renée Girod, representing the International Council of women, requested that a new paragraph be added to Article 13 of the Declaration on Human Rights, to read as follows: "Both parents should have the same rights over their children. Children should not be separated from their parents, save in the special cases regulated by law". Dr. Girod, in reply to a question, stated that the International Council of women in referring to "cases regulated by law" did not mean to include cases mass arrests and executions which had led to the separation of children from their parents. A member of the Committee observed that in such cases as those of



Jewish children in France under the German occupation it had been possible to save them only by immediate action and without obtaining the consent of their parents.

### III. DISCUSSION AND PRINCIPAL ARGUMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATEMENTS SUMMARIZED ABOVE

At its next meeting the Chairman said that the first point to consider was contained in paragraph 1 of document E/C.2/109 which requested the Council to include in its daily agendas a list of documents issued by the World Federation of Trade Unions when the questions dealt with in such documents were brought up for discussion before the Council or its Committees. It appeared that in the past this procedure had been followed, but was no longer continued during the present session. This was said to be the reason why the World Federation of Trade Unions had not submitted its request for a hearing before the Economic and Social Council within the specified time limit of 48 hours, in accordance with Council Resolution 95 (V) as amended by Resolution 133 (VI) G. The Committee had to establish the facts on the allegations of the World Federation of Trade Unions; he therefore invited Mr. Yates, Secretary of the Council, to give a statement on the situation.

Mr. YATES stated that daily agendas were working papers which did not have the statutory significance of the provisional agendas or the sessional agendas. Up to the fifth session papers submitted by non-governmental organizations had often been listed in the daily agenda. At the fifth session, however, the debate of the Council indicated that the arrangements for consultation ought to be strictly applied although no specific instruction had been given on the point now under discussion. No decision could be found giving organizations the right of having papers listed on the daily agenda. Regarding the sixth session, he had not been able to find any papers listed in the way referred to in the daily agenda except as regards papers by an NGO proposing an item. In two cases, however, a footnote had been included reading "see also E/C.2/78". No member of the Council or of the Council NGO Committee had expressed an opinion on this point; he considered it desirable that instructions should be given. He informed the Committee that the volume of resolutions containing the 48 hour rule had been circulated to the organizations in September 1947; in April a "Guide for Consultants" (E/INF/23) had been issued, containing a reference to this rule. Finally, at the present session, the organizations in Category A had been reminded of this rule immediately following the adoption of the agenda.

In the discussion which followed the opinion was expressed both for and against the proposition that the change in practice regarding the listing of non-governmental organization documents in the daily agenda constituted adequate grounds for complaint and entitled the WFTU to special consideration. The view was expressed that adding the papers submitted by the organizations to the daily agenda would increase their length to such an extent that they would become useless, but that the Secretariat should make a list of all non-governmental organization communications grouped under items of the Council's agenda.

In reply to various questions, Mr. Yates stated that nearly all documents from the organizations had been circulated in the E/C.2 series and up to the moment no objections had been made by members of the Council to that form of list. He stated that the previous practice of listing these documents on the daily agenda had been terminated since, at the sixth session, the view had been expressed that a strict interpretation of the consultative arrangements should prevail. If an organization submitted documents relating to an item on the agenda proposed by it, these were listed in the daily agenda. The document E/C.2/78, to which he had referred, was a communication from the World Jewish Congress on Genocide, and finally, he pointed out that to relate all non-governmental organization documents to all items on the agenda on which they might have a hearing might be difficult, and confusing, in view of the wide range both of the items and of many of the documents.

There had been no discrimination on the part of the Secretariat. Some members of the Committee favoured a wide interpretation of the 48 hour rule, feeling that it would be better not to be too exacting about misunderstandings which had risen before and would rise in future, while other members of the Committee favoured a strict interpretation of this rule. The opinion was expressed that since the WFTU had done very important work and had shown particular concern for workers, that it should receive most favourable consideration. It was also stated that since the WFTU received all Council documents, including the daily agendas of the sixth session, it could have observed that the practice of including the organizations' documents on the daily agendas had been discontinued at the sixth session, and since the sixth session it had had adequate time to submit its request for a hearing on this point.

The Chairman made two rulings, both approved by the Committee, the first of which was that the letter of the World Federation of Trade Unions applying to speak to the Council on the question of listing its documents in the daily agenda did not come within the provisions of resolution 95(V), as amended by resolution 133(VI)G, because it had not been submitted within the 48 hour time limit. This ruling did not exclude the possibility of the Committee recommending to the Council that it hear the World Federation of Trade Unions on other grounds.

The Chairman, in introducing his second ruling, explained that the World Federation of Trade Unions, as a category A organization, was allowed to speak to the Council on two categories of items; those it had originated itself, and those originating from other organizations or from delegations.

Paragraph 1 of its letter of 27 July 1948 (document E/C.2/109) came within neither of these categories, and constituted a procedural point. The Council itself could discuss points of procedure even if they were not on its agenda, but procedural points connected with non-governmental organizations had clearly first to be dealt with by the NGO Committee. He suggested therefore that it was within the competence of the Committee to make a recommendation to

the Council on this point, and if this was decided, it could pass on to consideration of the other three points in the World Federation of Trade Unions' letter. He ruled, therefore, that the request of the WFTU on this point should properly be addressed to the Committee which had competence to discuss it in the first instance and to make recommendations to the Council. As it stood, therefore, the request to be heard by the Council contained in paragraph 1 of the World Federation of Trade Unions' letter was out of order.

Both of these rulings were upheld by the Committee.

At the 46th meeting of the Committee it was announced that the World Federation of Trade Unions felt that having expressed their views orally and in writing there was no need for further clarification at this stage and they awaited the decision of the Committee.

It was further stated that all the organizations with the exception of the International Organization of Industrial Employers, whose representative had not been able to appear, had been heard by the Committee.

The Committee, feeling that it should not be inconvenienced by the representatives of organizations appearing late, agreed that in future organizations wishing to be heard should be given fixed and reasonable dates early in the session and that non-compliance would involve forfeiture of their right to be heard during that session. After some discussion the Committee adopted the resolution which appears above in the body of this Report.

In the discussion which led to the adoption of the above mentioned resolution the view was expressed that the four organizations which wished to be heard on the United Nations Appeal for Children had expressed views which were so similar that it was not in this particular case unreasonable to ask them to appoint a single spokesman.

Another view, however, was expressed to the effect that if the matter were gone into thoroughly it would be discovered that these organizations were not in complete agreement on UNAC. It was also felt that in view of the crowded agenda of the Council, and the possibility of the Council becoming acquainted with the views of these organizations through the documents which they had submitted, through the Summary Records of the Committee and through the Committee's Report on its consultations with these organizations, that an oral statement by any of them was not necessary.

At its 48th meeting on 4 August 1948 the Committee had before it letters from the American Federation of Labor, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the World Federation of United Nations Associations protesting against the decision of the Committee and stating that these organizations were unable to accept the condition that they appoint a representative to speak for all of them on UNAC. These letters are reproduced below.

The Committee was also informed that the International Cooperative Alliance was of the same opinion although it did

not wish to make a formal protest.

It was asked whether the Committee had the right under existing arrangements for consultation to impose a condition that organizations with separate consultative status appoint a representative to speak for all of them. This point was not finally established, but the Committee decided, however, in view of the heavy burden of work on the Council, to request the organizations to limit themselves to written statements for this session since the Council would be fully informed of their views by these statements, by the Report of the Committee, and by the Summary Records of the Committee.

ANNEX II

The letters received by the Committee from the American Federation of Labor, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the World Federation of United Nations protesting against the decision of the Committee that they together with the International Cooperative Alliance should appoint one representative to speak for them on UNAC are given below in full:

No.1                      AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Hotel Eden,  
Rue de Lausanne, 136,  
Geneva, Switzerland.  
August 3, 1948

Mr. J.A.C.C. Alexander,  
Acting Chairman  
Committee on Arrangements for  
Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations,  
Economic and Social Council,  
Room 129, Palais des Nations,  
Geneva, Switzerland.

Sir:

Kindly permit me to submit on behalf of the American Federation of Labor certain views in respect of the request made by my organization to present to the Economic and Social Council our views in connection with item 25 of the agenda (Document E/815).

You will recall that on July 28 when I appeared before your Committee, I made a specific request to present the views of my organization on the above-named item to the Council. To date I have received no written response to this request, but yesterday evening by telephone call from a member of the Secretariat, I was informed that providing my organization were willing to combine with three other non-governmental organizations in a joint statement, to be presented by a spokesman to be selected from among the representatives of such organizations, our views could be put before the Council.

The American Federation of Labor is convinced that to comply with the request to present such a joint statement would establish a precedent not in accord with the spirit and purpose of the approved arrangements for consultation by non-governmental organizations.

The representative of the American Federation of Labor

is aware of the great pressure on the Council resulting from an agenda containing a great many items of the highest importance and he does not wish to consume the Council's time in presenting arguments and appeals or even factual material that are already available to the members. However, the presentation of a joint statement represents in his opinion a certain surrender of the right of consultation between his organization and the Council that has been recognized in the granting of consultative status. Even when there is general agreement as there is in the instance of the nearly universal support among voluntary organizations for the continuance of the United Nations Appeal for Children, the preparation of a joint statement represents a process of negotiation and sometimes compromise that would tend to dilute the consultative relationship. This is particularly the case where the group which is asked to engage in the joint presentation includes organizations whose philosophy and approach to social problems are as divergent as are those of the American Federation of Labor and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Moreover, the authorization I have from the President of the American Federation of Labor to represent that organization at this session of the Economic and Social Council does not provide for my transferring that privilege to a representative of another non-governmental organization. This is not a merely technical point. I venture to submit that the contribution that voluntary organizations can make to the deliberations of the Council derive largely from the statements and responses to questions that are made by representatives who are thoroughly informed of the position of their respective organizations intimately acquainted with the views of the people who comprise their memberships.

For these reasons, therefore, I am obliged to refrain from participating in the preparation or presentation of the position of the American Federation of Labor jointly with other non-governmental organizations having consultative status and respectfully renew my request of your Committee that my organization be permitted to submit directly to the Council our views on the above named item of the agenda.

Respectfully yours,

Nelson H. Cruikshank,  
Consultant  
American Federation of Labor

No.2

FEDERATION SYNDICALE MONDIALE

Monsieur le Président du  
Comité ONG du Conseil  
Palais des Nations  
Genève, Suisse.

Monsieur le Président,

Ayant pris connaissance de la décision prise par le Comité ONG relativement à l'intervention de certaines organisations non-gouvernementales de la catégorie A, sur un point figurant à l'ordre du jour du Conseil, la Fédération Syndicale Mondiale se voit dans l'obligation d'élever une protestation contre la procédure arrêtée par le Comité, procédure contraire au statut reconnu par le Conseil économique et social aux organisations non-gouvernementales de la catégorie A.

Tout en exprimant l'intention de notre organisation de tout mettre en œuvre pour obtenir une application pleine et effective des décisions du Conseil économique et social concernant le statut des organisations non-gouvernementales de la catégorie A, il nous est impossible, dans les conditions présentes, d'intervenir oralement devant le Conseil.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'expression de ma haute considération.

Pour la délégation de la Fédération  
Syndicale Mondiale à la 7ème session  
du C.E.S.

W. Schevenels  
Secrétaire général adjoint

No.2. Translation.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Geneva, 14 August 1948

To: The Chairman of the Council NGO Committee,  
Palais des Nations,  
Geneva.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Having taken note of the decision taken by the Council NGO Committee regarding the hearing of certain Non-Governmental Organizations in Category (a) on an item in the Council's Agenda, the World Federation of Trade Unions finds itself obliged to make a protest against the procedure decided upon by the Committee, as being contrary to the status recognized by the Economic and Social Council for Category (a) Non-Governmental Organizations.

While it is the intention of our organization to take every step to obtain full and effective application of the

Economic and Social Council's decisions concerning the status of Category (a) Non-Governmental Organizations, it is impossible for us in the present circumstances to make an oral statement before the Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

W. SCHEVENELS  
Assistant Secretary-General

On behalf of the Delegation of  
the World Federation of Trade Unions  
the Seventh Session of ECOSOC.

No.3

WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS

August 3, 1948

The Acting President of the NGO Committee,  
ECOSOC, Geneva

Dear Sir,

We were disappointed to hear from Mr. Pickard that the NGO Committee was unable to approve the requests to address the Council which were contained in our earlier letters and were subsequently explained verbally to the Committee by our Secretary-General.

As far as our request to speak on Genocide is concerned we are, as requested, preparing a statement for circulation to the members of the Council and we trust it will be taken into serious consideration by the Human Rights Committee.

We wish, however, in connection with our request to speak on the United Nations Appeal for Children to register a formal protest against the method of procedure suggested by the NGO Committee whereby various organizations with Consultative Status should be represented by one speaker before the Council. Each organization granted status is so chosen because it represents a certain section of organised public opinion and it is impossible for a fully accredited consultant to delegate to another organisation, however worthy, the power to speak on behalf of his members.

We wish to express our particular regret at your recommendation on the subject of UNAC as all the four organisations concerned have been intimately connected with the Appeal and have been largely responsible for its success. We all feel that we should have the right to put forward to the Council our views on this matter in which we are directly concerned.

We hope that the NGO Committee will reconsider this matter and decide to allot a period of five minutes to each of the organisations concerned.

We fully understand your wish to save time but we are confident that you would not wish in so doing to underestimate the important role that NGOs played in the Appeal and the help they can give to the Council to which they are accredited under the Charter of the United Nations.

I am,

Yours respectfully,

John A.F. Ennals  
Secretary-General