

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fourth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Monday, 11 April 1949, at 10.45 a.m.

Contents:

Adoption of the agenda (E/CN.4/155).

Election of new members of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press (E/CN.4/159, E/CN.4/159/Add.1 to Add.7)

Present:Chairman:

Mrs. ROOSEVELT United States of America

Rapporteur:

Mr. Charles MALIK Lebanon

Members:

Mr. HOOD Australia

Mr. LEBEAU Belgium

Mr. SANTA CRUZ Chile

Mr. CHANG China

Mr. BORBERG Denmark

Mr. LOUTFI Egypt

Mr. ORDONNEAU France

Mr. GARCIA BAUER Guatemala

Mr. SHIVA RAO India

Mr. ENTEZAM Iran

Gen. ROMULO Philippines

Mr. KOVALENKO Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Mr. BORISOV Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

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Mr. MACKENZIE	United Kingdom
Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT	Uruguay
Mr. VILFAN	Yugoslavia
<u>Secretariat:</u>	
Mr. HUMPHREY	Director of Human Rights Division
Mr. HOGAN	Secretary of the Commission

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA(E/CN.4/155)

The CHAIRMAN opened the special session provided for in resolution 197 (VIII) of the Economic and Social Council for the purpose of electing the new members of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press.

In accordance with that resolution it was not necessary to appoint new officers.

The Chairman proposed that the Commission should adopt the provisional agenda (E/CN.4/155).

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS (E/CN.4/159, E/CN.4/159/Add.1 to Add.7)

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the members of the Commission to document E/CN.4/159 and its addenda containing the list of candidates and biographical material concerning them. She then read rules 36 and 38 of the rules of procedure of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, according to which twelve new members of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press had to be elected.

Mr. BORBERG (Denmark) informed the Commission that his delegation had agreed with the Swedish delegation to withdraw the candidature of Mr. Linder in favour of that of Mr. Christensen.

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) pointed out that the surname of the first candidate of Chile appearing in the list of recapitulations (E/CN.4/159/Add.7) was Silva and not Carvallo.

Mr. LOUFFIT (Egypt) informed the Commission of the withdrawal of the candidature of Mr. Ibrahim Abdel Kader El Mazin.

Mr. SHIVA RAO (India) remarked that the candidature of Mr. Purkelaar had been withdrawn.

General ROMULO (Philippines) recalled that he had requested his name to be struck off the list of candidates in favour of Mr. Lopez, and that the delegation of Pakistan had agreed (E/CN.4/159/Add.2 and E/CN.4/159/Add.5).

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Chang (China) and Mr. Charles Malik (Lebanon) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot, as follows:

Number of votes cast: 18

Valid votes: 18

Simple majority: 10

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Gandhi	17
Mr. Binder	16
Mr. Chang	16
Mr. Geraud	16
Mr. Williams	16
Mr. Dedijs	15
Mr. Zonov	15
Mr. Lopez	13
Mr. Silva Carvallo	13
Mr. Azkoul	11
Mr. Azmi	10
Mr. Christensen	9
Mr. Fontaina	8
Mr. Leite	8
Mr. Van Heuven Goedhart	6
Mr. Bonilla	4
Mr. Palavicini	4
Mr. Chauvet	3
Mr. Husain	2
Mr. de la Ossa	2
Mr. Walton	2
Mr. Garcia Pena	1

/The required

The required majority having been obtained, the following were elected members of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press: Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Binder, Mr. Chang, Mr. Geraud, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dedijer, M. Zonov, Mr. Lopez, Mr. Silva Carvalho, Mr. Azkoul, Mr. Azmi.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that, as a result of the vote, there remained a twelfth vacancy. In application of rule 38 of the rules of procedure and in particular of paragraph (b) the only candidates to be included in the second ballot were Mr. Christensen, Mr. Fontaina and Mr. Leite.

A second ballot was taken as follows:

<u>Number of votes cast:</u>	18
<u>Valid Votes:</u>	18
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	Mr. Christensen..... 8
	Mr. Fontaina..... 8
	Mr. Leite..... 2

The CHAIRMAN remarked that as a result of the vote only two candidates remained: Mr. Christensen and Mr. Fontaina. She invited the Commission to take a third ballot.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) recalled that so far geographical distribution had always been taken into account at elections similar to the one taking place. It would seem that the principle was not being sufficiently respected with regard to the countries of Latin America, which nonetheless had spared no effort in the fight for the freedom of information and of the press. He underlined in particular the part played by Ecuador and Uruguay when that principle was included in the Charter.

Mr. LEBEAU (Belgium) observed that the smaller Powers of western Europe were not represented among the first eleven members elected to the Sub-Commission. Account should be taken of the contribution made by those countries to the cause of the freedom of information and of the press when the last member of the Sub-Commission was being elected.

/Mr. BORBERG

Mr. BORBERG (Denmark) pointed out, in support of the observation made by Mr. Lebeau, that none of the Scandinavian countries had obtained a seat on the Sub-Commission. From that he concluded that the principle of geographical distribution had not been applied with regard to those countries.

A third ballot was taken:

<u>Number of votes cast:</u>	18
<u>Valid votes:</u>	18
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	Mr. Fontaina 10
	Mr. Christensen 8

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Fontaina was elected a member of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.