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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION  
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES  
Fifth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDREDTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 3 October 1952, at 11 a.m.

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/PRESENT:

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Mr. ROY

Members:

Mr. DANIELS

Mr. Ekstrand

Mr. FOMIN\*

Mr. HISCOCKS\*

Mr. MASANI

Mr. MENESES PALLARES

Mr. NISOT

Mr. SHARAF

Mr. TSAO\*

Mr. WINIEWICZ

later: Mr. KULAGA\*

Also present:

Miss MANAS

Commission on the Status of Women

Representative of a specialized agency:

Mr. ARNALDO

United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural  
Organization (UNESCO)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:

Miss SENDER

International Confederation of  
of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

Category B and Register:

Mr. MOSKOWITZ

Consultative Council of Jewish  
Organizations

Mr. BARNETT JANNER)  
Mr. HALPERIN )

Co-ordinating Board of Jewish  
Organizations

Mr. BEER

International League for the  
Rights of Man

Mr. KARLBACH

World Jewish Congress

Mr. RONALDS

World Union for Progressive Judaism

Secretariat:

Mr. HUMPEREY

Director, Division of Human Rights

Mr. LAWSON

Secretary of the Sub-Commission

\*Alternate

/ACTION

ACTION TO BE TAKEN UNDER THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF  
26 JUNE 1952 (E/2281, E/2229; E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.29/Rev.1, E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.30)  
(continued)

Mr. Meneses Pallares: revised draft resolution on co-operation of non-  
governmental organizations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.29/Rev.1)

Mr. MENESES PALLARES paid a tribute to the work of the non-governmental organizations active in the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities. Their zeal, independence, and, in some cases, very considerable resources made their assistance indispensable. In the past, however, their work had not been co-ordinated and they had not in all cases concentrated on the main problems, nor had they worked out common objectives. It was the object of his revised draft resolution to remedy those defects.

Mr. SHAFAG said that though the intention behind the draft resolution was excellent, he doubted if it could be translated into practice as it stood. It was not clear whether the United Nations itself would co-ordinate and supervise the non-governmental organizations' work or whether co-ordination was merely to be recommended. No reference was made to any co-ordination machinery. If the organizations were to co-ordinate their work without United Nations supervision, it was not stated how they would do so. Even if the organizations agreed to such co-ordination, which was not very likely, the question of the financial implications was not settled.

Mr. BISCOONS asked Mr. Meneses Pallares whether he intended that the expense of the proposed conference should be borne by the organizations. If so, that might be stated in the last paragraph of the operative part.

At the request of Mr. MENESES PALLARES, Mr. HUMPEREY (Secretariat) stated that no immediate financial implications would arise from the adoption of the draft resolution. The first and second paragraphs of the operative part obviously involved no outlay. If the Secretary-General convened the conference proposed in the third paragraph, he would have to provide a room and the technical facilities; that expense could be absorbed by the existing budget. Many, but not all, non-governmental organizations in consultative status had permanent representatives at United Nations Headquarters. When they sent representatives, they paid their travel expenses.

/Mr. DANIELS

Mr. DANIELS assumed that the non-governmental organizations were continuously in touch with the competent divisions of the Secretariat.

Mr. MENESES PALLARES said that that was so, but better co-ordination could be obtained by conferences dealing with specific subjects, where common objectives could be agreed upon.

Miss SENDER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) expressed approval of the draft resolution. Her organization had participated in a similar conference, that on migration, before and had found it useful. She could not say in advance whether the proposed conference would be equally useful, but it should at least be tried.

At the request of Mr. TSAO, Mr. HUMPHREY (Secretariat) read out the rules for the calling of non-governmental conferences by the Economic and Social Council adopted by the General Assembly at its fifth session (resolution 479(V)).

Mr. FOMIN asked whether the third paragraph of the operative part of Mr. Meneses Pallares' draft resolution, requesting the Secretary-General to convene conferences, did not conflict with the General Assembly's rules, which laid down that the Economic and Social Council and not the Secretary-General should convene them.

Mr. HUMPHREY (Secretariat) explained that the text had been drawn up in the form of a draft resolution to be adopted by the Council; thus, the Secretary-General would simply be acting on its behalf. If the Council thought that the draft resolution in any way conflicted with those rules, it would surely amend the text as required. Mr. Fomin's point might, however, be met by the insertion of the words "in accordance with resolution 479(V) of the General Assembly" in the last paragraph.

/Mr. TSAO

Mr. TSAO agreed with Mr. Humphrey's amendment. He was sympathetic to the object of the draft resolution but for the sake of clarity he suggested that the last paragraph should read: "Further requests the Secretary-General, after consultation with the non-governmental organizations, to report to the Economic and Social Council on the advisability of convening such conferences", Mr. Humphrey's amendment to be added.

Mr. MENESES PALLARES accepted both those amendments.

Mr. ARNALDO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) suggested that the draft resolution's scope should be extended to non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the competent specialized agencies, as had been done in the migration conferences. The representative of the ILO had concurred in the suggestion. In that way the conference would be more widely representative. He proposed therefore that in the operative part the words "in collaboration with the competent specialized agencies" should be inserted before "to consult" and the words "or the specialized agencies concerned" before "in order to determine" in the second paragraph, and the words "and the specialized agencies concerned" before "to report" in the amended text of the third paragraph.

Mr. MENESES PALLARES accepted those amendments.

Mr. HISCOCKS felt that the draft resolution gave the impression of unwarrantable interference in the affairs of organizations, most of which were autonomous and voluntary associations. It was not for the Sub-Commission to say that there was duplication of effort; indeed, in some cases, duplicated and redoubled activity was even desirable. The non-governmental organizations were unofficial bodies and should be quite free to decide how to spread the emphasis of their work. Sub-paragraph (i) of the first paragraph of the operative part, too, was improper. It could surely be assumed that the organizations did in fact devote as large a proportion of their resources as possible to the purposes for which they had been founded. Furthermore, it would be almost impossible to determine which of the very many organizations in consultative status with the Council had a particular interest in the prevention of discrimination.

/Mr. MENESES PALLARES

Mr. MENESES PALLARES said that the scope of some organizations' activities was so narrow that they were bound to duplicate those of others. No adverse reflection on such activities had been intended in the second paragraph of the preamble; it was merely a general statement of what might happen if such activities were not properly co-ordinated. The proposed conferences were not an innovation; the migration conferences constituted a precedent. There could be no question of interference by the United Nations, because it was the non-governmental organizations themselves which had first suggested the ideas embodied in his draft resolution. If they were not convened for the discussion of systematic work, there was some danger that the full effect of their activities might be impaired.

Mr. Meneses Pallares' draft resolution (E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.29/Rev.1), as amended, was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Mr. Meneses Pallares: draft resolution (E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.30)

Mr. MENESES PALLARES said that UNESCO was the best equipped of the United Nations bodies to carry on the struggle against ignorance and prejudice that bred discrimination. It could also give valuable assistance in promoting the social integration of minorities, which should be assimilated but at the same time should be able to preserve their cultural identity if they so wished. His draft suggested that UNESCO should present a systematic report on its relevant activities in a special section of its annual report which the Sub-Commission could consult.

Mr. FOMIN saw a certain inconsistency between paragraph 1 and paragraph 3 of the operative part of the draft resolution; the former expressed appreciation of the work done by UNESCO, while the latter requested information concerning that work. He felt that the Sub-Commission was not at the moment in a position to express appreciation of UNESCO's work, not being sufficiently well informed regarding its achievements. It was known that UNESCO was doing some work relating to the prevention of discrimination and protection of

/minorities,

minorities, but it was apparent from statements made by UNESCO representatives before the Sub-Commission that as yet the work was limited in scope. It was for the Council and the General Assembly, not the Sub-Commission, to evaluate UNESCO's achievements.

In general, he felt that the draft resolution was little more than a duplication of resolution 443 (XIV) of the Economic and Social Council, which had requested UNESCO to continue its work to combat discrimination and to report thereon to the Council in 1955.

Mr. WINIEWICZ said it was not the Sub-Commission's function to appraise past work done by UNESCO. For his part, he had some reservations concerning that work, which, judging by the data at his disposal, he considered unsatisfactory and too limited in scope. For that reason he could not support paragraph 1 of the operative part of the draft resolution and suggested that it should be voted on separately. In general, he felt that the resolution attributed too much importance to the services which UNESCO could render in combating discrimination, and he would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

Mr. MENESES PALLARES said he could see no inherent contradiction in the two paragraphs. In his opinion UNESCO deserved commendation for the excellent work it had already done, as reported in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/146. The fact that its activities had been restricted in scope should not be allowed to obscure the value of the work. He cited, in particular, UNESCO's extensive programme of research into problems of inter-racial relations in Brazil. As regards paragraph 3, its purpose was simply to ensure a continuing flow of up-to-date information to the United Nations on both the current activities of UNESCO and the new programmes being planned.

The CHAIRMAN quoted paragraph 66 of UNESCO's report on its activities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/146), which stated that in keeping with resolution 443 (XIV) of the Council, UNESCO would report in 1955 on its activities in the field of prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, and, further, that it was prepared to deal with the matter either in a special chapter of its annual report or in a special report, whichever the Council might prefer.

/It was

It was clear, therefore, that the draft resolution merely asked the Council to do something which it had done before. UNESCO had been asked for a report, and had agreed to comply with the request. The only point not yet settled was whether the information should be transmitted in the form of a special section of UNESCO's annual report or as a special report.

Mr. EKSTRAND commended UNESCO for the programmes it had initiated, but pointed out that most of these programmes were still in the early stages of execution. He agreed with the views put forward by Mr. Fomin and suggested the deletion of paragraph 1.

Mr. FOMIN reiterated his opinion that in view of resolution 443 (XIV) of the Economic and Social Council, the draft resolution was redundant; he urged Mr. Meneses Pallares to withdraw it.

Mr. HISCOCKS said that in view of the statement quoted by the Chairman, he could not but join Mr. Fomin in requesting the withdrawal of the draft resolution.

Mr. SHAFaq endorsed the resolution as a whole, although he expressed some doubt regarding the practical value of the request set forth in paragraph 3.

Mr. NISOT thought that the final phrase of paragraph 3, "in order to enable the Council and the General Assembly to appraise the results achieved", was superfluous and should be deleted.

The CHAIRMAN supported that suggestion and Mr. Ekstrand's proposal for the deletion of paragraph 1. As regards paragraph 2, he suggested that it should be redrafted as an additional paragraph of the preamble, since the request it contained had been addressed to UNESCO earlier by the Council.

/Mr. MENESES PALLARES



Mr. MENESES PALLARES agreed to the deletion of paragraph 1, although he stressed that UNESCO's work deserved the highest praise. He accepted the Chairman's suggestion concerning paragraph 2 and Mr. Nisot's proposal regarding the final passage of paragraph 3. In view of paragraph 66 of the UNESCO report, quoted by the Chairman, he proposed that the first line of paragraph 3 should be revised to read: "Invites UNESCO to devote a special report each year to a review ..."

In reply to a question from Mr. FOMIN, Mr. HUMPHREY (Secretariat) said he could see no discrepancy between the amended draft resolution and resolution 443 (XIV) of the Council. The latter referred only to UNESCO's work on educational methods and projects to combat discrimination, while the new proposal related to all the efforts made by UNESCO to prevent discrimination and protect minorities.

Mr. FOMIN reiterated that in his view the two resolutions were virtually identical in substance.

In reply to a question from Mr. EKSTRAND concerning the probable effect of paragraph 3, as amended, upon the content of future UNESCO annual reports, Mr. ARNALDO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) explained that the ordinary annual reports would contain information on UNESCO's activities in the field of prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, probably distributed under the headings of education, science and culture. In the special report requested in the draft resolution, that information would be assembled and presented in greater detail.

The CHAIRMAN put the amended draft resolution to the vote.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.