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COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

LIST OF COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

(DRAWING CATEGORY (b) OR (c) CONSULTATIVE STATUS)

(Note: This list is submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section IV, paragraph 4, of the Report of the Committee on Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations, approved by the Council on 21 June 1948 (Resolution 2/3 of 21 June 1948, in Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, First Year, Second Session, pages 360-365).

Women's International Democratic Federation (Fédération démocratique internationale des Femmes)

The Federation, in a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, dated March 11, 1949, drew the attention of the Economic and Social Council, of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Commission on the Status of Women to a declaration concerning the situation of women in Iran and asked the Commission on the Status of Women to examine the matter and to approach the Iranian Government.

The Federation indicated that the Democratic Organization of Iranian Women, affiliated to the Federation, which struggled for the attainment of political, economic and legal rights of women and against the exploitation of women workers, has been dissolved by the Government; several of its members have been arrested, ill-treated and persecuted by the police.

The statement gave detailed information on the situation of women in Iran and made the following observations: Equality of rights between men and women is guaranteed neither by the Constitution nor by legislation.

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Women are in an equally unfavorable position as regards civil rights, whether mothers, wives, sisters or daughters. The fundamental rights of women are less than those of men. Working women are subject to many disadvantages; inequality of remuneration and unequal access to employment. There is no rule or law protecting the working-class mother. In marriage the rights and obligations of women are different from those of men. Polygamy is authorized by law. The civil code provides that the husband may prevent his wife from engaging in any profession which does not correspond to his social status. The woman does not have the right of divorce. The mother has no rights in respect of her children. On the death of the father the guardianship of minor children reverts to the paternal grandfather. Children born out of wedlock have no rights, and no responsibility rests upon the father.