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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Sixteenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 13 January 1964, at 3.10 p.m.

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Draft international convention on the elimination of all forms
of racial discrimination (E/CN.4/Sub.2/234; E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.308)

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PRESENT:Chairman:

Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile)

Rapporteur:

Mr. CAPOTORTI (Italy)

Members:

Mr. ABRAM (United States of America)

Mr. CALVOCORESSI (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO (Mexico)

Mr. IVANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

Mr. KETRZYNSKI (Poland)

Mr. KRISHNASWAMI (India)

Mr. MATSCH (Austria)

Mr. MUDAWI (Sudan)

Mr. SAARIO (Finland)

Observers from Member States:

Mr. ROBICHAUD Canada

Mr. LEMA Congo (Leopoldville)

Mr. SAJJAD India

Mr. BARROMI Israel

Mr. SCHAAPVELD Netherlands

Mr. MATSEIKO Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Mr. EIMENDORF United States of America

Mr. MELOVSKI Yugoslavia

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. FARMAN-FARMAIAN International Labour Organisation

Miss BARRETT United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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Mr. HUMPHREY Director, Division of Human Rights

Mr. LAWSON Secretary of the Sub-Commission

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DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (E/CN.4/Sub.2/234; E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.308)

The CHAIRMAN announced that, because of the weather conditions, the meeting would be a short one. However, in order to make some headway in the consideration of its agenda, which was particularly heavy, the Sub-Commission would begin the general debate on the draft international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. The draft put forward by Mr. Abram (E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.308) would be circulated in the working languages at the next meeting.

Mr. ABRAM stated that the draft he had submitted would be completed by an article IX dealing with racial hatred and discrimination, which would be circulated shortly.* He stressed that that article, which he read out, was merely a provisional draft which he might later modify to make it reflect his thoughts more accurately.

Mr. MATSCH wondered whether Mr. Abram had had any special reason for not reproducing, in the preamble of his draft, the formula used in the first preambular paragraph of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination which had been adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 1904 (XVIII).

Mr. ABRAM said that he was willing to introduce that wording if the Sub-Commission so desired.

Mr. IVANOV expressed amazement that there was no mention, in the preamble of Mr. Abram's draft, of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, which was referred to in the fourth preambular paragraph of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Mr. CALVOCORESSI thought that it was too early to express an opinion on Mr. Abram's text. He would therefore confine himself to mentioning the two main considerations by which, in his opinion, the Sub-Commission should

* Later circulated as document E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.308/Add.1.

(Mr. Calvocoressi)

be guided in its work on item 4 of its agenda. Firstly, the experts should take the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as the basis for their work. That text differed considerably from the draft worked out by the Sub-Commission, but whether the Sub-Commission liked the changes or not, it still had to accept them without trying to go back to its own wording.

Secondly, the experts should aim at a practical goal: the drafting of a convention which could be adopted by as many countries as possible. The text must therefore be clear and concise, and must contain only fundamental principles. He would himself submit a draft convention* for consideration by the Sub-Commission.

The CHAIRMAN invited the experts to study Mr. Abram's text closely so as to be able to present their observations on it at the next meeting. He hoped that, in view of the very heavy programme which the Sub-Commission had to complete at its sixteenth session, meetings would henceforth begin on time.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.

* Later circulated as document E/CN.4/Sub.2/L.309.