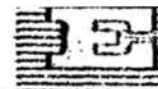


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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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Held at Lake Success, New York,
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Committee

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<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY	Lebanon
<u>Members:</u>	Mrs. DALY	Australia
	Miss ZUNG	China
	Mrs. de GONZALES	Cuba
	Miss BERNARDINO	Dominican Republic
	Mrs. TSAIDARIS	Greece
	Mrs. GUERY	Haiti
	Mrs. SEN	India
	Mrs. LAVALLÉ URBINA*	Mexico
	Miss PELETIER	Netherlands
	Mr. BORATYNSKI*	Poland

Members: (continued)

Mrs. POPOVA

Union of Socialist Republics

Miss SUTHERLAND

United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Mrs. GOLDMAN

United States of America

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mrs. STANLEY

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Mrs. MYRDAL

United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mrs. PETRIE

World Health Organization (WHO)

Representative of an inter-governmental organization:

Mrs. ACUNA de CHACON

Inter-American Commission of Women

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:Category A:

Miss KAHN

World Federation of Trade Unions

Mrs. FOX

World Federation of United Nations

Mrs. SPRAGUE

Associations

Category B:

Mrs. DAYAL

All-India Women's Conference

Miss GUTHRIE

International Alliance of Women

Mrs. MAHON

International Council of Women

Mrs. PARSONS

International Federation of Business and
Professional Women

Mrs. HYMER

International Union of Catholic Women's
Leagues

Mrs. ZIZZANIA

Miss SCHAIN

Liaison Committee of Women's Inter-
national Organizations

Miss PERRY

World's Young Women's Christian
AssociationRegister:

Mrs. SLEEPER

International Council of Nurses

Mrs. TAYLOR

Secretariat:

Mrs. TENISON WOODS

Chief of the Status of Women Section

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER

Secretary of the Commission

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC LAW (E/CN.6/158, E/CN.6/157, E/CN.6/156, E/CN.6/159)
(continued)

The CHAIRMAN called upon the Commission to continue the general debate on item 5 of the agenda, dealing with the status of women in public law.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom), with reference to the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/158) said that, as some members of the Commission had already pointed out, the information received from governments was now out of date, their replies having been sent two or three years ago; she thought that governments should be asked to send to the Secretariat supplementary data regarding any new legislative measures they had adopted which affected the legal status of women.

The information submitted by the United Kingdom Government concerning military service and conscription for labour, given on page 14 of the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/158) was four years old, the Act of 1941 had been superseded by the National Service Act, 1948. There was now no compulsory national service for women.

With regard to the part dealing with public services, she explained that the National Insurance Act provided the same maternity benefits for all employed women whatever their occupation.

She thought that the Secretary-General's analysis of the replies to the questionnaire on the legal status of women -- the most extensive study so far made on that subject -- showed a considerable advance in the status of women as compared with pre-war years.

The replies to the questions on Fiscal Laws seemed to call for no comment but she agreed with the Chairman that the Commission should draw attention to the existence of discrimination against married women in the public services, as revealed by the analysis of replies.

/Mrs. GOLDMAN

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) recalled that the USSR representative had spoken of the considerable maternity benefits enjoyed by women in her country under public law, and had accused other countries of not granting similar benefits to their women. However, even the USSR press admitted that employees in that country did not always receive maternity benefits as provided by the law.

The USSR representative had also protested against alleged discrimination against married women in public office in other countries and denied the existence of such discrimination in her own country. It was interesting to note, in that connexion, that in May 1949 a law had been passed providing for a penalty of from six months to two years of forced labour, or a fine of 1,000 rubles, for refusing to employ a pregnant woman or nursing mother or for lowering the pay of such women. Such drastic laws were not passed without cause or evidence of serious abuse.

True, the number of nurseries and kindergartens in the USSR was growing each year, but it was still far from adequate to meet the needs of working mothers.

With regard to the analysis of fiscal laws (E/CN.6/157), it was interesting primarily in relation to income tax. It showed that most countries made provision for separate returns by married women to protect their independent property ownership, and that women were frequently exempted from head tax. It was particularly interesting that in Sweden a married woman who was working or engaged in a business or profession could claim a special exemption from local taxation of 200 crowns a year when her occupation made it necessary for her to engage domestic help.

The study of the various Secretariat documents having been completed, the question naturally arose of methods of obtaining the abolition of discriminatory practices and of ways of recording the progress achieved. With regard to the latter question, the Secretariat might perhaps continue to receive at regular intervals information from official and unofficial sources in the different countries.

Discrimination under private law should be dealt with on a different basis from that applied to public law; in other words, the method would not be to adapt conventions or international treaties. The most effective method might be to obtain information regarding the nature of those discriminatory practices from the women concerned, and to take appropriate concerted action. Much time and effort would of course be required before those practices, many of which were well-established, were abolished.

The Secretary-General could help the Commission to organize such action by preparing a pamphlet giving the information already transmitted by Governments, together with appropriate comments, special emphasis being placed on discrimination in public and private law on the basis of sex. That pamphlet, which might be similar to the study on the nationality of married women, would constitute the best rebuttal of the false accusations which had been made, in particular that women in the United States could not exercise judicial functions, and would make available very useful information.

The CHAIRMAN noted that two solutions had been proposed: one, by the United States representative, to collect and publish in a pamphlet the information tabulated in the Secretariat report; the other, by the United Kingdom representative, to ask Governments to continue to submit information in reply to the questionnaire, so that the publication might be brought up to date at regular intervals.

Mrs. TENISON-WOODS (Secretariat) did not think that it would be possible to publish a pamphlet of the type suggested by the United States representative.

Mrs. GRINBERG VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) explained that the Secretariat had given much thought to the question before deciding how to arrange the information received in reply to the questionnaire. The information touched on so wide a variety of questions relating to the status of women that, if the Secretariat had presented the replies consecutively, as was done in an ordinary report, the completed document would have run into hundreds of pages; members of the Commission would have wasted valuable time in studying it and might have had difficulty in finding the information they required.

/It should

It should be borne in mind that the information available did not unfortunately provide a basis for an accurate picture of the situation, since it did not cover recent legislative changes; if, therefore, the Secretariat had decided to present a detailed analysis, the latter would necessarily have contained errors which would have had to be rectified almost immediately.

The situation was still the same and, in her opinion, it was essential to await more up-to-date information before contemplating the publication of a pamphlet. The Secretariat could attach the replies to the report already published in the form of an annex. If at its next session the Commission regarded the whole document as satisfactory, it could then request the publication of the data it contained in the form of a pamphlet.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) said that she had not formally proposed the publication of a pamphlet; she had merely made a suggestion to that effect. She was still convinced that such a document would be useful and hoped that the Secretariat might be able to follow up her suggestion in due course and thus make very valuable information generally available.

The CHAIRMAN said that the suggestion made by the United States representative would be included in the Commission's report. There was no reason why the Commission should not now request Governments to continue to supply the Secretariat with information on the legal status of women.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) thought that instead of publishing a detailed pamphlet, it would be preferable to group the information received in chapters according to subject matter, with an appendix setting out facts in tabular form, where appropriate.

/Miss BERNARDINO

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) supported the United States representative's suggestion; the proposed publication would be very valuable to the large international women's organizations. If the suggestion was carried into effect, she hoped that the Secretariat would make arrangements for the publication of the pamphlet in Spanish in the interests of the eighteen Spanish-speaking countries represented in the United Nations.

The CHAIRMAN declared closed the general debate on the status of women in public law and suggested that the Commission should consider the text of a draft resolution on the subject. In her view, the Commission might usefully consider the United Kingdom representative's suggestion that the draft resolution should contain a reference to the need to abolish the discriminatory measures which still prevented married women from holding public office in a number of countries. The United Kingdom representative might be asked to draw up a text in consultation with the Resolutions Committee.

It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should take up item 6 of its agenda -- the status of women in private law.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) would prefer the discussion of that item to be postponed until the following week, since she had not received the Secretariat's report on the status of women in family law until the opening of the present meeting and had not yet received its report on property rights for women.

There would be no difficulty in the Commission's taking up item 9 -- the status of nurses -- on which the relevant documents had been distributed some time before.

The CHAIRMAN said she would do her best to meet the USSR representative's wishes; she could not, however, formally undertake to do so, since the consideration of the status of nurses might be completed before the end of the week and it was essential to continue working without interruption.

/Miss PELETIER

Miss HELETTIER (Netherlands) said she had been greatly interested by the documentation submitted by the Secretariat on the status of women in private law. That documentation was, however, incomplete and she therefore wondered what part of it the Commission was proposing to adopt. Instead of opening a discussion in which each delegation would feel it necessary to give precise and detailed information on its own legislative system, she suggested that it might be preferable to treat the question as provisionally settled and return to it when the available documentation had been completed.

The CHAIRMAN said that in her opinion the documentation submitted by non-governmental organizations was substantial and provided an ample basis for discussion. Clearly, however, the Commission could not take a decision until it had received from governments the information which was due before the end of 1951. All it could do was to hold a very general exchange of views in order to give the Secretariat some guidance for its future work. Such a discussion, which could lead to only tentative conclusions, should not take up too much time. She shared the Netherlands representative's view that the Commission should not go into specific cases but should discuss the problem of the status of women in private law in the most general terms.

She proposed that the Commission should temporarily leave aside the problem of the status of women in private law and take up the question of the status of nurses.

It was so decided.

THE STATUS OF NURSES (E/CN.6/162. E/CN.6/L.29. E/CN.6/L.29/Rev.1)

Miss PETRIE (World Health Organization) stressed the important role played by nurses, not only in caring for the sick, but in giving individual and group instruction in the attainment and maintenance of health and also in training assistant nurses. Those functions called for considerable intellectual ability, a deep understanding of family life and a wide knowledge of the social structure. The social standing of nurses, however, varied greatly and in some countries they were held in low esteem. It was therefore essential to improve the status of nurses and to make their profession universally respected.

/Nursing

Nursing was of the professions which offered women the most opportunities of obtaining responsible posts and of taking a share in drawing up systems and plans. The Expert Committee on Nursing had accordingly recommended WHO to urge national health administrations to include among their administrative officers highly competent nurses with authority to assist in planning health services. WHO, for its part, had appointed women to senior posts both at its headquarters and in its regional offices and had included women in missions it had sent to under-developed countries.

In working for the improvement of the status of nurses, the Commission would undoubtedly be promoting the welfare of mankind. She therefore urged the Commission to adopt a resolution recommending Member States to raise the status of nurses and thereby to help the world in its campaign for better health.

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) thanked the WHO representative, who was well known as an authority on the subject. The Expert Committee on Nursing had proposed in one of the recommendations with which its excellent report concluded that the report should be referred to the Commission and had requested the Commission to lend its support to the improvement of the status of nurses. In the communication accompanying that recommendation, the Director-General of the WHO had emphasized that an improvement of the status of nurses and of training facilities would bring benefits not only to health, but to the situation of women in the community.

Nurses were held in particular esteem in Greece, as was indicated by Decree-Law 683 of 1948, governing the organization of schools and the training of pupils; that law placed nurses and visiting nurses in the same category as government officials in regard to pay, grading, functions and duties. The government service concerned was the nursing section of the Ministry of Health, which was under the direction of a visiting nurse with the rank of director, who was at present Chairman of the National Council of Nurses.

In the period between 1927 and 1940 the Greek training schools for nurses had already reached a very high standard and followed the international training programme. They had continued their work throughout the war, although the number of pupils had declined. After the war, they had received help from a number

/of institutions

of institutions, including UNRRA, an ECA mission and WHO. The recruitment of students did not present any difficulty; there were always large numbers of applicants for admission. The certificate of secondary education, which was a legal requirement for admission, placed the schools on the same footing as centres of higher education. The number of nurses with a practical training (auxiliary nurses) greatly exceeded certificated nurses; but the Ministry of Health had organized a programme of further training for nurses in that category. There were at present 1,130 nurses with three years' training and 192 with one year's training. There were 2,500 auxiliary nurses and 5,500 Red Cross volunteers. But at least 2,000 more nurses with three years' training and 2,500 with one year's training were needed.

There was also a school giving a one year course of training in a tuberculosis sanatorium, a new school at Salonika, an army nursing school, a school of physiotherapy and a school for assistant visiting nurses, established by the Greek Child Welfare Service to staff pre-natal consultation services and children's clinics. The National Council of Nurses had replied to the Questionnaire of the International Council of Nurses, which, like the Rockefeller Foundation, WHO, UNICEF and ECA, had offered a number of scholarships for advanced study to Greek nurses.

The Commission should, in her view, pay particular attention to the need for a new attitude towards the role of the nurse and towards the basic training mentioned in the report. Greater importance should be attached to her relations with the people round her, to her contacts with children and adults, through which she could gain the confidence of the people, become a true "therapeutic agent" and exert an influence in society as a citizen.

She particularly recommended that item of the agenda to the Commission's attention and read out a draft resolution relating to it (E/CN.6/L.29, E/CN.6/L.29/Rev.1).

Miss SLEEPER (International Council of Nurses) recalled that the International Council had been founded in 1899 and represented the nurses of forty-five countries. Its purpose was to improve the status of nurses and to raise the standard of the profession. Public authorities were always complaining of being unable to implement health programmes owing to a lack of nurses. In fact in many countries there was only one nurse for each 400 inhabitants. WHO was therefore trying to increase that number.

/She stressed

She stressed the importance of the part played by nurses, who worked side by side with doctors and whose psychological influence during illness and convalescence was great. She asked the Commission to help to improve the status of nurses by obtaining for them greater opportunities for education in secondary schools and universities and by making it generally understood that the nursing profession was of vital importance to society and to general welfare.

The CHAIRMAN asked the representative of Greece to explain to the Secretariat the scope of the expression "to give the report of the Committee of Experts the widest possible publicity."

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) explained that she thought the report so comprehensive that all countries should take note of it. She did not ask that it should be translated into all languages, but thought that it should be made available to women's organizations and all competent institutions, which could have it translated and would use it whenever necessary.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) wondered if the first phrase of the second paragraph of the operative part might be replaced by the following words: "to draw the attention of Member States to the necessity of considering..." since the use of the words "to recommend" might give rise to the assumption that action should be taken in that connexion.

Mrs. TENISON-WOODS (Secretariat) pointed out that if the expression "to give the widest possible publicity" meant that the United Nations would have to bear additional expenditure, the Commission should not make such a request, since the most recent General Assembly had called for economy. Nevertheless, she thought the report extremely interesting and was convinced that the Secretary-General would be prepared to do everything in his power to give it wide publicity, provided that no expenditure was involved. She therefore thought that the first paragraph of the operative part should be revised and rendered more precise. Certain delegations had considered the possibility of "drawing the attention" of Governments: there could be no objection to such a solution, which would not involve expenditure.

Mrs. TSALDARIS

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) wished to know whether the Secretary-General could ask WHO to give the report wider publicity and whether WHO had any means of doing so.

Mrs. TENISON-WOODS (Secretariat) pointed out that WHO itself had published the document and that it was incumbent upon it to distribute it.

Mrs. HYMER (International Federation of Business and Professional Women) had studied the WHO report with great interest, since the organization she represented numbered several thousand nurses from twenty countries among its members. The Federation, which included among its purposes the improvement of the status of business and professional women, was fully aware of the necessity for bringing about the recognition of the professional status of nurses, in order that they might be enabled to contribute to the improvement of health standards in all countries and in order to achieve fuller utilization of qualified nurses, better training facilities, easier recruitment and a just scale of remuneration. The nursing profession needed many more recruits in countries which were carrying out normal health programmes and also in countries where the problem of health still remained to be solved, which had no well defined health programme and where the necessary institutions had to be set up. The Commission should therefore recommend the Economic and Social Council to lay down the standards of the status of nurses.

The International Federation, as a non-governmental organization enjoying consultative status, would give the report all the publicity it could, if the Commission recommended that that should be done, and would ask its members to study methods for giving effect to the recommendations contained in the report.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) recalled that the nursing profession absorbed a large proportion of woman-power in many countries and that the status of nurses was therefore closely connected with the status of women. The problem of recruitment was becoming acute in many countries, and especially in industrial countries where manpower was scarce. It was important therefore that qualified nurses should be used to the best advantage and care should be taken to avoid loss of effort by eliminating from the training of nurses anything that was not directly connected with their profession.

/She noted

She noted with satisfaction that the report paid tribute to the work of the International Council of Nurses, the oldest organization working in that field. She also thought that the report might be of great value to women in countries where health services were still embryonic. Governments should realize that nurses could play an important part in education especially in backward communities. The United Kingdom Government had welcomed the recommendation calling on WHO to undertake an inquiry into nursing in Equatorial Africa as there were many interesting developments in colonial territories in that area. Seven hundred nurses were at present attending training courses in the United Kingdom which would enable the students to play a vital part in the health services when they returned to their own countries.

She hoped that WHO would be able to give effect to all the recommendations in the Expert Committee's report. She would do her best, both in her personal capacity and as representative of her Government, to make the report widely known. In connexion with the draft resolution submitted by Greece, she thought that reference should be made in the preliminary part to the fact that any improvement of the status of nurses meant an improvement in the status of women generally.

Mrs. de GONZALEZ (Cuba) pointed out, with reference to the Greek draft resolution, that the profession of social worker was parallel to that of nurse and should be encouraged; in many countries, however, it was not even recognized as a profession. She hoped that the question might be included in the agenda of a future session.

The CHAIRMAN did not consider that it would be in the interest of either profession to include them in a single resolution. The inclusion of the question of the status of social workers in the agenda might be considered at a future session. The Greek draft resolution would have to be studied by the Resolutions Committee, which would make the necessary alterations. The

Commission intended to suggest to Member States that they should give the report of the Expert Committee the widest possible publicity, but it could do so only through the agency of the Economic and Social Council. Moreover, the possibility of incorporating in it the proposal made by the United Kingdom representative should be considered. She therefore suggested that the United Kingdom and Greek representatives should be invited to attend the meeting of the Resolutions Committee.

Mrs. TSAIDARIS (Greece) welcomed the United Kingdom proposal and was prepared to incorporate it in her resolution.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stressed the vital part that nurses played in community life. The work of doctors depended on that of nurses. Fully-trained nurses helped to train student nurses. In the USSR an important part of their work was the running of institutions for children between three and seven years old, whose mothers worked in factories and in collective farms. Throughout the country, there were training courses which took three years or less, and advanced courses. There were special trade unions for nurses, which looked after their working conditions. The Government had passed an act which provided for increased pay for nurses after a certain number of years' service. They could also receive official honours, which encouraged them to further effort. That proved the Government's solicitude for women workers in the medical profession.

Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY (Lebanon) had been greatly interested by the report of the World Health Organization's Expert Committee on Nursing (E/CN.6/162). The position in Lebanon left much to be desired, but the Government and the organizations concerned were fully aware of the importance of the matter and were trying to improve the position with regard to the professional training of nursing staff. There were four categories of nursing staff in Lebanon: auxiliary nurses, nurses who had to have had a secondary education before beginning their training, midwives and public health nurses. The responsible authorities were anxious to improve the standards of the nursing profession and the Commission could be sure that the Committee's report would be given all the attention it deserve in Lebanon.

/She felt

She felt that the Commission should approve the conclusions and recommendations in the Committee's report, which dealt with questions directly concerning the status of women.

Mrs. SEN (India) agreed with the remarks made in the Commission concerning the report of the WHO Expert Committee on Nursing. The recommendations in that report fell within the scope of the work of the Commission, which was responsible for promoting the status of women in all fields of human activity. That community of interests between the Commission and certain other organs of the United Nations should be noted with satisfaction.

The Committee's report rightly stressed the importance of the part played by nurses in planning and carrying out health programmes. It also brought out the important point that the problem of recruiting nursing staff was connected not only with conditions of employment but also with social progress and the development of education in the country concerned.

Thanks to the efforts of Miss Adranvala, a member of the WHO Expert Committee on Nursing, a federal Advisory Council on Nursing had been set up in India, in order to promote the recruitment of nursing staff, to raise the standard of the nursing profession and to improve its status.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) had read the report of the WHO Expert Committee on Nursing with great interest. In connexion with the remark made by the representative of the International Council of Nurses concerning the inclusion of nurses in teams of rehabilitation of sick persons and invalids, she stated that her experience with official programmes for the vocational rehabilitation of the handicapped had shown her the desirability of such a measure, since nurses had both the scientific knowledge and the understanding of social and psychological problems which enabled them to give very effective assistance to invalids who were obliged to wear prosthetic apparatus, former tuberculosis patients and other persons who had to be rehabilitated physically, socially and professionally.

The modern tendency of nearly all countries with regard to the training of nursing staff was to develop graduate schools for nurses. It was to be hoped that in the near future all university programmes would include nurses' training courses. Also, an attempt was being made to free probationers, as soon as possible, from scrubbing floors and similar dirty work, which in the past had often made it difficult to recruit nursing staff.

The importance of the part played by nurses in public health services could not be exaggerated. The United States of America was appointing many nurses to its public health services, especially at the higher levels. The United States unreservedly supported the recommendation of the Expert Committee that WHO should urge national health administrations to include among their administrative officers highly competent nurses with authority to assist in planning health services, to define the role of nursing in those services and to determine the nursing personnel requirements.

The United States also supported the recommendation of the Expert Committee that WHO should urge each Member Government to undertake (or continue) a study of their needs in nursing staff and of the existing supply of such staff, in order to prepare the recruitment of sufficiently numerous and qualified nursing staff to meet essential needs.

She stressed the importance of the collaboration of WHO, UNESCO and the Commission on the Status of Women in that connexion.

She emphasized the admirable devotion consistently shown by nursing staff and asked the Lebanese representative whether Moslem society approved of women's nursing in hospitals.

Mrs. TSAIDARIS (Greece) had listened with great interest to the United States representative's remarks on the part played by nurses in the rehabilitation of sick persons and invalids. In that connexion she recalled that Greece had benefited after the war by the advice of an American, Miss Bell Grieve who specialized in that field. Under the direction of Miss Grieve, an occupational therapy service had been set up in the Greek Red Cross which had been of great assistance to the wounded, invalids and sick persons.

/Mrs. JURDAK KHEURY

Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY (Lebanon) stated that in her country men were hardly ever employed in hospitals except as assistant nurses. In most of the neighbouring Moslem countries there were no objections to the presence of female nursing staff in hospitals, since generally speaking they were situated in rural communities where women were not veiled and mixed freely with men. Women were usually better suited to nursing work than men perhaps because they showed more understanding of sick persons. Nevertheless, the question raised by the United States representative was interesting and should perhaps be considered in connexion with towns.

She stressed the importance of the position of public health nurses in rural areas in her country; they not only cared for the sick, but trained and educated the whole population, often at the cost of great sacrifices.

It was obvious that by giving its unequivocal approval to the report of the Expert Committee, the Commission would not only help to raise the standard of the nursing profession, but would also give nurses valuable moral support.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of France, observed on the basis of her own experience in Moslem countries, that nursing was the profession most generally accepted for women in Moslem society. That tendency should be encouraged, since the profession offered great opportunities to young Moslem women.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Resolutions Committee could not study the draft resolution of the Dominican Republic concerning the consideration of a draft convention on the political rights of women (E/CN.6/L.31) at its afternoon meeting, because certain members had expressed the wish to reconsider certain aspects of the question. The Committee would, however, be able to consider the Cuban draft resolution on the political education of women (E/CN.6/L.36), the draft resolution on the nationality of married women (E/CN.6/L.32), perhaps a draft resolution on the legal status of women and finally the Greek draft resolution on the status of nurses (E/CN.6/L.29).

/Mrs. SEN

Mrs. SEN (India), Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, recalled that Lebanon, Mexico and the United States of America had submitted a draft resolution on advisory services for improvement of the status of women (E/CN.6/L.27), and wondered whether the Resolutions Committee would have to consider that draft too.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the text of that proposal might be combined with the Cuban draft resolution.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was surprised that the Chairman had not mentioned among the proposals to be considered by the Resolutions Committee the draft resolution of the USSR (E/CN.6/L.30) and that of Poland (E/CN.6/L.33), which both dealt with political rights of women and had been submitted to the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the rules of procedure.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the USSR representative had stated clearly that her draft resolution, if adopted, would make it unnecessary to draw up an international convention on the political rights of women. In view of the fact that the Commission had voted in favour of preparing an international convention on that subject, the USSR proposal had not been retained.

The Polish draft resolution dealt with the extremely general question of the defence of peace. The Commission had decided not to deal with that question, which lay outside its competence. It had therefore been impossible to consider the Polish proposal.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed ^{out} that to the best of her knowledge the Commission had never decided not to refer the USSR and Polish draft resolutions to the Resolutions Committee. She was therefore extremely surprised at the procedure adopted in the Commission.

The Polish draft resolution dealt with a problem which had a direct bearing on the question of the political rights of women. It should therefore be referred to the Resolutions Committee. The same applied to the USSR draft resolution.

/Mr. BORATYNSKI

Mr. BORATYNSKI (Poland) urged that the Polish draft resolution should be considered by the Resolutions Committee in accordance with the Commission's usual procedure and should then be referred, together with the Committee's opinion, back to the Commission, which would have to make the final decision.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) also wished to make some remarks concerning the USSR draft resolution. The delegations of Lebanon, Mexico and the United States of America had submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.26) on the political rights of women. She herself had even said that she would be prepared to substitute paragraph (b) of the USSR draft resolution for paragraph 3 of her own proposal. Nevertheless, by voting for the preparation of an international convention, the Commission had in effect rejected the USSR resolution (E/CN.6/L.30) and the joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.26), and the draft resolution of the Dominican Republic (E/CN.6/L.31) had been carried.

The CHAIRMAN feared there had been some misunderstanding in connexion with the USSR draft resolution. The draft resolution of the Dominican Republic, the USSR draft resolution and the joint proposal of Lebanon, Mexico and the United States of America had all been referred to the Resolutions Committee. She understood that the Resolutions Committee had taken as a basis of discussion the draft resolution of the Dominican Republic, which called for the preparation of an international convention on the political rights of women, but the Commission should not prejudge the decision of the Resolutions Committee; it should wait until it received the Committee's report before returning to that question.

Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY (Lebanon) and Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) endorsed the Chairman's remarks.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the position with regard to the Polish draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.33) was different. At its first meeting, the Commission had decided by 12 votes to 2 not to include in its agenda the question of the participation of women in the defence of peace, which had been proposed

been proposed by the Women's International Democratic Federation and re-introduced by the Polish delegation (E/CN.6/SR.82). The Polish draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.33), which dealt with the same question, was therefore not receivable.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not share the Chairman's views. The Commission had taken a decision on the proposal of the Women's International Democratic Federation to include a new item in the agenda, whereas the Polish draft resolution related to the question of the political rights of women, which had already been included in the Commission's agenda. The draft resolution was therefore perfectly in order and should be referred to the Resolutions Committee.

She reserved the right to raise that question and that of the USSR draft resolution in the Committee and to speak on the subject of her proposal in plenary meeting.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that delegations would have every opportunity of returning to any point in plenary meeting when a vote was taken on the draft resolution concerning the political rights of women.

With regard to the Polish draft resolution, she still thought that it was out of order following the Commission's previous decision. Nevertheless, she would like the Commission to make its own decision on the matter and would therefore put her interpretation of the position to the vote at the afternoon meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.