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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Fifth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,  
on Thursday, 10 May 1951, at 2.45 p.m.

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Chairman: Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX France

Rapporteur: Mrs. KHOURY Lebanon

<u>Members:</u>	Mrs. DALY	Australia
	Miss ZUNG	China
	Mrs. de GONZALEZ	Cuba
	Miss BERNARDINO	Dominican Republic
	Mrs. TSALDARIS	Greece
	Mrs. GUERY	Haiti
	Mrs. SEN	India
	Miss LAVALLE URBINA *	Mexico
	Miss PELETIER	Netherlands
	Mrs. DEMBINSKA	Poland
	Mrs. POPOVA	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Miss SUTHERLAND	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mrs. GOLDMAN	United States of America

Representative of an inter-governmental organization:

Mrs. ACUNA de CHACON Inter-American Commission of Women

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

<u>Category A:</u>	Miss KAHN	World Federation of Trade Unions(WFTU)
	Mrs. BERESFORD FOX )	World Federation of United Nations
	Mrs. SPRAGUE )	Associations (WFUNA)
<u>Category B:</u>	Mrs. DAYAL	All-India Women's Conference
	Miss GUTHRIE	International Alliance of Women
	Mrs. FREEMAN	International Council of Women and Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations
	Mrs. MANULLA	International Association of Penal Law and International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law
	Mrs. HYMER	International Federation of Business and Professional Women
	Mrs. SCHWARZENBACH )	International Federation of
	Miss LAGEMANN )	Friends of Young Women
	Mrs. EVANS )	International Federation of
	Miss McGILLICUDY )	University Women
	Miss ZIZZAMIA	International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues (IUCWL)
	Miss DINGMAN	International Union for Child Welfare

<u>Secretariat:</u> Mr. VAKIL	Representative of the Secretary-General
Mrs. TENISON-WOODS	Chief of the Section on the Status of Women
Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER	Secretary of the Commission

The CHAIRMAN announced that there was an exhibition of photographs in the delegates lounge which would show members of the Commission the part played by women in the Soviet Union.

DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DRAFT CONVENTION ON POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN (E/CN.6/L.47)  
(continued)

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) said that she attached great importance to the draft convention on political rights of women which was intended to help women in countries where such rights had not yet been granted. It was not easy to draft a convention and the text before the Commission was a result of the serious and purposeful work done by the Committee on Resolutions. As the adoption of that convention answered a most urgent need, she would withdraw her amendment but would vote with reservations on the last article which was not worded sufficiently clearly.

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) said that she had supported the amendment which had just been withdrawn but agreed with the reasons which had prompted the United States representative to withdraw it.

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) reminded the Commission that it had been required to ask for a draft convention of universal scope. As the Dominican Republic had been one of the signatories to the Bogota Act, it should have voted with the United States, but now that the United States representative had withdrawn her amendment, she reserved the right to vote as she pleased.

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) asked whether, in order to save time, the Indian representative would not withdraw her request for a vote by roll-call.

Mrs. SEN (India) complimented the United States representative on her gesture which was yet another proof of the spirit which animated women when they united in support of an idea. She therefore willingly withdrew her request.

The draft resolution was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

/Mrs. GOLDMAN

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) reminded the Commission that her Government had made reservations on the drafting of article 3.

THE PROBLEM OF GREEK CHILDREN (E/CN.6/L.54)

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) had hoped that there would be no further need to bring the problem of Greek children before the Commission again during the present year, but in view of the meager results of the steps which had been taken she wished to give the Commission some information which she would ask the Secretariat to amplify, so that the Commission could have an idea of the present situation. That problem had overwhelmed the women and mothers of Greece and had caused a wave of protests throughout the world. She had submitted to the Commission, at its last session, a detailed report on the brutal and forcible deportation of thousands of Greek children by Communist bands from neighbouring countries which had ravaged the territory of northern Greece at that time. Having taken note of the steps taken as a result of the 1948-49 General Assembly resolutions on the repatriation of those children, the Commission had adopted, on 18 May 1950, a resolution (E/CN.6/150) which it had requested the Economic and Social Council to transmit to the General Assembly. In that resolution the Commission expressed its confidence that the Secretary-General would submit to the General Assembly the urgent necessity of finding new ways for the solution of that very important question in case the countries detaining the children had not returned them. The Secretary-General had submitted a report on the matter (A/1480, A/1480/Add.1) to the General Assembly on 3 November 1950. At that time there had been hope of some progress as following an exchange of views between the Greek Red Cross, the Yugoslav Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross convoys of children had been prepared in Yugoslavia for return to their parents in Australia. Since then, that was to say, over a period of six months, Yugoslavia had sent twenty-five children to their parents in Australia and had returned seventy-five to their parents in Greece. Since the adoption of three successive General Assembly resolutions in 1948, 1949 and 1950 and after ceaseless efforts by the International Red Cross, only one hundred of the

of children thousands / carried off had been returned to their parents. She wished to be an optimist and to believe that Yugoslavia had taken the initial step to comply with the United Nations resolutions. But she could not help drawing the Commission's attention to the fact that none of the other countries detaining Greek children had shown any respect for the resolutions adopted in spite of the efforts of the International Red Cross which had always encountered innumerable obstacles and rebuffs. After giving those unsatisfactory data and figures, she hoped that the Secretariat report on the existing situation and on the steps taken would give a more encouraging picture for the immediate future.

Mr. VAKIL (Secretariat) said that the Economic and Social Council had officially transmitted the Commission's resolution to the General Assembly. The Secretary-General had pointed out more than once, in referring to that resolution, that apart from Yugoslavia none of the countries harbouring Greek children had taken any steps to comply with that resolution. The Secretary-General had expressed his firm conviction that the General Assembly would consider the situation as very grave and would again insist, in the name of humanity, on those children being returned to their families without delay. General Assembly resolution 382 C (V) had urged all States harbouring Greek children to make all necessary arrangements, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and International Red Cross Organizations, for the early return of the Greek children to their parents and, whenever necessary, to allow the International Red Cross Organizations free access to their territories for that purpose. The resolution had also established a Standing Committee to be composed of the representatives of Peru, Philippines and Sweden to consult with the representatives of the States concerned with a view to the early repatriation of the children. The Secretary-General had communicated that resolution to the countries concerned and to the Red Cross Organizations and had personally established contact with representatives of the International Red Cross in order to consider what might best be done.

/He said

He said that the Standing Committee had been informed of the progress of repatriation of children from Yugoslavia; a second convoy had already been repatriated and it was hoped that the operations would go forward more speedily during the coming summer. In the case of the other host countries, the International Red Cross was studying new ways of settling the problem in a humanitarian spirit divorced from any political and ideological considerations. He announced that as soon as the Secretary-General had been informed of the results of the International Red Cross' latest efforts, the Standing Committee would meet again to examine the latest developments and to take the necessary measures in accordance with its terms of reference from the General Assembly.

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) recalled that when the question of the repatriation of the Greek children had been discussed by the Political Committee during the last session of the General Assembly, she had been one of the first representatives to support the Assembly resolution which was adopted on 1 December 1950. After hearing the statements of the Greek representative and the representative of the Secretary-General, she felt that it was the duty of the Commission on the Status of Women to take note of the continuing tragedy of the situation and to express its sympathy with those Greek mothers who had been separated from their children for three years. She announced that in order that mothers everywhere should know that the Commission was concerning itself with solving that unhappy and complicated problem the delegation of the Dominican Republic together with the Lebanese delegation was submitting a draft resolution.

Mrs. TSAIDARIS (Greece) thanked the Secretary-General's representative for his statement and the Secretary-General and the various agencies for the steps they had taken. She asked the Commission to pursue its efforts, for the resolution of 1950 had led to a renewed and wider attempt to solve the question and concluded by thanking the representatives of the Dominican Republic and Lebanon for submitting their draft resolution.

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/Mrs. POPOVA

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the General Assembly had twice dealt in resolutions with the very human problem now before the Commission, but those resolutions had said that the children must be returned to Greece after the father, mother or close relatives of the child had expressed the wish for such action. Resolutions 288 (IV) and 382 (V) had confirmed the decisions adopted in that respect at the third session of the General Assembly. The conditions laid down in those resolutions were as a rule disregarded. Greek children were often returned to the Greek authorities against the wishes of their parents. She besought the members of the Commission to ask themselves what their feelings would be if their children were, unknown to them, returned to persons who hated their parents, and asked the representative of Greece on whose behalf she claimed to speak. It was her opinion that the children should be returned to their parents as soon as possible and she asked her colleagues on the Commission to work towards such a solution. Love for children was in the blood of the Soviet people which was a champion of family life. She therefore asked her colleagues on the Commission not to help to return to the Greek authorities children whose parents had probably met with a slow death in the prisons and concentration camps of Greece. The General Assembly had laid down the conditions on which the children were to be repatriated. They must only be returned with their parents' agreement.

She regretted she had not received a copy of the draft resolution which had been submitted by certain other delegations.

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) said that she spoke also as a mother, and recalled how public opinion in the United States reacted when a child was kidnapped. Many Greek children had been kidnapped, taken away from their homes and villages, and carried off to foreign countries. It was the horror of that situation which had led her to propose the draft resolution.

Mrs. TSAIDARIS (Greece) regretted that she was forced to point out once more that Mrs. Popova had been inaccurate. Greece had always complied with the provisions of the General Assembly resolution. Thousands of petitions had been addressed by parents to the Red Cross, which had not been authorized to send representatives into the countries bordering on Greece. Greece had complied with the provisions of the resolutions because Greece had placed its faith in the United Nations, not only in theory but also in practice.

She read out a statement made to the press by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 18 April 1951, during his visit to Athens. The Secretary-General said that he shared the feelings of the Greek people and had already devoted a great deal of effort to solving the problem. He recalled his interviews at Belgrade with Dr. Hamberg of the Swedish Red Cross and with high officials of the Yugoslav Government. He had said he thought that if his advice had been followed, the position would shortly be improved. He had recalled that he had also spoken on the matter with the Czechoslovak Government and with the Soviet Government in the previous April and May but that those interviews had yielded no results. He had said he would continue to approach them by all possible channels, asking them to regard the question as one of simple humanity having no connexion with ideological or political matters. The Greek representative asked her colleagues to put themselves for a moment in the place of those unhappy mothers bereft of their children for more than three years and unaware of their fate, and to imagine their anguish, their despair at the moment when only 75 mothers had at last succeeded in finding their children again.

Mrs. DEMBINSKA (Poland) said that the statements of the representatives of Greece and Lebanon showed that the question of the Greek children had been brought before the Commission for one very specific purpose which was simply to attack the People's Democracies. The People's Democracies had done their duty, they had welcomed the children and provided for their education; it was quite out of place to speak of kidnapping. She wished to emphasize the fact that the Polish delegation had always voted in favour of repatriating the children under the well-defined conditions accepted by the General Assembly that the children should only be sent back at the request of their parents, or, if they were dead, at the request of their other remaining close relatives. If the problem had not yet been settled, the fault lay with the Greek Government which was not carrying out the conditions imposed by the General Assembly. It was the terror which reigned in Greece which was the fundamental obstacle to reuniting the children and their parents. Requests had been made for children whose parents were living in another country and even for children living with their parents in other countries to be returned to Greece. The Yugoslav Government was acting in

/an inhumane



an inhumane way in returning children to Greece whose parents were not living there. In conclusion, she said that it was always reprehensible to seek political advantage in the sufferings of other people and in the case of the sufferings of children, it was a crime. The Polish Government would support any request to return children to their parents which met the conditions laid down by the General Assembly.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) associated herself with the draft resolution submitted by Lebanon and the Dominican Republic.

Mrs. TSAIDARIS (Greece) said in reply to the Polish representative that the seventy-five children returned by Yugoslavia had been received by the International Red Cross at the Yugoslav frontier and returned to their parents on the very next day, without any intervention by the Greek Government. She said that the education given to the Greek children by the People's Democracies was solely intended to make them forget their country, their language and their religion. In the camps in which they were kept the children had been subjected to a special system of education using communist teaching methods in order to break all their ties with their families and their country. Among the seventy-five children sent back, the youngest no longer spoke Greek on returning to their homeland. She recalled that UNSCOB had discovered that children of 14 had been subjected to military service and that several boys and even girls had been forced to fight with communist bands against their own country (A/935).

Miss SUPHERLAND (United Kingdom) was in favour of the draft resolution submitted by Lebanon and the Dominican Republic. She was shocked by the attitude of the Soviet Union and Poland which endeavoured to defend their attitude by declaring their readiness to return the children on the conditions laid down by the General Assembly. A government with any feeling of humanity would have had no need to await a General Assembly resolution before taking steps to return the children <sup>to their</sup> own countries <sup>and</sup> families. She wondered whether Mrs. Dembinska would have spoken in the same way when the Nazis were removing Polish children their own country and parents.

/Miss ZUNG

Miss ZUNG (China) said that she also was in favour of the draft resolution.

Mrs. SEN (India) supported the resolution and expressed her sympathy for Greece. The Indian delegation would support without hesitation any means of hastening the settlement of that tragic problem.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted that she would be unable to vote on the draft resolution. The resolution had been submitted only during the study of the matter and rule 51 of the rules of procedure stipulated that members of the Commission should be able to study a draft resolution before voting on it. She repeated that the USSR delegation had voted in favour of the General Assembly resolution demanding the return of the children to their parents.

Representatives members of the Commission would all vote in favour of the final return of the Greek children to their parents, with a truly humanitarian and noble intent, but the attacks on the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies were not conducive to an atmosphere of co-operation.

Mrs. TSAIDARIS (Greece) did not think that the Commission could not solve the problem. It was essential that the countries concerned should give effect to the United Nations resolutions, as Yugoslavia had already begun to do.

Miss DINGMAN (International Union for Child Welfare) stressed the interest taken by the organization which she represented in the question of the Greek children. She was convinced that only their families could give children the affection and security they needed, and was amazed that that problem, which had been essentially the same during the past three years, had not yet been solved. The General Conference of her organization had adopted a resolution on that matter at Stockholm in 1948 which it had repeated at its meeting in London in 1950. The Secretariat of the Organization, which was situated at Geneva, was taking an active interest in the question, in close co-operation with the Red Cross which was the only authority which could supply accurate information. The Union knew therefore that thousands of parents had made applications, but that only about 100 children had been sent back. The Union, which had thirty

years' experience, would continue to co-operate with the Red Cross. She expressed her profound sympathy with Greece and with the parents of the children and hoped that the future would see their families re-united.

Mrs. SCHWARZENBACH (International Federation of Friends of Young Women) said that the Central Office of the Federation, feeling that a number of Member States had violated a principle which was vital to women, namely the right of parents to care for their children, and that those States were keeping thousands of children away from their homes, expressed the hope that the Member and non-member States concerned would comply fully with their international obligations.

Mrs. FREEMAN (International Council of Women and Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations) expressed the Council's deep concern over the question and read out a resolution which it had adopted at Geneva on 3 April 1951, in which, noting that thousands of children were still kept far from their homes and that certain States had not respected their undertakings, it expressed its indignation and hoped that the problem would be promptly settled.

Mrs. SEN (India) wondered whether it was advisable to repeat the same phrase in practically identical terms in the second and third paragraphs of the preamble to the draft resolution submitted by Lebanon and the Dominican Republic (E/CN.6/L.54).

Mrs. TSAIDARIS (Greece), supported by Mr. VAKIL (Representative of the Secretary-General), pointed out that the second paragraph of the preamble dealt with the situation up to 1 December 1950 whereas the third paragraph related to the current situation and took into consideration the repatriation effected by Yugoslavia in March 1951.

The CHAIRMAN decided that the Lebanese-Dominican resolution would be put to the vote at the next meeting.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW (E/CN.6/165, E/CN.6/166)

Miss GUTHRIE (International Alliance of Women) wished to bring before the Commission a matter which seemed within the province of private law, namely the question of equality of marriage rights as between men and women such as it was set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in paragraph 1 of article 16. The International Alliance of Women had submitted to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva a resolution (E/CN.4/NGO.16) requesting that the principles set forth in paragraph 1 of article 16 should be included in the draft covenant on human rights.

She added that the International Council of Women wished to join with the International Alliance of Women in urging the Commission on the Status of Women to intervene in the matter.

Miss ZIZZAMIA (International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues) said the Union represented 166 affiliated organizations in sixty-five countries. She wished to report to the Commission on the status of married women in non-independent territories.

She had taken a study tour to Africa the preceding year during which she had traveled through about a dozen territories and had had an opportunity to speak with relatively cultured African women including teachers, midwives, social service workers, university students and housewives. In almost every case their main desire had been for adequate protection, through monogamy, of their personal dignity as women, wives and mothers and for protection against the surviving vestiges of practices such as polygamy bride price, especially where those customs had become abusive.

The Union was well aware that those questions were complicated and delicate and that conditions varied from one territory to another and from district to district, and it knew that those customs had their origins in economic and social conditions within the tribal systems. But she was merely expressing the convictions of educated African women when she affirmed, as she did, that those customs failed to take account of the dignity of woman as a human being. In the transition period between the tribal system and new methods of social organization, the consequences of those practices were degrading for women and prejudicial to the development of the people as a whole. Monogamy which protected the unity of the family, was the keystone of such development.

The Union, which enjoyed consultative status in category B, could not submit resolutions to the Commission or propose the insertion of items in its agenda, but it felt that it would be appropriate for the Commission on the Status of Women to take a stand on certain aspects of the question and adopt a resolution to that effect. The resolution might recommend the adoption of provisions designed to encourage monogamy, authorize the civil registration of only one marriage, make it impossible for those who had contracted monogamous marriage to revert to polygamy, make the consent of both parties a sine qua non of a valid marriage, establish a minimum age for both parties to marriage and put an end to the payment of a dowry being considered an essential to the validity of marriage. In case of compulsion, the law should recognize the right of appeal to an impartial court and should give paternal authority over children<sup>only</sup> to the legitimate father and mother.

The Union considered that the fundamental human rights and freedoms proclaimed in the United Nations Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should take precedence over indigenous customs in cases of divergency. The Union also believed that the process of evolution through education would receive impetus from appropriate legislation, particularly in view of the rapid changes occurring in the social field.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the representative of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues whose report showed evidence of exhaustive study.

Mrs. DAYAL (All-India Women's Conference) indicated that the organization which she represented was one of the few which had replied to the Secretary-General's questionnaire. Unfortunately its reply had arrived too late for inclusion in the document prepared by the Secretariat. The explanation was that the Indian Parliament had had before it a series of legislative texts affecting the status of women and it had been hoped that they could be adopted during the spring session. The new Indian Constitution established complete

equality between men and women. Inequality and discriminatory measures which could be traced back for thousands of years were now disappearing. The progress being made was the result of the efforts of women's organizations including, in particular, the All-India Women's Conference which had a committee sitting in New Delhi at the present time to supervise the adoption of new texts.

She expressed the hope that by the time the Commission held its next session, those texts would have been given force of law.

Mrs. HYMER (International Federation of Business and Professional Women) referred to the deep interest with which the Federation had received documents E/CN.6/165 and E/CN.6/166; the Federation would transmit those documents to the fifteen member federations that had replied to the simplified questionnaire which it had sent to them.

The Federation considered that the collection and diffusion of information was one of the most important tasks resulting from the grant of consultative status. Some of the fifteen member federations in question had engaged in special research covering, in particular, problems connected with private law. For example, the British Federation had concentrated its study on property relations of husband and wife, questions relating to the nursing profession and the application of fiscal laws to married women. The South African Federation had supplied information on discrimination established by law against European women. As many of the members of the Federation were independent workers, the Federation was primarily interested in laws, which in certain countries limited women's right to exercise a trade, industry or profession. She hoped that the Commission on the Status of Women would continue to fight for the elimination of discriminatory measures which still existed against women in such fields. The Federation recommended that the Commission should urge governments to make men and women equal before the law and to recognize their equality in practice. It also recommended that the Commission should encourage non-governmental organizations to bring to the notice of their governments any laws which the latter could adopt, amend or rescind so as to eliminate exceptional measures which applied to women, and to press for observance of laws granting equal recognition to women.

/Mrs. KHOURY

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) read the text of a draft resolution submitted by the Lebanese delegation in connexion with the status of women in private law (E/CN.6/L.55). That draft requested the Secretary-General to prepare for the sixth session of the Commission a report on various legal systems, based on replies of governments to Part III of the Questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women and a comparative analysis of the information supplied or obtained with respect to the matters covered under Section 1 (Personal Relations of Spouses) and Section 2 (Relations between Parents and Children) and Chapter III of the Preliminary Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of Women in Family Law.

Miss PELETIER (Netherlands) said that the statements made by representatives of non-governmental organizations on the question of the status of women in private law and the reports already submitted by those organizations had been of great interest to her. At its next session, when it had received all the reports, the Commission would certainly have a complete picture of the status of women in private law. At the same time, the Netherlands representative thought that it would be a good thing for the Commission to have the opinion of the various non-governmental organizations on the various legal systems as well as on any changes they might have to suggest in those systems.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) stated that non-governmental organizations were always entitled to transmit to the Secretariat written statements containing factual matter or proposals. The Secretariat was not required to publish such documents, but if a delegation formally requested that a document submitted by a non-governmental organization should be published as a United Nations document, the Secretariat always granted the request.

It would in fact be useful that at its next session the Commission should be in possession of a report by the Secretary-General and statements from non-governmental organizations.

/Miss PELETIER

Miss PELETIER (Netherlands) was of the opinion that the Commission should adopt a more direct approach and open an inquiry among the non-governmental organizations.

At its fourth session, the Commission had already requested governments and non-governmental organizations to reply to a questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women; in reply it had received two series of inevitably identical documents. To avoid such a contingency, the Netherlands representative proposed that the Lebanese draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.55) should be amended by adding a paragraph in which the Commission on the Status of Women would request the Secretary-General to prepare and circulate to non-governmental organizations a list of questions about family law and property rights and ask what changes they had to suggest in the various legal systems in order to put an end to discriminatory measures against women.

The replies sent by the organizations were certain to be of great value to the Commission's work while the organizations themselves would thereby have the impression of greater and more effective participation in its work.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) recalled that the Commission had earlier requested the Secretariat not to submit questionnaires to the organizations. If, however, the Commission gave it definite instructions on the matter, the Secretariat could draw up the list of questions requested by the Netherlands representative and transmit it to the non-governmental organizations.

She then read out the text of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.56) which included the Lebanese draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.55) and the amendment proposed by the Netherlands delegation.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Commission's main objective was to find out whether women were subject to discrimination. In her opinion, the comparative analysis that the Secretary-General would be asked to prepare under the terms of the draft resolution of Lebanon and of the

/Netherlands should



necessarily  
Netherlands should not/be limited to the two questions covered in paragraph (c) but should relate to other aspects of private law where replies showed the existence of discrimination against women.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) said that it would be difficult for the Secretariat to follow the suggestion of the United Kingdom representative. In her opinion, it would be better to restrict the scope of the draft resolution of Lebanon and the Netherlands to the analytical study under discussion; discrimination in the field of family law, whether in personal relations of spouses or relations between parents and children, was the source of all other discrimination practised against women in private law, in cases of adoption or guardianship for example.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) said that, if the Commission were to derive the greatest possible benefit from suggestions transmitted by non-governmental organizations all such suggestions should be received a certain time before the opening of the sixth session.

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) suggested that paragraph (a) of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.56) should specify that the Secretary-General should publish the replies received two months before the sixth session.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) supported that suggestion and added that it would be preferable to say "at least two months before the sixth session".

Mrs. FREEMAN (International Council of Women and Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations) said that the time-limit within which non-governmental organizations would send their replies and the actual contents of those replies would inevitably depend on the time allowed them to study the questions transmitted by the Secretary-General.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the draft resolution of Lebanon and the Netherlands (E/CN.6/L.56) would be put to the vote at the next meeting.

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

Mrs. TENISON-WOODS (Secretariat) felt it necessary, as the Commission was about to consider the programme of its future work, to call attention to the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 13 March 1951, in which the Council asked its commissions to review in 1951 their programmes for 1952 in the light of the criteria set forth in the Council's resolution 324 (XI) and to indicate, in recommending new projects, which programmes already in operation could be delayed, modified or abandoned so as to make sure that the economic and social work of the United Nations would be carried out most effectively (E/1451). She added that, in the interests of the Economic and Social Council, the request she had referred to should be interpreted with a certain amount of flexibility.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) was happy that the attention of the Commission had been drawn to the question of concentrating the efforts and resources of the United Nations. The United States delegation had always been fully aware of the need of avoiding unnecessary expense and extravagance, and of employing the resources of the United Nations in projects likely to give the best possible results. The Commission would certainly take that principle into account when contemplating the adoption of new programmes or undertaking new projects.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) said the programme of future work of the Commission should include the consideration of the annual memorandum of the Secretary-General on the political rights of women, as well as the report being prepared by UNESCO on the question of the access of women to education, and the report on the question of equal pay for equal work as between male and female labour which would be prepared after the International Labour Conference to be held in June 1951 had completed its deliberations.

/Besides those

Besides those various questions, the Commission would also have to study the replies to the questionnaire on the legal status and the salaries of women which should come to hand before 31 December 1951.

As this report was bound to result in lengthy discussion, it would seem better not to include too great a number of additional questions.

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon), Rapporteur, added that the Commission would also have to consider the reception given to the two conventions dealing respectively with the political rights of women and the nationality of married women which the Commission had forwarded to the Council for approval.

Mrs. DALY (Australia) proposed that the Commission should examine at its sixth session, the new documentation which it would have received by then on the question of participation of women in the work of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of specialized agencies and that it would therefore be necessary to foresee the inclusion of that question on the agenda.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the Commission had already adopted a resolution on that subject (E/CN.6/L.44).

Mrs. SEN (India) supported the proposal of the representative of Australia. The Secretary-General had so far never submitted any information on the number and proportion of women employed in the secretariats of the specialized agencies. In the case in point it was a question of an entirely new document and it would seem normal to include its study in the work which the Commission would undertake next year.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) emphasized the importance of the question of participation of women in the technical assistance programme undertaken by the United Nations in the economic and social fields and requested that that question should be retained among those which the Commission would consider.

/Mrs. BERNARDINO

Mrs. BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) paid a tribute to the able manner in which the Chief of the Status of Women Section and the Secretary of the Commission had assisted the Commission in its work.

She stressed the interest that the non-governmental organizations attending the meetings of the Commission found in the information contained in the United Nations "News Letter". She asked whether it would not be possible for the Secretariat to give that publication a wider circulation and particularly to have it distributed to all non-governmental organizations having consultative status.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) supported the suggestions of the representative of the Dominican Republic. The information furnished by the "News Letter" had been a valuable aid to her during the past year. She added that she had become aware of the fact that a number of documents which she had been able to study had not been placed at the disposal of other delegations represented on the Commission. She wondered whether it would not be possible for the Secretariat to call Commission members' attention to documents published by the United Nations on questions connected with their work. To that end, the Secretariat might publish a note in the "News Letter" calling attention to new publications and giving a short summary of their contents, or use any other method at its disposal.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) said that all United Nations documents bearing the notation "general" were automatically distributed to all delegations of States Members; members of the Commission wishing to familiarize themselves with them could do so by simply getting in touch with the Chiefs of their respective delegations. It was not for the Status of Women Section, which did not have adequate staff, to review all the documents published by the United Nations in order to select those which were of interest to the Commission.

Mrs. KHOURI (Lebanon) said that it was sometimes difficult for the members of the Commission to get into touch with the offices of their delegations in New York. She did not think it would be too difficult for the Secretariat to publish in the "News Letter" a short analysis of the documents likely to interest the Commission.

/Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) said that the Secretariat would do what it could to call attention in the "News Letter" to a certain number, if not all, of documents of interest to the Commission. She added that the United Nations published monthly lists of recent documents, and that those lists in which documents were classified by subject matter were sent to all delegations.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.