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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Fourth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTIETH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Thursday, 18 May 1950, at 11 a.m.

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<u>Chairman:</u>	Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX	France
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY	Lebanon

<u>Members:</u>	Miss McCORKINDALE	Australia
	Miss ZUNG	China
	Miss MORALES	Costa Rica
	Miss PEDERSEN	Denmark
	Mrs. TSALDARIS	Greece
	Mrs. SEN	India
	Mrs. CASTILLO LEDON	Mexico
	Mrs. PEKTAS	Turkey
	Miss SUTHERLAND	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mrs. GOLDMAN	United States of America
	Mrs. URDANETA	Venezuela

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Miss FAIRCHILD	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Miss CHATON	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:Category A:

Miss BERG	World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)
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Category B:

Mrs. RYDH)	International Alliance of Women
Mrs. van den BERG		
Mrs. HYMER)	International Federation of Business and Professional Women
Miss TOMLINSON		
Miss ROBB		International Federation of University Women
Miss GARTLAN		International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues
Miss ARNOLD		World's Young Women's Christian Association

<u>Also present:</u>	Mrs. MENDOZA de BARRET	Inter-American Commission of Women
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<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mrs. MYRDAL	Acting Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs
	Mrs. MENON	Secretary of the Commission

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME IN RELATION TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN

(E/CN.6/L.145, E/CN.6/L.24) (continued)

1. Mrs. MYRDAL (Acting Assistant Secretary-General) said that on the previous day the Commission had asked her for detailed information on the part played by women in the various technical assistance programmes. United Nations statistics showed the number of persons employed as experts in 1947, 1948 and 1949, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58 (I), as forty-four; seventeen of those were men and twenty-seven women. During those three years, in accordance with the same resolution, 414 scholarships had been granted by the United Nations, 257 to men and 157 to women. The statistics showed that so far some Governments had put forward no feminine candidates for those scholarships.
2. Women throughout the world could be encouraged to apply for scholarships direct to the United Nations, or to the international organizations or foundations which possessed funds for that purpose and which were listed in the UNESCO catalogue "Study Abroad".
3. Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY (Lebanon) said that she had listened with great interest to Mrs. Myrdal's statement, and asked whether there was much difference between the technical assistance programme which the United Nations was currently considering and the programme which had already been put into effect by the Department of Social Affairs.
4. Mrs. MYRDAL (Acting Assistant Secretary-General) replied that there was a considerable difference between the two programmes. The figures she had quoted naturally applied only to the programme which had already been put into effect.
5. The proposed expanded technical assistance programme was directed mainly towards economic development; comparatively fewer women would therefore be likely to take part in it.
6. At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mrs. URDANETA (Venezuela), Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read that Committee's draft resolution regarding technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women (E/CN.6/L.24).

/7. Miss PEDERSEN

7. Miss PEDERSEN (Denmark) reminded the Commission that at its preceding meeting she had objected to paragraph 4 of the Mexican draft resolution, upon which the draft just read by the Venezuelan representative was based; in view of the Resolutions Committee's amendments to that draft, however, she was prepared to accept paragraph 4 in the form in which it appeared in document E/CN.6/L.24.

8. Mrs. SEN (India), like the Danish representative, accepted paragraph 4 in the form in which it appeared in the draft resolution.

9. Miss CHATON (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) referring to paragraph 4, said that it was chiefly for the ILO to safeguard women workers against exploitation and to promote equal pay for equal work in areas being developed economically. It was difficult to see how the World Health Organization or UNESCO could take effective action in that matter. A definite line should be drawn between the spheres of activity of the various specialized agencies, and the reference in paragraph 4 to co-operation with specialized agencies, other than the ILO, should be deleted.

10. Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) said, in reply to the representative of UNESCO, that WHO, for example, could intervene on behalf of women workers if they were forced to work in conditions detrimental to their health, which was, unfortunately, too often the case. Paragraph 4 should, therefore, be retained in the form in which it appeared in the draft resolution.

11. Miss CHATON (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that in view of the United States representative's observation she would withdraw her remarks.

The draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.24) was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SITUATION OF WOMEN WHO WERE SUBJECTED TO SO-CALLED
SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS IN THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS (E/CN.6/L.23/Rev.1)

12. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the French delegation, said that she had noted the United States representative's observations on, and amendments to, the draft resolution she had submitted (E/CN.6/L.23).

13. She then read the revised text of the draft (E/CN.6/L.23/Rev.1).

14. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) said that her country felt deeply for the women who had been subjected to so-called scientific experiments in concentration camps. She would vote for the French draft resolution.

15. Miss PEDERSEN (Denmark) explained that her delegation was constantly exercised over whether or not the questions considered by the Commission were, in fact, within its competence. The situation referred to was heart-rending; nevertheless, it was difficult to regard the unfortunate women who had suffered in the concentration camps as having been discriminated against, since men too had been subjected to the same treatment. Her delegation was just as much shocked as the other delegations by the so-called scientific experiments, and felt^{as} deeply for the victims; she doubted, however, whether the Commission could do more than refer the matter to the competent bodies.

16. She referred to the plight of the university women still in displaced persons' camps, whom nobody had so far thought of helping. As the representative of the International Federation of University Women had told the Commission on the previous day, nearly 1400 of those women were still being kept in camps in deplorable conditions. She had intended bringing that question herself to the attention of the Commission, but had refrained from doing so as she had thought that it was a matter for the International Refugee Organization. Her delegation nevertheless felt that the treatment of those women was an example of real discrimination, whereas the situation of the survivors of the concentration camps was not. Subject to that reservation, she would vote for the revised French draft resolution.

/17. The CHAIRMAN

17. The CHAIRMAN remarked that it could equally be said that the treatment inflicted on women university graduates detained in camps was not an example of discrimination because male graduates were also confined there. The fact was that apparently only women had survived the so-called medical experiments carried out on prisoners in Nazi concentration camps. Furthermore, it seemed that the distinction was of merely secondary importance.

18. She personally regretted that the Commission had not taken up the problem alluded to by the representative of the International Federation of University Women when drafting the resolution concerning educational opportunities for women. In her opinion, moreover, the Commission's report should express the emotion felt by the members at the tragic situation of university women now held in camps.

19. Reverting to the draft resolution proposed by her delegation (E/CN.6/L.23/Rev.1), she pointed out that the text in its final form could not cause the members anxiety, since the Commission unfortunately was doing no more than calling the attention of the appropriate organs to the particularly distressing situation of certain women survivors of the concentration camps.

20. Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) thanked the representative of France for the explanations she had given. Like the representative of Denmark, she was inclined to believe that the problem was not within the Commission's competence.

21. The United States delegation had felt some doubts with regard to the original text of the draft resolution, which stated that "no steps have ever been taken" to ensure that women survivors of concentration camps "should receive the redress to which they are entitled" (E/CN.6/L.23). In the American Zone of Germany, however, a law had been promulgated in October 1949 providing that persons who, during the period from 30 January 1933 to 8 May 1945, had been subjected to ill-treatment because of their political convictions or because of considerations of race, religion or ideology and who had suffered either in person or in property, had a right to compensation. Nevertheless, the United States delegation realized fully that the situation of many women survivors of concentration camps was still distressing. She hoped that that grave problem would be solved in the coming year.

/22. Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY

22. Mrs. JURDAK KEOURY (Lebanon) agreed with the representative of the United States. She did not think it should be left to charitable organizations alone to care for survivors of concentration camps; other rational steps should be taken to help those unfortunate people.

23. The CHAIRMAN emphasized how grateful the women survivors of the concentration camps were to the Government of the United States of America for the measures it had taken to recover the documents giving details of the experiments to which they had been subjected. While the damage caused to their bodies was unfortunately only too obvious, its origin was still mysterious, and only when it was known would it be possible to take effective remedial measures.

The draft resolution as amended (E/CN.6/L.23/Rev.1) was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

24. Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) explained that she had not voted in favour of the draft resolution because she did not think the Commission was competent to deal with the question. In her opinion it would have been better to follow the procedure adopted during the previous session in regard to Arab refugees from Palestine, namely, to add to the report a paragraph giving an account of the debates on the subject.

25. She was not convinced that the methods suggested in the last paragraph of the draft were really constructive.

FIFTH SESSION

(A) Programme of work

26. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Commission's programme of work for the coming year arose on the one hand from its terms of reference, and on the other hand from the work it had already accomplished.

27. Reviewing the work accomplished by the Commission in the light of its terms of reference, she emphasized the importance of the results achieved.

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28. In the political field, it could be fairly stated that, without the pressure brought to bear on Governments by the Commission through the intermediary of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the political emancipation of women could never have progressed so rapidly. The proposals for the preparation of a convention on the subject were opening a new field of activity for the Commission.

29. The Commission had used very appropriate methods with regard to economic rights and educational opportunities for women, since it had had recourse to a great extent to the specialized agencies which were particularly well equipped to solve those problems. It could be justifiably claimed that the Commission had done very useful work in that field by drawing the attention of the specialized agencies, whose field of activity was so broad, to questions of particular concern to women.

30. She next emphasized that since, legally speaking at least, women were equal to men, they should not be content until all the women of the world had the same rights as men in all the aspects of human activity. There was thus still a great deal to do in that field.

31. Turning back to the programme of work, she pointed out that it covered questions which the Commission had already begun or continued studying during its current session. To those questions would be added the consideration of the new replies to the questionnaire and of the draft conventions. She asked whether the Commission considered it advisable to add new subjects and to decide upon priorities.

32. Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY (Lebanon) thought that the Commission should receive detailed reports for study at its fifth session on the problem of Greek children and on the steps taken to help women who had been subjected to so-called scientific experiments in the Nazi camps.

33. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) supported that suggestion, but said it was to be hoped that the question of the Greek children could be settled during the coming year.

34. Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) wished to emphasize the progress achieved by the Commission in its various fields of activity since it
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had been established.

35. With regard to the questionnaire, an important aspect of the Commission's work, it would be recalled that the first part, concerning public law, had been published in 1947. An analytical study of sections A and B, on the right to vote and on eligibility to public office had been published by the Secretariat in 1948. Analyses of section D, on educational opportunities, and section G, on nationality, had been published by the Secretariat in 1949 and 1950 respectively. A preliminary analysis had also been made of the fourth part of the questionnaire, on penal law, in 1950. It was anticipated that sections C, E and F, on eligibility to public office, civil rights and taxation would be studied in 1951, the third part, on family law, in 1952 and the second part on women's property rights in 1953.

36. In the field of political rights, in 1946 the General Assembly had adopted a resolution comprising a recommendation to Member States. The replies to the questionnaire had been studied and analyzed by the Secretariat in 1947 and the annual publication of a memorandum on the political rights of women had been authorized in 1948. That memorandum had appeared for the first time in 1949. In the same year a remarkable pamphlet had been published by the United Nations entitled "Political Rights of Women, 56 Years of Progress". The revised memorandum, which had appeared in 1950 (A/1163), and the report to this session of the Commission on discrimination in this field (E/CN.6/131), showed that since 1945 19 countries had granted the franchise to women. It also showed that 12 countries still did not allow women the franchise and that in 8 countries, although women had the right to vote, they were subject to stricter conditions than men before they could do so.

37. In that connexion, she wished to point out that in her own country there were still some States where women were not entitled to serve on juries. That was the only remaining legal inequality based solely on sex which still existed in her country and she hoped it would soon disappear. A member of the Women's Bureau was at that time discussing the question with one of the committees of Congress.

38. With regard to educational opportunities for women, a preliminary survey of the situation had been made in 1948. In 1949, authorization had been received for a plan to be carried out in co-operation with UNESCO and the first report made by that specialized agency had appeared in 1950. In that connexion, it was worthy of note that the Faculty of Law of Harvard University had recently decided for the first time to admit women students.

39. In the field of economic rights of women, the question of equal pay^{had} been referred by the Economic and Social Council to the International Labour Organisation, which had published a report on the subject and had made recommendations to Governments. It was expected that the ILO Conference to be held in 1950 would recommend the adoption of certain measures on the basis of the replies sent by Governments to the questionnaire.

40. With regard to social rights, the Commission had studied the question of the nationality of married women and the application of penal law to women. A study of the nationality of married women, authorized in 1948, had led to a preliminary discussion of the question in 1949; in 1950 the Commission had made recommendations concerning the preparation of a convention on the nationality of married women.

41. As a result of the studies on penal law authorized in 1949, the Commission had considered the question in 1950 and had made recommendations to the Social Commission.

42. With regard to human rights, the Commission on the Status of Women had been represented in the Commission on Human Rights during the preparation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the draft international covenant on human rights. Those two instruments recognized the principle that there should be no discrimination against women.

43. As for the eligibility of women to public office and their participation in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the General Assembly had adopted a resolution on the subject in 1948. Subsequently the Secretariat had carried out studies and in 1950 the Commission had considered the Secretary-General's report on the participation of women in the work of the United Nations, both in the Secretariat and in delegations.

44. In answer to a question from Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom), the CHAIRMAN explained that, as in the previous year, the Commission's programme of work would be the subject of a special chapter in its report to the Economic and Social Council.

/45. Miss SUTHERLAND

45. Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) thought that the chapter should contain as an introduction a summary of the Chairman's statement and the comments of the representative of the United States of America on the work accomplished by the Commission to date.
46. Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY (Lebanon) seconded the suggestion of the United Kingdom representative.
47. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) recalled that chapter 19 of the report of the Commission's third session mentioned the preparation and publication by the Secretary-General of a quarterly account of the activities of the various organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies connected with the status of women, and wondered whether it would be possible to publish such an account in 1951.
48. The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of France, thought that it would be very useful for the members of the Commission to receive, perhaps not every three months, which might be difficult, but twice a year, a letter from the Secretariat informing them of the work accomplished by other organs of the United Nations in fields connected with the status of women. Reference might be made to the Commission's wish that that should be done in the chapter of the report entitled "Programme of Work".
49. Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY (Lebanon) seconded the Chairman's proposal.
50. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) thought it would also be very desirable for the members of the Commission to be authorized to send the organization information on the situation in their own country, which might be published in the United Nations Bulletin.
51. Mrs. MYRDAL (Acting Assistant Secretary-General) said that the Secretariat would be very glad to receive such information from the members of the Commission. It might not always be possible to publish the information in the United Nations Bulletin, which had to deal with various other questions also, but it would nevertheless be made use of by the Secretariat.

52. Mrs. SEN (India) associated herself with the suggestions made by the Greek representative and the Chairman.

53. Miss McCORKINDALE (Australia) agreed that it would be very useful for the members of the Commission, after returning to their own countries, to be kept informed of the work carried out by the organs of the United Nations in fields related to that of the Commission on the Status of Women. The question would be quite in place in the chapter of the report on the programme of work. It was always possible that the members of the Commission might decide to examine some particular point at their next session as a result of the information thus received.

54. However, in her view, it would not be sufficient for members to receive a letter of information every six months, as the Chairman had suggested. The Secretariat should also send a letter to the members of the Commission every time that a question with some special bearing on the status of women was discussed by an organ of the United Nations. That would not only make it possible to keep the members of the Commission quite up to date regarding the work done by the Organization in their absence, but would also mean that it was publicized in the various countries.

55. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Commission agreed that the Rapporteur should be asked to indicate in the report that between sessions the Commission would like its members to receive letters from the Secretariat telling them of the work that had been done in fields connected with the status of women. The members would thus be able to inform the non-governmental organizations of the Organization's work in that field.

(b) Re-organization of the Secretariat

56. The CHAIRMAN wished to emphasize that in raising that question, the Commission did not intend in any way to criticize the Status of Women Section. In view of the fact that its field of action was both wide and important, the Commission would merely like to ask the Secretary-General whether it would be possible to enlarge the section of the Secretariat which worked for it.

/57. Mrs. SEN

57. Mrs. SEN (India) did not want to give grounds for thinking that the comments she was about to make regarding the reorganization of the Secretariat were any criticism of the Status of Women Section, which had done really excellent work.

58. She was forced to raise the question because of the difficulties which she, as a new member, had encountered at the current session of the Commission owing to the delay in publishing certain documents and distributing them to delegations. Some documents had only reached them after the opening of the fourth session. The members of the Commission, and particularly those without much experience of the Commission's work, would have liked to have time to examine those documents in detail.

59. The delay had had the further disadvantage of preventing governments from giving their representatives on the Commission specific instructions in certain cases. For example, the Indian delegation had had to consult its Government by cable on the question of nationality, and, being unable to use that method in connexion with other questions, it had been without instructions from its Government when the time came for discussion.

60. Of course, she was well aware that the Status of Women Section, whose capacity and devotion she had been able to appreciate, had done all that it could to avoid the delay, which was due apparently to lack of staff.

61. The suggestion that the Secretariat should send letters of information to members of the Commission between sessions would impose extra work on the Section and would apparently make it necessary to increase its staff.

62. She recalled that on 30 July 1949, when the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council had examined the question of expanding the Section, the United States representative had emphasized the need for the Commission to have adequate staff in order to be able to carry out the work the Council had entrusted to it. The United States proposal on the subject had been unanimously adopted.

63. She wondered whether certain appropriations which she understood the Council had approved, had been used to increase the staff of the Commission's Secretariat.

64. In conclusion Mrs. Sen emphasized the importance of the Commission's work. The Commission had great prestige in many countries, and in order to continue its work, and to assist women throughout the world, it must have adequate staff. There was consequently no reason why the Commission should not transmit a resolution to that effect to the higher organs.

/65. Mrs. MYRDAL

65. Mrs. MYRDAL (Acting Assistant Secretary-General) said that the Secretary-General was always glad to receive suggestions from the members of the different Commissions regarding the organization of the Secretariat sections which assisted them, and that he gave very careful consideration to such suggestions.

66. At its preceding session the Commission had requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of enlarging the section which provided the secretariat of the Commission to a division. According to the report of the Economic and Social Council, and the summary records of the Social Committee mentioned by the Indian representative, the Council had felt that the structure of the Secretariat was a matter within the competence of the Secretary-General, and had decided not to take any action in the matter.

67. In the statement to which the Indian representative had referred (E/C.7/SR.104) the United States representative had noted that the Commission could do its work properly only if assisted by an adequate staff, but that the problem should not be settled by a draft resolution in specific terms, which might encroach upon the Secretary-General's powers. The United States representative had therefore proposed that no action should be taken on the draft resolution given in the annex to document E/1316, page 32. The Social Committee had unanimously agreed with that view.

68. The Secretary-General could have no objection to expanding the secretariat of the Commission to a division if the Commission's programme of work justified such a measure. In present circumstances such a measure did not seem to be necessary or to be the best solution to the problem. Moreover, if such a measure were taken, financial questions would have to be settled; it would not merely be a matter of transferring the staff of the section to the new division, but for such a division there would have to be an administrative unit, the functions of which were currently performed by the administrative services of larger divisions in the Secretariat.

69. Further, the Secretariat staff currently working for the Commission on the Status of Women had been provided for in the 1949 budget. The 1950 budget provided for two more officials, but they had not yet been recruited, as the Secretary-General was trying to find the best qualified candidate for each post. She noted, in that connexion, that the adoption of the programme of work and definition of tasks at the current session would facilitate the Secretary-General's choice of staff. The Secretary-General believed that, with the

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larger staff, the section would be able satisfactorily to carry out the work required under the Commission's programme. Moreover, if the Commission's programme did not involve additional allocations from the budget, it would be more readily approved both by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly.

70. The CHAIRMAN, in the light of Mrs. Myrdal's statement and the Council's reaction to the Commission's proposal to expand the section assisting it, thought that it would be wiser not to adopt a draft resolution on the question, which was essentially within the Secretary-General's competence. It should be left to the Rapporteur to pay a tribute to the Secretariat in his report for the work it had done and for the valuable documents it had collected, and to indicate the desirability of the documents being published and circulated as soon as possible.

71. Mrs. MENON (Secretary of the Commission) said that the Secretariat had endeavoured to carry out its functions to the best of its ability and to provide the Commission with the fullest possible information on progress in the field of equal rights for women and on the implementation of the Commission's resolutions.

72. Many documents had been published and distributed about 15 March. Some, like the report on the programme of technical assistance, had dealt with matters which were of interest not only to the Commission on the Status of Women, but also to other United Nations Commissions and specialized agencies. In preparing documents of that kind, it had been necessary to enlist the co-operation of the various departments of the Secretariat, and that had involved some unavoidable delay, especially as, in the case of such problems such as availability of education for women, it had been necessary to consult some bodies which were at Lake Success and others which were in Paris. Mrs. Menon stressed the importance of the work done by UNESCO. Never before had an international organization carried out a comparative study like that made by UNESCO on the status of women throughout the world; that study took all Member States into account.

73. Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) said that her delegation much appreciated the high quality of the documents issued by the Secretariat. It was just because they were of such high quality it was important for them to be circulated in sufficient time for delegations to be able to consider them fully and in detail.

74. Mrs. SEN (India) shared the United States representative's view. It was important for documents to be circulated as early as possible so that delegations could study them carefully and make a constructive contribution to the discussion. She thanked Mrs. Myrdal for her statement, which showed that the proposed expansion of the section would enable the Secretariat to carry out its functions satisfactorily.

75. Miss CHATON (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that her organization regretted the slight delay in issuing a number of documents.

76. She urged delegations to press their Governments to reply to UNESCO questionnaires. UNESCO had sent questionnaires on education to seventy countries at the end of December 1949. By the end of April, 1950 only two countries had replied and UNESCO had not been able to carry out its plan to compile a complete and accurate table of statistics on the subject.

77. Mrs. TSAIDARIS (Greece) said that she might have been able to take some action as a member of the Greek Committee for UNESCO if she had been notified that the questionnaire had been sent. Members of the Commission could not speed up replies to questionnaires unless they were notified that they had been sent.

78. Miss ZUNG (China) wished to clarify an apparent misapprehension on the part of some members of the Commission. In withdrawing her draft resolution on the position of women in the United Nations, she had wished to demonstrate her confidence in the Secretary-General, who was responsible for dealing with the problem; she had not intended any criticism whatsoever of the Secretariat.

(c) -- Place of the next session of the Commission

79. The CHAIRMAN said that the results of the Beirut session had clearly shown the value of holding sessions away from Headquarters. The work accomplished by the Commission in direct contact with the women of countries where women did not yet enjoy equal political rights had been most productive. In view of the fact that

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sessions held in countries where women had not yet acquired equal political rights were the most effective and led to the most positive results, the Commission should consider the possibility of holding its next session away from Headquarters.

80. Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) agreed. She had expressed a similar view when the Commission was set up in 1946. The good results of the Commission's session in Beirut were still being felt in Lebanon and neighbouring countries. The women of Syria had obtained equal political rights as a result of the Beirut session.

81. Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) said that there could be no doubt that sessions of the Commission in countries where women had not yet achieved equal political rights made progress possible. She did not, however, think it wise to suggest that the Commission's next session should be held abroad. A number of financial questions would have to be settled; in particular, it would not be possible to provide services and documents available at Headquarters ^{existing budget} under the/ the Commission met elsewhere. Those documents and services were an important factor in the success of the Commission's work.

82. Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) agreed with the United Kingdom representative that it was advantageous to have the services available at Headquarters. Such considerations should not, however, deter the Commission from accepting an invitation to hold its session in other countries.

83. Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) also thought that the holding of sessions abroad was of considerable help to the cause of equal rights for women. The Commission's sessions were usually followed with keen interest. She had, for example, received from students from Germany a letter stating that the Commission's work had shown them the value of what had been accomplished in the direction of securing equal political rights for women and that in Germany women's organizations were collaborating with lawyers in redrafting the civil code with that object in view. They had asked if some of the Commission's documents could be made available to give an idea of how the problems on which they were engaged had been solved in the United Nations.

/84. If, however,

84. If, however, a session away from Headquarters was to be of value not only to the country in which it was held, but also to neighbouring countries, preparations must begin at least two years in advance to enable the various Governments concerned to make the necessary arrangements for their delegations and observers to be present. It therefore seemed premature to consider holding the next session abroad.

85. The CHAIRMAN said that the discussion showed that it seemed wiser to state in the report: first, that the Commission was aware of the good results of the Beirut session, and, secondly, that it would be desirable to consider holding another session away from Headquarters at an unspecified future date.

86. Mrs. de CASTILLO LEDON (Mexico) thought that that was the best procedure. In her view, however, the budgetary aspects of the question, to which the United Kingdom representative had drawn attention, should be borne in mind. When the Commission had held its session in Beirut, the Lebanese Government had assumed responsibility for part of the expenditure, which exceeded the cost of a session at Lake Success. A similar procedure seemed to be indicated for the next session away from Headquarters.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.