

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING

Held on Wednesday, 19 February 1947 at 10:30 a.m. at Lake Success, New York

- Chairman: Mrs. Bodil Begtrup (Denmark)
- Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Jessie M. Street (Australia)
- Rapporteur: Mrs. Uralova (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)
- Members: Mrs. New (China)
Mrs. De Echeverria (Costa Rica)
Mrs. Lefauchaux (France)
Miss Basterachea (Guatemala)
Mrs. Hamid Ali (India)
Mrs. De Castillo de Ledon (Mexico)
Mrs. Cosma (Syria)
Mrs. Popova (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
Miss Sutherland (United Kingdom)
Miss Kenyon (United States of America)
Mrs. Urdanieta (Venezuela)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

- Miss Rowe (ILO)
Miss Maass (UNESCO)

Consultants of Non-Governmental Organizations:

- Miss Speigel (WFTU)

- Secretariat: Mr. Humphrey (Director of the Division of Human Rights)
Mr. Lawson (Division of Human Rights)
Miss Bowerman (Secretary of the Commission)

The CHAIRMAN, opening the meeting, made an appeal for brevity and asked speakers to limit their remarks in order that the Commission's report might be finished in time to be submitted for consideration to the Economic and Social Council at its next session.

4P

/She welcomed

She welcomed the representatives of the women's organizations who had come to give information on the work and background of their institutions, and stressed the necessity for close contact with these organizations.

The Commission then heard the representatives of the following organizations:

International Democratic Federation of Women

Associated Country Women of the World

International Alliance of Women

International Co-operative Women's Guild

International Federation of University Women

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues

World Young Women's Christian Association

The CHAIRMAN thanked the representatives for their statements and for their desire to co-operate with the Commission on the Status of Women. She emphasized the importance of public opinion and the help which the action of women's organizations could give in this sphere.

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) requested that the texts of statements by the representatives of the women's organizations be circulated among the members of the Commission.

Mrs. STREET (Australia) considered the work and activities of these organizations an encouragement for the Commission.

She then recalled that the General Assembly had recommended the Economic and Social Council to grant consultative capacity to certain women's organizations. In the absence of any information concerning these organizations the Commission had decided to refer the question of granting such status to the Committee on arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations.

/Since this

Since this decision, the situation had been changed by the statements which the Commission had just heard. She hoped, consequently, that the decision taken might be re-considered, and asked the Commission to recommend the Economic and Social Council to grant consultative status to a liaison Committee of women's organizations as well as to the International Democratic Federation of Women by placing them in category (a). The former of these organizations would be the mouthpiece of a large number of women's organizations; whilst the latter was already striving after the same ideal as the Commission itself.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed agreement with the Australian representative. The International Federation was the most representative organization; it had contributed magnificently to the victory over Fascism, many of its members had been martyrs, and it was now fighting for equality of rights for women in all countries where this had not yet been achieved.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) opposed the Australian proposal: the Commission, she said, was not yet in a position to give an opinion on the granting of consultative status.

Miss KENYON (United States of America) thought that the Commission could not go back on the decision taken the previous week on the proposal of the Soviet representative, since the Commission did not yet possess sufficient information. Only one-half of the women's organizations had been able, through statements by their representatives, to inform the Commission of the aims they were pursuing, and the accounts heard by the Commission had been too brief to allow a decision of so great importance.

Mrs. URALOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) supported the Australian proposal.

Mrs. NEW (China) was against its being taken into consideration.

DECISION: The Australian representative's proposal was rejected by 6 votes to 3.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the Commission

/to consider

to consider the question of how she could give expression to her wish to enter into close relations with the International Federation of Women.

The CHAIRMAN stated that there was no provision in the Commission's agenda for considering such a procedure.

At the Chairman's suggestion, the Commission returned to the examination of that part of its report concerning specialized agencies.

DECISION: A re-draft of the paragraph on relations with UNESCO, which would draw the attention of UNESCO to paragraph (d) of section I of the report of the nuclear Commission (recommendations of the Commission concerning education) was adopted by 12 votes to 0.

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) pointed out a gap in the Commission's report: there was no mention of the possibility of collaboration with the International Refugee Organization, on which many refugee or deported women depended.

Mrs. STREET (Australia) remarked that the IRO was not a specialized agency.

Mr. LAWSON (Secretariat) said that this was true, but that steps would be taken to collaborate with the IRO and all the organizations concerned.

There was an exchange of views on the manner in which the various proposals before it would be incorporated in its conclusions.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested that the proposals submitted by members should be added to the report of the nuclear Commission.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) recalled that the report of the nuclear Commission had been adopted, since the Commission had approved it in substance. It was understood that no amendment would be made to it; proposals by members of the Commission would be in the form of resolutions.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of separate resolutions incorporating the recommendations made.

The meeting rose at 1:05 p.m.
