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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
HUMAN RIGHTS
Agenda item 5

DRAFT FIRST PROGRESS REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
(to be completed)

Rapporteur: Mr. Christopher D. BEEBY (New Zealand)

A/CONF.32/PC/L.9

English

Page 2

CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
I. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE	1 - 17
The International Conference on Human Rights	1 - 2
The Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights	3 - 6
First Series of meetings of the Preparatory Committee	7 - 13
Future meetings of the Committee	14
Co-operation with the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women	15 - 16
The first progress report of the Committee	17
II. SIGNIFICANCE AND CHARACTER OF THE CONFERENCE	18 - 23
III. AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE	24 - 29
IV. DOCUMENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE	30 - 36
Information from regional inter-governmental organizations and specialized agencies	31
Co-operation with UNITAR	32
Nature of the documentation for the Conference	33 - 34
Documentation regarding the evaluation of the effectiveness of methods used	35 - 36
V. DURATION, VENUE AND DATE OF THE CONFERENCE	37 - 40
Duration	38
Venue	39
Date	40
VI. PARTICIPATION - ORGANIZATION - RULES OF PROCEDURE	41 - 44
Participation	41 - 42
Organization of the Conference	43
Rules of procedure	44
VII. EXPENSES OF THE CONFERENCE	45 - 48

ANNEXES

I. TENTATIVE ESTIMATES OF THE COST OF THE CONFERENCE

I. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The 1968 International Conference on Human Rights

1. By resolution 1961 (XVIII), adopted on 12 December 1963, the General Assembly designated the year 1968, which will mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as the International Year for Human Rights. By resolution 2081 (XX), adopted on 20 December 1965, the Assembly reaffirmed its belief that 1968 should be devoted to intensive national and international efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights and also to an international review of achievements in this field. The Assembly expressed its conviction that the review could advantageously be carried out by means of an international conference and decided that an International Conference on Human Rights should be convened in 1968 "to promote further the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to develop and guarantee political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights and to end all discrimination and denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms on grounds of race, colour, sex, language or religion and in particular to permit the elimination of apartheid".

2. In paragraph 13 of resolution 2081 (XX), the purpose of the Conference was further described; it would:

"(a) Review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

"(b) Evaluate the effectiveness of the methods used by the United Nations in the field of human rights, especially with respect to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and the practice of the policy of apartheid; and

"(c) Formulate and prepare a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the celebrations of the International Year for Human Rights."

The Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights

3. In paragraph 14 of resolution 2081 (XX) the General Assembly established, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights, a Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights consisting of seventeen members,

A/CONF.32/PC/L.9

English

Page 4

"to complete the preparation for the Conference in 1968 and, in particular, to make proposals for the consideration of the General Assembly regarding the agenda, duration and venue of the Conference, and the means of defraying the expenses of the Conference, and to organize and direct the preparation of the necessary evaluation studies and other documentation".

4. In paragraph 17, the Preparatory Committee was requested "to report on the progress of the preparation in order that such reports might be considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions".

5. In paragraph 15, the President of the General Assembly was requested to appoint the members of the Preparatory Committee, eight of whom were to be States represented on the Commission on Human Rights and two of whom were to be States represented on the Commission on the Status of Women. In conformity with this request, the President of the General Assembly appointed the following Member States as members of the Preparatory Committee: Canada, France, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Somalia, Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. In paragraph 16 of the resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to appoint an Executive Secretary for the Conference from within the Secretariat and to provide the Preparatory Committee with all necessary assistance. In pursuance of this request, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Marc Schreiber, Director of the Division of Human Rights, as Executive Secretary of the Conference.

First series of meetings of the Preparatory Committee

7. The Preparatory Committee was convened by the Secretary-General on 9 May 1966 and held ten meetings between that date and 20 May 1966. A further series of meetings was held between _____ and _____ June for the purpose of approving this report.

8. The members of the Committee were represented by the following:

Canada:

Mr. Gilles Grondin
Miss Mary Fletcher (alternate)

France:

Mr. Yves Bouillet

India: Mr. Gopalaswami Parthasarathi
Mr. B.C. Mishra (alternate)
Mr. S.K. Singh (alternate)
Mr. K.P. Saksena (adviser)

Iran: Mr. Manouchehr Fartash
Mr. Morteza Jalili (alternate)

Italy: Mr. Mario Franzí
Mr. Carlo Maria Rossi Arnaud (alternate)
Mr. Giovanni Scolamiero (alternate)

Jamaica: Mr. E.R. Richardson
Mr. Gordon O. Wells (alternate)
Miss Angela E.V. King (adviser)

New Zealand: Mr. Christopher D. Beeby

Nigeria: Mr. A.A. Mohammed

Philippines: Mr. Salvador P. Lopez
Mr. Virgilio C. Nañagas (alternate)
Mr. Antonio J. Uy (adviser)

Poland: Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner
Mr. Bogdan Walewski (alternate)

Somalia: Mr. Abdulrahim Abby Farah
Mr. Mohamed Warsama (alternate)

Tunisia: Mr. Taiëb Slim
Mr. Mongi Sahli (alternate)
Mr. Hamdane Ben Aissa (alternate)

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mr. E.N. Nasinovsky
Mr. L.I. Verenikin (alternate)

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Mr. J.G. Taylor
Miss S.E. Harden (alternate)

United States of America: Mr. A. Edward Elmendorf
Mr. Russell G. Phipps (alternate)

Uruguay: Mr. Daniel Hugo Martins
Mr. Enrique Rodriguez Fabregat
Mr. Mateo Marques-Sere

Yugoslavia: Mr. Antun Duhaček
Mr. Zoran Lazarevic (alternate)

The Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations designated Mr. Naseem Mirza as an observer.

9. The specialized agencies were represented by the following:

Food and Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations (FAO):

Mr. Joseph Orr

International Labour Organisation (ILO):

Mr. Faisal M. Abdel-Rahman

United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Mr. Asdrubal Salsamendi

World Health Organization (WHO):

Mrs. Vera Kalm

10. At its first meeting, the Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman:

Mr. Taiëb Slim (Tunisia)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. Manouchehr Fartash (Iran)

Mr. E.R. Richardson (Jamaica)

Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner (Poland)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Christopher D. Beeby (New Zealand)

11. Mr. Marc Schreiber, Director of the Division of Human Rights and Executive Secretary of the International Conference on Human Rights, represented the Secretary-General. Mr. Valentin Romanov acted as Secretary of the Committee at its first to tenth meetings. Upon leaving United Nations Headquarters on another assignment, Mr. Romanov was replaced by

12. The Committee adopted the following agenda for this first series of its meetings (A/CONF.32/PC/2):

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Organization of the work of the Preparatory Committee

4. Preparations for the International Conference on Human Rights

(a) Agenda of the Conference

(b) Duration of the Conference

(c) Venue and date of the Conference

(d) Means of defraying the expenses of the Conference

(e) Organization of the preparation of the necessary evaluation studies and other documentation

(f) Preparation of the draft rules of procedure of the Conference

(g) Other questions relating to the preparation of the Conference

5. Report of the Preparatory Committee to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly concerning the progress of the preparation of the International Conference on Human Rights.

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13. In order to facilitate the work of the Committee, the Secretary-General submitted working papers on the following subjects: a summary of the actions taken by United Nations organs with regard to the holding of an international conference on human rights in 1968 (A/CONF.32/PC/L.1); extracts from the provisional records of the twentieth session of the General Assembly relating to the preparation of the Conference (A/CONF.32/PC/L.2); preliminary estimates of costs of the Conference (A/CONF.32/PC/L.3); and selected resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the question of convening international conferences (A/CONF.32/PC/L.5).

Future meetings of the Committee

14. The Committee, in considering the functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly, concluded that it would meet periodically until the time of the opening of the Conference, whenever such meetings appeared to be necessary in the light of developments affecting the preparation of the Conference. It authorized its Chairman to convene its meetings whenever appropriate, after consultation with the other officers.

Co-operation with the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women

15. The Committee noted resolution 7 (XXII) adopted on 1 April 1966 by the Commission on Human Rights, in which the Commission expressed "its willingness to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Preparatory Committee in completing the preparations for the International Conference on Human Rights in 1968", and invited the Preparatory Committee to keep it and the Commission on the Status of Women informed of developments relating to the Conference. The Preparatory Committee requested its Chairman to express to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights the Preparatory Committee's appreciation for its offer of co-operation and to inform him that the reports of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly on the progress of its work would be drawn to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. The Committee further requested the Secretariat to transmit to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and to the Chairman of the Commission

on the Status of Women all the documentation of the Committee, for such use as they might consider appropriate.

16. The Committee also gave consideration to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX), by which the Commission on the Status of Women was invited to participate and co-operate at every stage in the preparatory work for the International Year for Human Rights. The Committee noted resolution 16 (XIX) adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on 8 March 1966, by which the Commission stated that it "deems it essential that the topic of women's rights in the modern world should be included in the programme for the International Year for Human Rights". The view was expressed that at its next session in 1967 the Commission on the Status of Women might wish to give further consideration to the formulation of a proposal concerning a precise programme for the advancement of women which the Committee might consider for inclusion in the agenda of the Conference. The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee wrote to the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women, indicating the willingness of the Preparatory Committee to consider any proposals which the Commission on the Status of Women might wish to present on this subject, as well as any suggestions which the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women might have with regard to further co-operation between the Committee and the Commission.

The first progress report of the Committee

17. Having concluded its first examination of the questions referred to it by the General Assembly, the Preparatory Committee decided to submit this progress report to the General Assembly for consideration at its twenty-first regular session reserving, however, the possibility of submitting a supplementary report, should further broad agreements be reached among its members on matters relating to the Conference. The Preparatory Committee intends to continue its work during 1967 and submit a more complete report as to the preparation of the Conference to the twenty-second regular session of the General Assembly. The present report contains the generally agreed conclusions of the Preparatory Committee together with a brief indication of the divergent views expressed on issues before the Committee. The statements of individual delegations on items before the Preparatory Committee have been recorded in the summary records of the Committee (A/CONF.32/PC/SR.1-).

II. SIGNIFICANCE AND CHARACTER OF THE CONFERENCE

18. Before considering the agenda to be proposed for the Conference and other questions relating to its organization, the Preparatory Committee examined, taking as a point of departure the discussions previously held on these subjects in the General Assembly and other United Nations organs, the significance which should be attached to the Conference and the nature and character of its proceedings. The hope was expressed that the Conference would be an important step forward in the further promotion and development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and consequently, as stated in General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX), a contribution to the strengthening of peace throughout the world and to friendship between peoples. It was pointed out in this connexion that the United Nations had a threefold goal: to maintain peace, which was the responsibility of the Security Council and other political organs; to ensure that peace would improve the lot of all who are still living in poverty, which was the objective of the economic and social organs of the United Nations; and to ensure that peace and economic and social progress would be accompanied by increased respect for human dignity and greater freedom to mankind. The third goal was to some extent a corollary of the first two; thus far the United Nations had given insufficient attention to it and the Conference would provide the opportunity to focus world attention on the overriding importance which the United Nations attributed to human rights. The Conference might be therefore a milestone in the history of the United Nations; it would undoubtedly be the main international event of the International Year for Human Rights and should be so prepared as to have a beneficial impact on the whole course of the international effort in the field of human rights after 1968.

19. As prescribed by the General Assembly, the Conference would first review developments in the field of human rights over the past twenty years. This review, it was thought, should not merely catalogue the significant advances made at the international, regional and national levels. It should also identify the major obstacles encountered in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In this context mention was made of the fact that gross and systematic breaches of human rights and fundamental freedoms amounting to state policies would inevitably have to be discussed in a constructive manner.

The review would be of particular value if it emphasized the essential needs of the contemporary world. The Conference would also evaluate the effectiveness of the methods employed by the United Nations family in the field of human rights. On the basis of the review of progress and the evaluation of methods positive conclusions would be drawn and a programme for the future formulated. In terms of General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX) special attention would be devoted by the Conference to racial discrimination in general and apartheid in particular. These issues, it was hoped, would be discussed in terms of the special contribution which human rights programmes and techniques might make to their solution.

20. The view was expressed that in considering certain areas of human rights the Conference should not lose sight of the importance of international co-operation for the implementation of the Universal Declaration. This was a matter of particular importance to some of the developing countries which were struggling, in the face of poverty and unemployment, to provide work, education and an adequate standard of living for their nationals.

21. Particular importance was attached by the Committee to the need for the debates at the Conference to be conducted with moderation, restraint and objectivity in an atmosphere as free as possible from political recrimination. Purely political considerations should be avoided as they could be appropriately discussed in other forums of the United Nations and deliberation should be maintained on a high moral plane. A positive and constructive approach to the Conference on the part of all participants would do much to ensure its prestige and success.

22. It was stressed that the level of participation would greatly affect the nature of the debates and it was hoped that the Conference would bring together persons of eminence and recognized international stature, some of whom did not normally attend meetings of United Nations organs and who could make valuable contributions to a better understanding of the United Nations programmes in the field of human rights. The Conference would not be subordinate to any other United Nations body and should enjoy considerable independence. It could be expected that participants would take with them from the Conference a clear blueprint of further international action in the field of human rights and a new determination to emulate in their countries the positive achievements reported by other States.

23. Members agreed that if the Conference were to be as fruitful and as efficient as possible and thus contribute effectively to the attainment of the purposes proclaimed in the United Nations Charter in relation to human rights, it should be prepared with great care. In the following parts of this report the Committee outlines the preliminary conclusions it has reached on the organizational matters referred to it by the General Assembly. It hopes further to review these questions in the future and to present to the General Assembly more detailed conclusions.

III. AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE

24. One of the specific tasks of the Preparatory Committee, under General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX), is to make proposals regarding the agenda of the Conference. In considering this question, the Committee followed the guidelines laid down in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX) as quoted in paragraph 2 of this report.

25. The Preparatory Committee devoted a good deal of attention to the question of the extent to which the agenda of the Conference should be selective in character. Some representatives were of the view that the agenda should be comprehensive in the sense that it would permit a substantive consideration of the whole range of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It was suggested that although General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX) placed a special emphasis on the elimination of racial discrimination and the policy of apartheid it clearly contemplated that the Conference should be concerned with promoting all the principles contained in the Universal Declaration. To focus attention in the agenda of the Conference on certain areas of human rights to the exclusion of others would be to imply that some violations were less reprehensible than others.

26. Other representatives felt that in preparing the agenda the Committee should not be over-ambitious since the Conference would not have sufficient time to cover the whole field of human rights in any useful way. It would therefore be better to concentrate on the paramount issues of the day and on those human rights which were of crucial importance twenty years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration. If selections were not made the Conference would merely be a general debate on human rights. For the time being, therefore, the Committee should limit itself to indicating the major and essential issues to be included in the agenda, although this would not preclude the addition of other items at a later stage in time for consideration by the General Assembly in 1967. It was observed that even if the Conference decided to concentrate only on certain major issues participants might still be able to speak of other human rights since all were closely interrelated. Among the urgent and important questions which it was suggested should be included in the agenda at this stage were (i) the elimination of racial discrimination and of the policy of apartheid and (ii) the

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universal realization of the right to self-determination and the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples and their influence on the promotion of individual human rights and freedoms.

27. Other topics mentioned as deserving special consideration by the Conference were: a unified long-term programme for the rights of women; the rights of the child; the right to work and the rights of workers; the rights of minorities; and the eradication of slavery. Mention was also made of the need to ensure that a proper place was given to such important civil and political rights as freedom of speech, opinion and expression and freedom of the Press - which had a special bearing on the enjoyment of other rights and in particular freedom from racial discrimination - and the right to a free and fair trial and to freedom of movement.

28. There was general agreement in the Committee that the agenda of the Conference should be focused primarily on progress in the field of human rights at the international and, where appropriate, the regional levels. Progress at the national level, however, would certainly be touched on and there might be ways in which the international effort could be advanced by reference to the experience, techniques and institutions of individual countries. On the other hand, a detailed consideration by the Conference of the performance of individual countries might well raise delicate problems involving questions of national sovereignty. There would also be a difficulty in keeping a debate of this character within reasonable bounds in a Conference in which time would be limited. The suggestion was made that to the extent that participants in the Conference did deal with developments at the national level it was in general desirable that they should restrict themselves to the situation in their respective countries.

29. Specific proposals concerning the agenda of the Conference were made in working papers submitted by the United Kingdom (Working Paper No. 1), by India, Nigeria, Somalia, Tunisia and Yugoslavia (Working Paper No. 2), by Jamaica and Iran (Working Paper No. 3) and by the USSR (A/CONF.32/PC/L.4). These proposals, together with an oral suggestion made by the representative of Poland (A/CONF.32/PC/SR.6) were discussed in informal consultations between their sponsors and other delegations. Following these consultations the following proposal was approved by the Committee, on the understanding that it might be

added to as the work of the Preparatory Committee continued. It was suggested that it might be useful at a later date in accordance with the usual practice to prepare an annotated version of the final agenda of the Conference:

IV. DOCUMENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE

30. As prescribed by General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX), the Preparatory Committee examined the question of the documentation which it would be necessary to place at the disposal of the Conference.

Information from regional inter-governmental organizations and specialized agencies

31. The Committee noted in this connexion paragraph 8 of resolution 2081 (XX) under which "regional inter-governmental organizations with competence in the field" were invited by the General Assembly "to provide the International Conference envisaged for 1968 with full information on their accomplishments, programmes and other measures to realize protection of human rights". The hope was expressed that these organizations, as well as the specialized agencies, would submit information of interest to the Conference at an early date, in order to enable the participants in the Conference to study the relevant data sufficiently ahead of time.

Co-operation with UNITAR

32. In response to suggestions that the United Nations Institute for Training and Research might prepare certain studies which would be part of the documentation for the Conference, Mr. Gabriel d'Arboussier, Executive Director of the Institute, who attended the ninth and tenth meetings of the Preparatory Committee, stated that it was the policy of the Institute that its research programme should give a large place to human rights questions. The Institute was considering the preparation of a comprehensive comparative analysis of the measures taken at the international and national levels to combat racial discrimination. The Institute would also be ready to prepare a more general statement defining certain basic problems on which further research would be desirable with a view to achieving a more effective protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Institute, which was in a good position to undertake programmes in collaboration with institutions of higher learning and official bodies, would also be ready to consider preparing other studies, in addition to that on racial discrimination,

which may be suggested to it by the Committee. Members of the Committee expressed appreciation to the Executive Director of UNITAR for his statement.

Nature of the documentation for the Conference

33. The Committee felt generally that, while it was important that the Conference should have at its disposal useful and relevant data which would facilitate and accelerate its work, due account should be taken in the preparation of the necessary documentation of the need for economy of effort and of resources as well as of efficiency. The existing documentation on human rights questions which was available to the Secretariat should be fully utilized and assistance sought from UNITAR where appropriate.

34. It was agreed that, initially at least, two studies of a descriptive and factual character should be prepared corresponding to the first two guidelines contained in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX). The first would cover the measures taken within the United Nations in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the second would be concerned with the methods used by the United Nations in the field of human rights, especially with regard to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and the practice of the policy of apartheid. The latter study might include related proposals presented but not pursued. In response to a suggestion by one representative, the representative of the Secretary-General indicated that it would be possible for the Secretariat to prepare short preliminary reports by the middle of September; more complete versions would be ready in the first part of 1967 and further supplements might have to be issued before the opening of the Conference. The Committee left open the possibility of obtaining further factual reports from other sources at a later date.

Documentation regarding the evaluation of the effectiveness of methods used

35. Members of the Committee were divided as to whether the documentation for the Conference should include critical evaluations of methods and techniques used so far by the United Nations for the international protection of human rights and possibly also recommendations for their improvement. Some representatives considered that evaluation studies were an essential part of the preparation for

this aspect of the Conference and that this had already been recognized in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX). Such an undertaking might be inappropriate for the Secretariat and should be entrusted to outstanding experts conversant with questions of human rights and drawn from countries with different legal and social systems. Other representatives remarked that the task of evaluating the methods used by the United Nations in the field of human rights had been given to the Conference itself by the General Assembly in resolution 2081 (XX), and not to experts and that such a function could not be delegated. In this connexion it was stated that outsiders could not be called to judge the work of the United Nations, which was an Organization of sovereign States. They were, moreover, opposed to the use of independent consultants, not only for reasons of economy but also because, in their view, it was impossible to find independent experts who would be universally accepted as such. In any event, they felt that the Secretariat was fully qualified to assume the responsibility of the task of preparing all documentation required, as it had been following the course of activities by the United Nations in the field of human rights for twenty years and as it consisted of staff selected in accordance with the criteria of equitable geographical distribution, which ensured that all philosophical and political systems were represented.

36. The Committee agreed that broad latitude should be given to the Secretariat in preparing the documentation for the Conference under the general guidance of the Preparatory Committee. It felt that, where necessary, the Secretary-General would find inside and outside the Secretariat qualified persons with backgrounds in the various social and legal systems to assist in the preparatory work of the Conference, but who would work under his supervision and control.7

V. DURATION, VENUE AND DATE OF THE CONFERENCE

37. Mention was made of the fact that since the International Conference on Human Rights was the only special Conference for 1968 thus far formally approved by the General Assembly and a central feature of the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights, it might be expected to be given priority.

Duration

38. The Committee considered the question of the desirable duration of the Conference in the light of the range of questions which it was contemplated the Conference would cover. While some representatives felt that the Conference should be able to give adequate consideration to the items on its agenda over a period of two weeks, other representatives felt that because of the number of participants and the importance and complexity of the questions to be considered at least five weeks would be necessary. The majority of the Committee felt that three weeks, with a possible addition of a day or two, would be a reasonable duration for a conference of the type envisaged and would permit the active participation of outstanding personalities of international repute in the field of human rights.

Venue

39. The venue of the Conference was discussed in the light of a number of factors, including costs and the date (see para. 46 below). Some representatives expressed a preference for United Nations Headquarters in New York, others for the United Nations Office at Geneva. Other representatives had no strong preference as between New York and Geneva. It was agreed that the Committee would give due consideration to offers from Member States to act as hosts to the Conference, provided such offers were made within a reasonable time.

Date

40. As to the date of the Conference, most representatives felt that the Conference could not be held in conjunction with the General Assembly's twenty-third regular session but should be a separate event on which the attention of world public opinion would be fully focused. Some representatives suggested the month of May or June as the most appropriate, others expressed a preference for late summer, depending on the location decided upon.

VI. PARTICIPATION - ORGANIZATION - RULES OF PROCEDURE

Participation

41. The Committee agreed that delegations to the Conference should be composed of representatives freely chosen by their Governments. Several representatives expressed the hope that Governments would include in their delegations high-level experts in matters of human rights. Some representatives expressed the view that the work of the Conference should be made universal by the participation of all States.

42. The question of the participation in the Conference of representatives of the specialized agencies and certain governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights was left for future consideration. While some representatives attached much value to such participation, it was agreed that those not representing Governments could not be given equal status with governmental representatives. One representative objected to the participation of non-governmental organizations.

Organization of the Conference

43. The question of the committee structure of the Conference was given preliminary consideration. One representative felt that after the Conference elected its officers and heard general statements it would have to set up at least four committees to deal with the specific agenda items if they were to be dealt with thoroughly in a relatively limited time. Another representative suggested, on the contrary, that the work of the Conference could be most effectively performed by one committee of the whole, with possible addition of meetings of the Credentials Committee and of certain working groups. The majority of members considered that a minimum of four meetings daily would be necessary.

Rules of Procedure

44. The Committee decided to consider the question of the rules of procedure for the Conference in the course of the meetings it would hold in 1967. In the interval it requested the Secretariat to prepare draft rules based on those of other United Nations governmental conferences.

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VII. EXPENSES OF THE CONFERENCE

45. As directed by the General Assembly, the Committee considered the question of the means of defraying the expenses of the Conference. The Committee agreed that the expenses of the Conference should be met out of the regular budget of the United Nations and that appropriate provision in this respect should be made in the budget for 1967 and 1968. In accordance with United Nations practice, the cost of the travel and subsistence of representatives would be borne by the Governments concerned. Should an invitation from a Member State to act as host to the Conference be accepted, that Member State would be expected to bear the additional costs to the United Nations of holding the Conference on its territory.

46. At the request of the Committee, the Secretariat submitted tentative estimates of the cost of the Conference based on current costs at Headquarters and at the United Nations Office in Geneva; they were intended to give a general idea to the Committee as to the expenses involved. These tentative estimates are annexed to this report (annex I).

47. Some representatives stressed that if the Conference was to produce valuable results there must be assurance that all the necessary staff and services would be available. A proposal was made that there should be four rather than three working languages of the Conference, i.e., English, French, Russian and Spanish. In this connexion some representatives recalled the existing practice of the General Assembly. The effect on the estimates of the number of meetings held simultaneously each day and of the location of the Conference were discussed. It was noted that a conference held in Geneva would involve considerably higher expenses for the Organization than one held in New York, while a number of Governments might find it more economical to send their delegations to Geneva. One representative considered that the Secretariat functions of preparing and servicing the Conference could be assured by the Division of Human Rights and other existing services, if the Division of Human Rights could abandon or postpone some of its current activities. The Representative of the Secretary-General pointed out that the staff of the Division of Human Rights was fully occupied with current activities, which had been undertaken in pursuance of decisions of competent organs of the United Nations and that the Secretariat could not on its

own change the existing priorities in programmes of work. One representative pointed out that sizable savings would be effected if it were decided that subsidiary organs concerned with human rights were not to meet in 1968.

48. In reply to questions raised by members of the Committee, the Secretariat was requested to furnish additional information.
