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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-ninth session

Pre-sessional open-ended Working Group
on the Question of a Convention on the
Rights of the Child
24-28 January 1983
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF A CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Proposals submitted by the Baha'i International Community,
a non-governmental organization in consultative status with
the Economic and Social Council (category II), in accordance
with Council resolution 1296 (XLIV)

With reference to the Revised Draft Convention on the Rights of the Child (E/CN.4/1349), the Baha'i International Community proposes for consideration the following texts as articles 9 and 17 of the draft convention.

Article 9

In order to ensure to the child enjoyment of the benefits of mass communication systems, the States Parties to the present Convention shall:

- (a) encourage mass media agencies to disseminate information designed to promote the health and welfare of the child and the upbringing of the child in the spirit of article 17;
- (b) encourage mass media agencies to disseminate material of social and cultural benefit to the child and, as appropriate, to develop and disseminate programmes designed to support, supplement or enhance existing programmes of education and introduce new programmes designed to expand educational opportunities for the child;
- (c) encourage mass media agencies to disseminate their child-oriented programmes not only in the official language(s) of the State but also in the language(s) of the State's minority and indigenous groups;
- (d) encourage international co-operation in the production, exchange and dissemination of child-oriented material from a diversity of cultural and national sources;
- (e) encourage mass media agencies to develop guidelines to protect the child from written, printed, audio or visual material injurious to his physical or mental

health or to his social, spiritual or moral well-being, bearing in mind that, in accordance with article 8, the primary responsibility for such protection rests with the parents or guardians of the child.

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Article 17

1. In addition to academic education, the child shall be entitled to receive guidance, training and education designed to promote his social, spiritual and moral development and well-being.
2. The fundamental objectives of such guidance, training and education shall be:
 - (a) to promote the harmonious development of the personality of the child;
 - (b) to promote the realization of the full potential of the child;
 - (c) to protect the child by developing his ability to resist outside influences or pressures likely to lead him into lawlessness or delinquency, or into practices injurious to his physical or mental health or to his social, spiritual or moral well-being;
 - (d) to prepare the child to exercise the rights and undertake the responsibilities of adult life in a manner consistent both with his own well-being and with the well-being of others;
 - (e) to foster in the child a respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - (f) to nurture in the child an attitude of understanding, respect and friendship towards all people, regardless of race, sex, class, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief;
 - (g) to foster in the child an awareness of and a desire to promote the principles of universal peace and brotherhood proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations.
3. The States Parties to the present Convention, bearing in mind that, in accordance with article 8, the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child rests with his parents or guardians, shall use their best efforts to:
 - (a) raise the level of public awareness of the importance of the social, spiritual and moral education of the child, particularly during his early years;
 - (b) promote recognition and understanding by all those concerned with the upbringing of the child, most particularly his parents or guardians, of their indispensable role, and the primary importance of their example, in the social, spiritual and moral development of the child;
 - (c) encourage schools to develop guidelines and courses of instruction designed to foster the social, spiritual and moral development of the child.