

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL
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ET SOCIAL**E/CN.4/27
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS

Note by the Secretary-General

The Economic and Social Council, at its fifth session on 5 August 1947 adopted the following resolution (No.75(V)) relating to communications concerning human rights:

"THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

HAVING CONSIDERED Chapter V of the Report of the First Session of the Commission on Human Rights Concerning Communications (E/259),

APPROVES the statement that "the Commission recognizes that it has no power to take any action in regard to any complaints concerning human rights",

REQUESTS the Secretary-General

(a) to compile a confidential list of communications received concerning human rights before each session of the Commission, with a brief indication of the substance of each;

(b) to furnish this confidential list to the Commission, in private meeting, without divulging the identity of the authors of the communications;

(c) to enable the members of the Commission, upon request, to consult the originals of communications dealing with the principles involved in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights;

(d) to inform the writers of all communications concerning human rights, however addressed, that their communications have been received and duly noted for consideration in accordance with the procedure laid down by the United Nations. Where necessary, the Secretary-General should indicate that the Commission has no power to take any action in regard to any complaint concerning human rights;

(e) to furnish each member State not represented on the Commission with a brief indication of the substance of any

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communication concerning human rights which refers explicitly to that State or to territories under its jurisdiction without divulging the identity of the author;

SUGGESTS to the Commission on Human Rights that it should at each session appoint an ad hoc committee to meet shortly before the next session of the Commission for the purpose of reviewing the confidential list of communications prepared by the Secretary-General under paragraph (a) above and of recommending which of these communications, in original, should, in accordance with paragraph (c) above, be made available to members of the Commission on request."

The question of communications relating to Trust territories was referred to the Joint Committee of the Economic and Social Council and Trusteeship Council, which made recommendations as follows:

"It is recommended, as a matter of principle, that all petitions to Organs of the United Nations (such as petitions on Human Rights or on the Status of Women) which emanate from, or relate to conditions in, any Trust Territory should be dealt with by the Trusteeship Council in accordance with paragraph (b) of Article 87 of the Charter.

In order that such petitions may be processed with the minimum delay, they should be communicated immediately to that part of the Secretariat of the United Nations assigned to the Trusteeship Council.

It is recommended that the Trusteeship Council should then communicate to the appropriate Commissions for such assistance as the Council may desire under Article 91 of the Charter, those parts of such petitions as relate to matters which are the Commission's special concern. It is recommended also that the Trusteeship Council should communicate to the appropriate Commissions those petitions which it may receive direct and which may contain matters of concern to them.

It is further recommended that, when the Trusteeship Council comes to consider petitions concerning Human Rights or the Status of Women which may be referred to it in accordance with the procedure recommended above, the Trusteeship Council should give consideration to the extent to which the procedure for dealing with such petitions prescribed by the Economic and Social Council in its

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resolution of 5 August 1947 (E/505, E/521) can be followed.

The right of the Commissions concerned to take cognizance of petitions in accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions is recognized, and their comments thereon should be welcomed."

(E&T/C.1/2)

The Economic and Social Council submitted this report together with the views expressed by members of the Council (E/P.V.119) to the Trusteeship Council.
