

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifth session

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Article 8 - Provision concerning minor communal services

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has received the following letter dated 10 March 1949 from the Director-General of the International Labour Office.

The suggested text contained in the following letter replaces the suggestion which the representative of the International Labour Office made to the Drafting Committee of the Commission on Human Rights at its second session and which is quoted in the Note to article 8 of annex B of the report of the third session of the Commission on Human Rights (document E/800).

"10 March 1949

"I have the honour to refer to resolution 116 (VI) of the Economic and Social Council, in which the Council requests the International Labour Organisation to consider and report on paragraph 3 (c) of article 8 of the draft International Covenant on Human Rights at an early date.

"I have the honour to inform you that the Governing Body considered this question at its 108th session and asked me to communicate to you the following suggested revision of the proposed text of the draft Covenant:

'Delete paragraph 3 (c) of article 8 in its present form, substituting the following new paragraph 4: "In communities in which it is traditional to perform local services in the interest of the community, such as services on minor public works or for transport of public officials and stores, these services shall be permitted but they shall be abolished in the shortest time possible.'

"The Governing Body has also authorized me to state that the ILO contemplates further consideration of the question of forced labour, which may possibly involve proposals for the revision of the Forced Labour Convention of 1930, and that the ILO may therefore be in a position to furnish additional comments to the United Nations on this question in due course."