

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 217 (III)

REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS

(Items 5, 6 and 8 of the provisional agenda, E/CN.4/161)

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to draw the attention of the Commission on Human Rights to resolution 217 (III) which was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948.

In its resolution 191 (VIII) of 9 February 1949 (document E/1162), the Economic and Social Council transmitted Parts B (Right of Petition), C (Fate of Minorities) and E (Preparation of a Draft Convention on Human Rights and Draft Measures of Implementation) of this General Assembly resolution to the Commission on Human Rights for the action contemplated therein. Parts B, C and E of the General Assembly resolution read as follows:

## B

## RIGHT OF PETITION

The General Assembly,

Considering that the right of petition is an essential human right, as is recognized in the Constitutions of a great number of countries,

Having Considered the draft article on petitions in document A/C.3/306 and the amendments offered thereto by Cuba and France,

Decides not to take any action on this matter at the present session;

Requests the Economic and Social Council to ask the Commission on Human Rights to give further examination to the problem of petitions when studying the draft covenant on human rights and measures of implementation, in order to enable the General Assembly to consider ~~what~~ further action, if any, should be taken at its next regular session regarding the problem of petitions.

## C

## FATE OF MINORITIES

The General Assembly,

Considering that the United Nations cannot remain indifferent to the fate of minorities,

/Considering

Considering that it is difficult to adopt a uniform solution of this complex and delicate question, which has special aspects in each State in which it arises,

Considering the universal character of the Declaration of Human Rights,  
Decides not to deal in a specific provision with the question of minorities in the text of this Declaration;

Refers to the Economic and Social Council the texts submitted by the delegations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia and Denmark on this subject contained in document A/C.3/307/Rev.2, and requests the Council to ask the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities to make a thorough study of the problem of minorities, in order that the United Nations may be able to take effective measures for the protection of racial, national, religious or linguistic minorities.

E

PREPARATION OF A DRAFT COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
DRAFT MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

The General Assembly,

Considering that the plan of work of the Commission on Human Rights provides for an International Bill of Human Rights, to include a Declaration, a Covenant on Human Rights and measures of implementation,

Requests the Economic and Social Council to ask the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give priority in its work to the preparation of a draft Covenant on Human Rights and draft measures of implementation.

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