



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/694/Add.3
20 January 1954

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Tenth Session

*DRAFT INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AND MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATIONS*

Observations of governments received by the Secretary-General
pursuant to Economic and Social Council Resolution 501 B (XVI)

United States of America

(Note of 6 January 1954 to the Secretary-General from the acting
representative of the United States of America to the United Nations)

The Acting Representatives of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in response to the Secretary-General's note SOA 317/1/01 (1) of **19 August** 1953, inviting the United States Government to submit its observations on the draft Covenants on Human Rights, has the honour to transmit the following general observations of his Government concerning those aspects of the draft Covenants which will be considered at the next session of the Commission on Human Rights, opening in New York on **22 February** 1954, noting at the same time, as pointed out by the United States Representative to the 1953 session of the Commission, that the United States does not intend to sign or ratify the proposed Covenants.

1. The General Assembly at its Eighth Session requested the Secretary-General to transmit certain documents to the next session of the Commission concerning the inclusion of a Federal state article in the Covenants on Human Rights. For the reasons stated by the United States Delegation in the Third Committee of the General Assembly, it is the view of the United States Government that such an article should be included in the two Covenants.

2. The General Assembly at its Eighth Session transmitted a draft resolution to the next session of the Commission concerning the inclusion of provisions in the Covenants on Human Rights on petitions from individuals, groups and non-governmental organizations. It is the view of the United States Government that such provisions should not be included in the Covenants and that provisions on complaints concerning alleged violations of the Covenants should be limited to governments parties to the Covenants.

3. On reporting, it is the view of the United States Government that provisions should be made in both Covenants for reporting on compliance with the obligations of the Covenants. The provisions on reporting in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights should be along less complex lines than the provisions already drafted for the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

4. With respect to additional articles for the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United States Government wishes to point out that the right to own property is important and that an article recognizing this right should accordingly be included in this Covenant.

5. On reservations, the United States Government's view is that a reservations article should be included in each Covenant on Human Rights providing for the admissibility of reservations submitted by a State adhering to the Covenants.

The above observations are of a general nature only, and the United States Government will present further views on these articles at the next session of the Commission on Human Rights.

The United States Government is not undertaking at this time to comment on other articles of the draft Covenants on Human Rights and accordingly reserves its right to do so when these articles are considered in the Commission on Human Rights and other bodies of the United Nations.
