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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Second Session

CORRIGENDUM TO THE SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FORTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Friday, 21 May 1948, at 10.30 a.m.

On page 8, in the remarks attributed to Mr. WILSON (United Kingdom), delete the last sentence in the first paragraph, and read as follows:

"The question had already been discussed by the General Assembly in connection with a similar article in the Conventions for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children and in Obscene Publications".

The second paragraph should be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"At the time at which the inclusion of a Colonial Application article in the above Conventions was being debated, the United Kingdom representative had pointed out that the purpose of the article was to enable the accession of a Metropolitan Government to an international agreement to be made independently of the accessions of the territories for whose international relations it was responsible. The United Kingdom did not prepare in London the legislation necessary to bring international agreements into force in its colonial territories. Those territories were responsible for their own legislation and the decision as to whether or not an international agreement should be applied to them was one which they themselves must take. The inclusion of a Colonial Application Clause enabled the States responsible

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for the international relations of those territories to accede separately and without delay on their own behalf, and then to make a separate accession on behalf of their colonial territories if the Governments of those territories indicated their consent. This practice was in the best interests of the territories in question since it accorded with constitutional practice that whether the people of the territory enjoyed a restricted or a wide degree of autonomy, they should have the opportunity of expressing their views on the law and administration of their territory. Any other attitude was reactionary and would only be a setback to the progress of the colonial territories towards self-government.