

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
SUMMARY RECORD OF MEETINGS****TWELFTH MEETING**

Held on Monday, 13 May 1946, at 2:00 P.M.

Chairman: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Chairman opened the meeting by stating that the Commission had reviewed most of the items on its agenda (E/ER/5) and that under Item 10: - Suggestions concerning Establishments of Sub-commissions - it had decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the establishment of a Sub-commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, in addition to the already existing Sub-commission on the Status of Women.

She pointed out that the work of the Sub-commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press would be fundamental and of greatest importance to the work of the Commission on Human Rights.

Dr. Hsia stated that in recommending only one additional sub-commission, the Commission would have a great many of the problems which had been referred to it in its terms of reference, left for study by the full Commission. He questioned whether Point II(c) (of E/27), namely, the protection of minorities, should be taken up by the Economic and Social Council, or whether it might not be better to create a sub-commission, perhaps directly under the General Assembly.

The Chairman stressed that the Economic and Social Council was of equal importance as the Security Council and that its task was of a preventive nature, while the Security Council had authority to act in emergencies. She felt that the full Commission would have to decide itself if at any time it could not meet its obligations under the present organizational set-up.

Dr. Hsia accepted the Chairman's suggestion, but proposed that the Commission's report to the Economic and Social Council should include a

statement that the Commission realized that some of its recommendations might make political action necessary.

M. Cassin felt that it had been wise to recommend only one additional sub-commission and that the full Commission itself should decide whether more sub-commissions should be needed in the future.

Mr. Brkish suggested that it might be necessary to consider a third sub-commission which would deal with the prevention of discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, language, or religion (E/27, 2(d)).

As the Commission had already voted to recommend only one additional sub-commission, Mr. Brkish accepted, and the members of the Commission unanimously agreed upon a recommendation by M. Cassin, that the Secretariat should be instructed to collect all available information on the problem of discrimination.

The Chairman thereupon read the following statement by Dr. Hsia, which he wished to have included in the final report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council:

"The Commission recognized that when the Economic and Social Council comes to consider the question of how to implement an international bill of rights or how to afford protection to national minorities, it may find that political actions are necessary. The Commission therefore requests the Economic and Social Council to take this problem into consideration in determining the status and powers of the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-commissions."

Mr. Neogy felt that the Commission on Human Rights was serving only in an advisory capacity and had no executive power, but the Chairman suggested that this point be discussed in the final report, which, as a whole, would have to be taken up by the Commission.

In considering Item 12 of the agenda (E/HR/5), dealing with programme of future work, the Chairman pointed out that the Commission had already decided on its recommendations for future work.

The Commission then returned to the consideration of Item 7 of the agenda (E/HR/5): - Review of Terms of Reference - (Document E/27).

M. Cassin suggested that the Secretariat might also be asked to start a collection of documents pertaining to minorities (E/27, Section A, Point 2(c)). He also proposed that under Section B, Point 4, of E/27, the Commission might want to recommend inclusion of its previous recommendation dealing with provision for an agency of implementation.

Dr. Hsia again stressed that Article 15(e), (Page 36, Report of the Preparatory Commission) had been covered only in a very general way by Section A, Point 2(b) of E/27, and that, therefore, the Commission's report to the Economic and Social Council should stress the importance of including (e) - though perhaps not in detail, into the terms of reference.

M. Cassin suggested that, as Article 15(e) (Page 36, Report of the Preparatory Commission) covered matters which would be taken up by other Commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as by the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Human Rights should recommend to the Council that it wishes to be informed about the work accomplished by other Commissions in regard to problems mentioned under Article 15(e) (Page 36, Report of the Preparatory Commission).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.
