

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Monday,
3 February 1947 at 2:30 p.m.

Present:

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| Chairman: | Mrs. Roosevelt | (United States of America) |
| Vice-Chairman: | Dr. Chang | (China) |
| Rapporteur: | Mr. Malik | (Lebanon) |
| Members: | Colonel Hodgson | (Australia) |
| | Mr. Kaminsky | (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) |
| | Mr. Del Rio | (Chile) |
| | Mr. Ebeid | (Egypt) |
| | Professor Cassin | (France) |
| | Mrs. Mehta | (India) |
| | Mr. Chani | (Iran) |
| | Mr. Tepliakov | (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) |
| | Major Dukes | (United Kingdom) |
| | Mr. Mora | (Uruguay) |
| | Mr. Ribnikar | (Yugoslavia) |
| Alternates: | Mr. Lebeau | (Belgium) |
| | Mr. Guardia | (Panama) |
| Representatives of Specialized Agencies: | | |
| | Mr. Hutchison | (International Labour Organization) |
| | Mr. Carnes | (UNESCO) |
| Non-Governmental Organizations: | | |
| Consultants: | Miss Spiegel | (World Federation of Trade Unions) |
| | Mr. Teper | (American Federation of Labor) |
| Secretariat: | Professor Humphrey | (Secretary of the Commission) |

Discussion and Vote on the Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights
the Subject of Formulating a Preliminary Draft International Bill of
Human Rights

/The CHAIR

The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the end of the morning meeting a Committee, composed of the representatives of France, Yugoslavia and Lebanon, had been formed to draft a resolution on the drawing up of an International Bill of Human Rights.

The Chairman then called on Mr. MALIK (Rapporteur).

The RAPPORTEUR stated that the Committee had been unanimous in its conclusions. Its draft resolution read as follows:

"That the Commission on Human Rights decide that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur shall constitute a Committee to undertake, in co-operation with the Secretariat, the task of formulating a preliminary draft International Bill of Human Rights, in accordance with the instructions and decisions of the first session of the Commission, to be submitted to the second session of the Commission for thorough examination.

"In the course of its work, this Committee may enlist the co-operation of, and shall receive any observations and suggestions from, any member of the Commission. It may also consult experts with the consent of their Governments, Members of the United Nations."

First Paragraph

Dr. CHIANG (China) and Professor CASSIN (France) requested that the phrase "in co-operation with the Secretariat" be changed to "with the co-operation of the Secretariat".

Mrs. MEHTA (India) asked whether the draft resolution submitted was not contrary to the decision taken during the morning meeting, not to set up a committee composed of Members of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that it was the idea of a Committee composed exclusively of Members of the Commission which had been rejected. The resolution, however, provided for participation by the Secretariat in the work of the Committee.

/Colonel HODGSON

Colonel HODGSON (Australia) shared the opinion expressed by the representative of India. He thought the draft resolution merely reintroduced the idea which had been voted down that morning, for the Secretariat would co-operate as a matter of course. He would vote against the resolution.

In reply to a question from the Chairman, he added that he would propose the original motion submitted at the morning meeting.

Mr. TEPLIAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered that the draft resolution did not contradict the decision of the previous meeting.

Major DUKES (United Kingdom) proposed the following amendment to the draft resolution: "That the Secretariat, under the supervision of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, undertake the task of formulating a preliminary draft International Bill of Human Rights..."

Colonel HODGSON (Australia) withdrew his amendment in favour of that of the United Kingdom representative, who agreed to the omission of the term "Committee" in the second paragraph.

The RAPPORTEUR explained that the word "Committee" had been used in the text of the resolution only in order to avoid the repetition of the words "Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur", as the English language had no equivalent for the French word "bureau". He was opposed to the United Kingdom representative's amendment, which would place the main responsibility for drafting the declaration on the Secretariat rather than on the Commission itself, and proposed that the first sentence of the resolution be worded as follows: "That the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, together with the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, undertake, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the task of formulating a preliminary draft International Bill of Human Rights".

At the request of Dr. CHANG (China), the Commission decided to take a vote by paragraphs.

DECISION: The United Kingdom representative's amendment, which was put to the vote first, was rejected.

/DECISION:

DECISION: The Lebanese representative's amendment was adopted.

Second Paragraph

Mr. TEPER (American Federation of Labor) drew the Commission's attention to the fact that the second paragraph of the resolution, in its present wording, seemed to exclude any participation in the work by the organizations classified in Category A.

Miss SPIEGEL (World Federation of Trade Unions) supported the opinion expressed by the American Federation of Labor representative, and requested that co-operation with the non-governmental organizations be provided for in the second paragraph of the resolution.

Mr. TEPLIAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated that the question of co-operation with those organizations was on the Commission's agenda and would come up for discussion in due course.

Supported by Dr. CHANG (China), he stated that the members of the Commission should have the right to express their opinion at any stage in the drafting of the declaration.

He suggested amending the second paragraph as follows: "The Chairman of the Commission may consult experts chosen with the consent of their Governments, Members of the United Nations".

He also proposed inserting, before the words "any observations and suggestions", the words "orally or in writing".

Mr. MALIK (Lebanon), in order to facilitate the proceedings, asked for a vote to be taken on the first sentence of the second paragraph as thus amended.

DECISION: The first sentence of the second paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

The Commission then voted on the drafting proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics representative for the second sentence of the second paragraph.

DECISION: The amendment proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics representative was adopted.

/The RAPPORTEUR

The RAPPORTEUR read the full text of the resolution, as adopted:

"That the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, together with the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, undertake, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the task of formulating a preliminary draft international bill of human rights, in accordance with the instructions and decisions of the first session of the Commission, to be submitted to the second session of the Commission for thorough examination.

"In the course of this work, the Chairman may enlist the co-operation of, and shall receive, orally or in writing, any observations and suggestions from, any member of the Commission. The Chairman of the Commission may consult experts chosen with the consent of their governments, Members of the United Nations."

The meeting rose at 4:00 p.m.
