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STUDY OF DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

Note by the Secretary-General

The Commission will recall that at its thirteenth session it examined the Study on Discrimination in Education (E/CN.4/Sub 2/181) prepared by Mr. Charles D. Ammoun (Lebanon), Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. At that time it requested UNESCO to prepare, in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur, a brief popular summary of the study to be used, particularly in educational institutions, to combat discrimination in education (E/2970/Rev.1, para. 189, Resolution VIII B(3)).

The Sub-Commission at its twelfth session urged UNESCO to expedite the production of the Summary, and requested the Secretary-General to consult with the Director General of UNESCO as to the possibility of issuing it at an early date. The Secretary-General was further requested to inform the Commission on Human Rights of the position at its sixteenth session so that it might consider how the summary could be completed and published without further delay (E/CN.4/800, para 240, Resolution 7(XII)).

Accordingly the Secretary-General requested a statement of UNESCO's views on the possibility of issuing the summary at an early date. These views, as set forth in a letter dated 1 March 1960, are as follows:-

"As the Unesco representative stated at the meeting of the Sub-Commission, the decision taken by the General Conference to proceed with the elaboration of legal instruments concerning discrimination in education has changed Unesco's position with respect to the preparation of the summary. It is now considered that a booklet intended for the general public should take into account not only the Study of Discrimination in Education, but also the international convention and recommendation, the adoption of which by the General Conference of Unesco will constitute a very important step forward in combatting discrimination in education and the fulfilment of one of the aims of the Study as far as international law is concerned.

"The appropriate measures for the publication of such a popular summary will be taken soon after the eleventh session of the General Conference, which is to take place in November 1960."