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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Eighteenth session  
Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda

FREEDOM FROM PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION YEAR AND DAY

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its seventeenth session the Commission on Human Rights, in resolution 6 (XVII), submitted to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would:

1. Request all States to observe a Freedom from Prejudice and Discrimination Year in the near future, and thereafter to observe a Freedom from Prejudice and Discrimination Day every year; and
2. Urge all States and interested organizations to organize, promote and participate actively in this observance on a national basis through effective means such as posters, films, radio and television programmes, and other available educational media. 1/

The Commission, at the same time, requested the Secretary-General to invite States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to make comments, if any, on the draft resolution, such comments to be submitted to the Council prior to its thirty-second session.

2. At its thirty-second session the Council considered the draft resolution in the light of the comments of the Governments of Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Congo (Leopoldville), Ghana, Hungary, India, Lebanon, Netherlands,

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1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8, chap. V, paras. 125-139 and chap. XIII, draft resolution III.

New Zealand, Norway, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.<sup>2/</sup> Some members of the Council were in favour of the Commission's proposal for a special year and a special day for combating prejudice and discrimination. Others questioned the desirability of such a proposal. Two amendments were proposed. One was to the effect that Governments should be invited, in arranging in the near future for the observance either of Human Rights Day or of United Nations Day, to lay special emphasis both on the causes and on the importance of the elimination of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance.<sup>3/</sup> The other was to the effect that Governments should be invited to make arrangements for the observance of a Human Rights Year and to lay special emphasis in the organization of such a year both on the causes and on the importance of the elimination of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance.<sup>4/</sup>

3. As there was no general agreement on the matter, the Council decided, in resolution 826 C (XXXII), to defer consideration of the draft resolution on Freedom from Prejudice and Discrimination Year and Day; to request the Secretary-General to send to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies the relevant records of the meetings<sup>5/</sup> and the relevant documents of the thirty-second session, inviting them to transmit any observations which they might wish to offer on the subject before 31 December 1961; and to request the Secretary-General to transmit the Governments' replies to the Commission on Human Rights at its next session with a view to its considering the matter and making such recommendations as it might deem fit to the Council at its thirty-fourth session. The replies of Governments will be issued as an addendum to this document.

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<sup>2/</sup> E/3491 and Add.1-4.

<sup>3/</sup> Report of the Social Committee, E/3537, para. 3 (c).

<sup>4/</sup> Ibid., para. 3 (e).

<sup>5/</sup> E/AC.7/SR.443-447; E/SR.1174.