



GENERAL

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CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES
ON THE STATUS OF REFUGEES AND
STATELESS PERSONS

OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE DRAFT CONVENTION
RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES

Statement submitted by the Agudas Israel World Organisation,
a non-governmental organization in consultative relationship with
the Economic and Social Council.

The Executive Secretary has received the following statement, which is
circulated in accordance with Rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the
Conference.

Submitted: 29 June 1951

Received: 4 July 1951

I have the honour to refer to the draft Convention and draft Protocol
(A/Conf.2/2 dated 9th March, 1951) to be considered by the United Nations
Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons.

My Executive wishes to express appreciation of the decision to afford
consideration to a Convention on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons,
with which we have been concerned for many years.

The draft Convention requires every support; it is an earnest attempt to solve a difficult situation.

We beg to make the following suggestions for the consideration of the Conference.

Art. 23. Travel Documents.

Refugees from a number of countries are unwilling to obtain Travel Documents "from the country of their lawful residence". The words therefore "or unwilling" should be inserted, so that the end of paragraph 1 will read "who are unable or unwilling to obtain a travel document, etc."

Art. 27. Paragraph 2.

There should be some clarity on the meaning of the term "competent authority". In our view the end of paragraph 2 in Article 27 should read, "and be represented before a judicial tribunal", instead of "competent authority".

Annex Paragraph 6 (8) section 2.

It is not clear why consular authorities should be limited in the period for which they may extend travel documents issued by their governments. The sentence, therefore, "for a period not exceeding six months" should be deleted. Furthermore, we suggest the following addition to paragraph 6 (8) section 1 "which should give favourable consideration to such an application."

Art. 38.

We beg to suggest that the following articles shall not be subject to reservations, viz. Art. 5, Paragraph 1, and Art. 11, Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.