

WORLD CALENDAR

The Secretary-General has received the following communication from the permanent representative of Brazil to the United Nations, on the subject of Calendar reform:

"New York, February 23, 1949

"I beg to refer to Your Excellency's communication SOA 46/01/TLT of January 24 last, to the Minister of External Affairs of Brazil, concerning resolution No. 385 adopted by the General Assembly of the National Council of Statistics of Brazil on the subject of Calendar reform.

"2. I shall be greatly obliged if Your Excellency will instruct the Secretariat to distribute copies of the aforementioned resolution to the delegations of the member nations, as a contribution of the Brazilian delegation to the study of the matter.

(signed)

João Carlos Muniz  
Permanent Representative  
of Brazil"

Department of Foreign Affairs  
Correspondence Received  
Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - Secretariat

RESOLUTION NO. 385 OF 19 JULY 1948  
RECORDING ~~THE~~ INSTITUTE'S VIEWS ON A  
PROJECT FOR THE REFORM OF THE GREGORIAN  
CALENDAR

The General Assembly of the National Statistical Council, in exercise of its powers; and

Considering that the work of interpreting statistics would be facilitated if the Gregorian Calendar were reformed, and if principles of systematization and rationalization were adopted to correct the anomalies at present existing in that calendar;

Considering that the advantages of reforming the calendar would extend to all branches of human activity;

Considering that the Peruvian representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council proposed the appointment of a Committee of five members of that body to study the adoption, on 1 January 1950, of a new calendar, as drafted by The World Calendar Association, and to take the necessary measures to secure approval of this step by the General Assembly of the United Nations;

Considering that the calendar drafted by The World Calendar Association the adoption of which is also under discussion in the United States House of Representatives, as the result of a proposal submitted in January 1947, makes no great changes in the traditional calendar used by most countries, but embodies a number of principles, such as the division of the year into twelve months, with each quarterly period containing thirteen weeks, 91 days, and the same number of Sundays and weekdays, so that each year, quarter or week starts on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday, and the introduction of a "Year-end World Holiday" and another similar holiday between June and July in Leap years;

Considering that the date of 1 January 1950 is recognized as ideal to start the new World Calendar, because that year begins on a Sunday, which would render easier the transition from one system to the other, and because it also marks the beginning of the second half of the twentieth century;

Considering further that Brazil, when giving her opinion of studies carried out by the Committee for Communications and Transit of the League of Nations between 1923 and 1937, upon the question of the reform

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of the calendar, officially declared herself in favour of providing a substitute for the Gregorian Calendar;

Considering that the Council, in its resolution 33 of 14 July 1937 gave its support to the plan for the reform of the calendar drawn up by the League of Nations;

Considering, lastly, that the Institute's opinion upon the proposal for the reform of the calendar submitted to the consideration of the United Nations has been officially requested, it hereby

RESOLVES

Article 1. The Council recognizes the desirability and need of replacing the Gregorian calendar by another which would be adopted by all the nations of the world, and which would correct the anomalies contained in the present calendar by following a more simple system.

Article 2. The Council also wishes to place on record its support for the activities of the United Nations in connexion with this matter, expressing the hope that a world calendar will be adopted within the shortest possible time.

Article 3. While refraining from expressing an opinion upon the different proposals for calendars already prepared, the Assembly recommends Brazilian statisticians to study the question and the possibilities of organizing a propaganda programme to popularize the idea of reforming the calendar and to prepare public opinion for the adoption of whichever new system may be approved.

Rio de Janeiro, 19 July 1948, 13th year of the Institute. Checked and numbered. Waldemar Lopes, Assistant Secretary to the Assembly. Seen and initialled. Rafael Xavier, Secretary-General to the Institute. To be published. José Carlos de Macedo Soares, President of the Institute and of the Council.

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