

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL  
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ET SOCIAL**

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION  
WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
(COUNCIL NGO COMMITTEE)

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

Lake Success, New York

Monday, 16 February 1948, at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

Acting Chairman:	Mr. WU	(China)
	Mr. LaMarle	(France)
	Mr. Kobushko	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. Alexander	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. Kotschnig	(United States of America)
Secretary:	Mr. White	(Non-Governmental Organizations Section, Division of Co-ordination and Liaison)
	Mr. Chamberlin	(Secretary of the Publications Board)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

The SECRETARY announced that, since Mr. Malik could not be present, the first business before the meeting was the election of an Acting Chairman.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) proposed, and Mr. LAMARLE (France) seconded, the election of Mr. WU (China) as Acting Chairman.

As there were no other nominations, Mr. Wu was elected Acting Chairman.

On the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. CHAMBERLIN (Secretariat) explained the new policy on distribution of documents to non-governmental organizations. The Publications Board had just decided that henceforth category (a) organizations would receive two copies of all E documents and of the documents of committees and commissions of the Council. Organizations in categories (b) and (c) would receive the documents of any commission in which they were especially interested. Other documents would be sold to the organizations at run-on cost.

/The SECRETARY

The SECRETARY stated that he believed that the Publications Board had decided that organizations in categories (b) and (c) would receive two copies of Council documents as well as Commission documents.

Mr. CHAMBERLIN replied that this was agreeable to the Publications Board.

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished to know whether the expenditure had been approved by the General Assembly, and exactly what the expenditure would be.

Mr. CHAMBERLIN (Secretariat) said that the annual cost of a complete set of documents for an organization would be from \$150 to \$200 if the organization's headquarters were in the United States, and from \$150 to \$250 if the organization's headquarters were in Europe. There was no direct approval by the General Assembly, but there was indirect approval through the adoption of the budget.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) estimated that the total cost of the provision of documents for some seventy organizations would thus be only about \$10,000. That was a modest sum in view of the fact that the documents would thereby reach literally hundreds of millions of people. He therefore suggested that the Committee should forthwith amend Rules 5 and 44 of the Rules of Procedure of Functional Commissions by adding to the last line but one of each rule the words "and the appropriate non-governmental organizations in categories (b) and (c)" after the words "non-governmental organizations in category (a)."

In reply to an objection by Mr. Kobushko (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) that the question was not on the agenda, Mr. Kotschnig recalled that the Rules of Procedure Committee, with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, had asked the Committee to consider the question.

In view of a request from Mr. Kobushko that the proposed amendment be submitted in writing, it was agreed to defer the question to a later meeting.

The CHAIRMAN asked the SECRETARY to read the suggestions made by Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) for amendment of the draft report.

The SECRETARY read Mr. Alexander's suggestions, which were as follows:

- (1) To substitute for the first three lines on page 5 of the draft report the words, "Takes note of the fact that the Spanish affiliate of the International Organization for Standardization has resigned, and that this organization, thus having met the requirements of the Council on the exclusion of its Spanish affiliate, now has consultative status in category (b)."

//(2) To insert

(2) To insert before the last sentence of the preamble of the draft report a paragraph reading: "The Committee took into consideration that since the Council passed its Resolution of 13 August 1947 (E/583, 25 September 1947, No. 95 (V)) on the applications of the International Fiscal Association and the International Institute of Public Finance, the next session of the Fiscal Commission was postponed until 1949. The Committee, however, felt that it would, nevertheless, be advisable to seek the advice of the Fiscal Commission. It expresses the opinion that it would be desirable to obtain the advice of the appropriate Commission on all future applications."

The SECRETARY added that the last sentence of the second proposed change involved a considerable departure from procedure hitherto followed.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) announced that he would accept the change except for the last sentence. In his view that sentence might lead to much time being lost in the Commissions. The NGO Committee had been established to deal with these applications, had developed a certain facility, and this should not be overlooked.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) announced that he would be most happy to exclude the last sentence.

The changes were adopted with the exception of the last sentence.

On the request of the CHAIRMAN, the SECRETARY said that Mr. YATES (Secretariat) had proposed that the reasoning should be omitted from Resolution II and inserted after paragraph 3 of the preamble to the draft report in the form:

"In regard to paragraph 2, Part I, below, the Committee considers that the applications of the organizations mentioned should be reconsidered at a later date since the Committee feels unable to make recommendations concerning them at the present time either because they have been recently organized or because further information is desired."

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) preferred the original text.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) suggested that the reasoning might be given first under the words "TAKES NOTE..." and be followed by the word "DECIDES...".

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) proposed that the resolution should be reworded as follows:

/ "CONSIDERING

"CONSIDERING that the Council NGO Committee feels unable to make recommendations concerning the following organizations at the present time either because they have been recently organized, or because further information is desired;

"DECIDES that the applications of the following organizations will be reconsidered at a later date."

As no objection was raised to this rewording, it was adopted.

The SECRETARY read a suggestion of Mr. YATES (Secretariat) that, inasmuch as it had been felt that the Committee's resolutions should include only positive decisions, the wording of paragraph 3 of Resolution I should be revised to read:

"TAKES NOTE that the Council NGO Committee recommends that consultative status should not be granted to certain organizations as listed in its Report."

There would then be added at the end of the report the words: "The Council NGO Committee considers that consultative status should not be granted to the organizations listed below", those words to be followed by the rest of paragraph 3 as it appeared in the draft report.

Referring to the refusal of consultative status, Mr. White reminded the Committee that such refusal could not be reviewed until eighteen months had passed if the Resolution to be proposed to the Council was adopted. The organizations listed in the Report would be subject to the eighteen months rule.

Mr. LaMARLE (France) observed that in his opinion the eighteen-month rule was much too rigorous.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) remarked, and the CHAIRMAN agreed, that if the eighteen-month rule were to be brought into question it should be done in the Council itself, and not in the Committee since the Committee had already taken its decision on this matter.

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the list of organizations in paragraph 2 of Resolution I, pointed out that there had been a request for clarification of the activities of the Organization Pax Romana, which had a group called "Ukraine" in Germany, etc. He would therefore like to see added to the words in parenthesis after the name of this organization a reference to the fact that the Council was awaiting clarification of the organization's activities.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) felt that it would be invidious to put into the report just what information was needed from some organizations and not to specify this for all. He wondered whether Mr. Kobushko would be satisfied if the words "and clarification" were added after the word "information".

/Mr. KOBUSHKO

Mr. KOBUSHKO agreed to the change, which was adopted.

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked that the report should include the views of the USSR delegation on certain questions. He did not wish those views to be inserted in any particular place, but thought that they should be expressed in the following form:

"Regardless of the fact that the International Democratic Federation of Women and the World Federation of Democratic Youth satisfy all the requirements found necessary for consultative status of category (a), certain members of the Council voted against the granting of category (a) status as a result of which an unjust decision was arrived at by the Committee".

Mr. Kobushko added that the two organizations in question completely fulfilled all requirements. It would be difficult to explain to world public opinion why certain members of the Council had so stubbornly objected to the grant of category (a) status to mass democratic organizations - and he wished to emphasize the word "mass".

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Committee was a working group, with a specific task. The USSR delegation had had frequent opportunities to put its views before the public and had used those opportunities. He saw no reason why Mr. Kobushko's arguments should be inserted in the report unless everybody else's arguments were inserted too.

Mr. KOTESCHNIG (United States of America) regretted Mr. Kobushko's desire for the inclusion of his arguments, but felt that he had a right to demand it.

On the suggestion of the SECRETARY it was agreed that the USSR's comments would be added to the report as a footnote.

Mr. KOTESCHNIG (United States of America) and Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) asked for the deletion of their joint footnote to Resolution IV, since they were of the opinion that the Report should represent the majority views of the Committee and that individual views should not be included.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 4 (REQUEST OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ITS VIEWS ON ITEM 30 OF THE COUNCIL'S AGENDA) AND ITEM 5 (REQUEST OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS TO PRESENT ITS VIEWS ON THE SITUATION OF JEWISH POPULATIONS IN ARAB OR OTHER MOSLEM COUNTRIES AND ON STATELESS PERSONS)

The CHAIRMAN stated that representatives of the organizations mentioned in agenda Items 4 and 5 were waiting to be heard by the Committee, and suggested that the Committee might postpone its other business in order to invite them to speak at the present time.

/Mr. KOBUSHKO

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that, before inviting the representatives to speak, the Committee should have more information on Items 4 and 5, and should take some decision as regards its attitude on the questions involved.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) pointed out that under the rules adopted by the Council NGO Committee any non-governmental organization could request to be heard by the Committee. It was therefore entirely proper that the representative of the World Jewish Congress should ask for that privilege.

In regard to Item 4 of the agenda, the representative of the American Federation of Labor had requested to speak before the Economic and Social Council. As that request had not been granted, the representative now wished an opportunity to take up the question with the Committee, in the hope that some arrangements could be made to grant a hearing by the Council. He agreed with the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that the Committee should take a decision on the point before inviting the representative of the American Federation of Labor to speak.

The SECRETARY explained an apparent error in Part III of the resolution of 16 August 1947 adopted by the Economic and Social Council (Resolution 95 (V)). The last paragraph of that resolution mentioned organizations referred to in paragraph 2 of the resolution. He thought it possible that the reference should have been to paragraph 4, and he had therefore requested the Legal Department to prepare a redraft of the last paragraph of the resolution for the consideration of the Committee. The following text had been suggested by the Legal Department: "That any request on the part of non-governmental organizations in category A to be heard by the Council NGO Committee on all items which they had not proposed should be delivered in writing to the President of the Council not later than forty-eight hours after the adoption of the agenda by the Council."

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) stressed that the resolution as printed was not what had been recommended by the Council NGO Committee; the final drafting had completely changed its original meaning. He did not agree that the redraft prepared by the Legal Department was correct, as the rule requiring that requests for a hearing should be presented to the President of the Council not later than forty-eight hours after the adoption of the agenda should refer to requests to be heard by the Economic and Social Council, not by the Committee.

/Mr. KOBUSHKO

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought the resolution as adopted by the Economic and Social Council was perfectly clear and there was no need to discuss possible interpretations of it. He therefore suggested that the Committee should delete Item 4 of the agenda and should invite the representative of the World Jewish Congress to speak.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Committee would postpone consideration of Item 4.

On the invitation of the Chairman, Dr. Perlzweig, consultant of the World Jewish Congress, took his place at the Committee table.

Dr. PERLZWEIG (World Jewish Congress) expressed appreciation of the opportunity to call to the Committee's attention a memorandum on the position of Jews in Moslem countries, submitted by the World Jewish Congress to the Acting President of the Economic and Social Council on 19 January 1948. The Jews residing in the Near and Middle East had been repeatedly subjected to mob violence which had resulted in much destruction of life and property. The Jewish world today felt intensely apprehensive, as hundreds of thousands of Jews were in peril of annihilation. The World Jewish Congress was therefore appealing to the Council NGO Committee to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it should take action under Article 62 of the Charter. The Council might appoint a small committee to investigate the situation in order to ascertain what measures, if any, the Governments concerned had taken in order to prevent violence; the nature and extent of the loss of life, rights and property; the action the Governments concerned had taken, or were proposing to take in order to compensate for the losses suffered and to ensure adequate protection of Jews in the future. Such a committee might be asked to report to the next session of the Council. The World Jewish Congress would be glad to furnish it with the evidence on the subject which it had in its possession.

In November 1946 the General Assembly had unanimously adopted a resolution, proposed by the delegation of Egypt, condemning persecution for religious or racial reasons; and all the Governments that had voted for that resolution were under a moral obligation to take action to support it. Yet a law recently drafted by the Political Committee of the Arab League would, if put into effect, reduce the Jewish population in Arab countries to the status of enemy aliens.

In reply to points raised by Mr. KOTSCHENIG (United States of America) and Mr. LaMARLE (France), Mr. Perlzweig explained that the World Jewish Congress had not submitted its memorandum to any other organ of the

/United Nations

United Nations as it was making its appeal on the ground that there had been a violation of fundamental human rights - which was a matter for the Economic and Social Council. On that ground the question should be considered quite separately from the question of the future of Palestine. Outrages were being committed against all Jews, regardless of their opinions, and the security forces of the countries concerned had been accused of having taken part in the attacks. There was grave danger of wholesale massacre.

Mr. Perlzweig offered to submit in writing, within twenty-four hours, practical proposals for action by the Council.

He also called the Committee's attention to a communication from the World Jewish Congress on the problem of statelessness, which had been summarized in document E/C.2/79.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) suggested that the Committee should defer action on the statement made by the representative of the World Jewish Congress until it had received his proposals in writing and until members had had time to consult their Governments on so important a matter.

The Committee adopted the suggestion of the representative of the United States of America.

The meeting rose at 1.00 p.m.

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