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## SEVENTH SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATIONS  
WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FORTY-SECOND MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 27th July 1948, at 3 p.m.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN	:	Mr. ALEXANDER
China		Mr. WU
France		Mr. LAMARLE
United States of America		Mr. KOTSCHNIG
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics		Mr. KODUSHKO
<u>Secretariat</u>		
Mr. LYMAN WHITE		Secretary to the Committee

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HEARING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH CATEGORY A  
CONSULTATIVE STATUS.

The CHAIRMAN reported that five non-governmental organizations with category A consultative status had requested to be heard: the International Co-operative Alliance, the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the American Federation of Labour, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, and the International Organization of Industrial Employers.

He ruled that representatives of such organizations must in the first instance keep to the subjects on which they had requested to be heard, and that if they wished to deal with other subjects they must submit a supplementary written request for the consideration of the Committee.

He suggested that the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the International Co-operative Alliance and the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, be heard immediately.

On the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. ENNALS, representative of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, took his place at the Committee table.

The CHAIRMAN, welcoming Mr. Ennals, underlined that the purpose of the latter's intervention was to justify his request that his Organization be heard by the Council.

Mr. ENNALS said that he was asking to be heard on the subject covered by document E/861, the United Nations Appeal for Children.

On this his Organization was particularly well-qualified to express an opinion, owing to the active part, on the national, international and local level, that it had taken in carrying the Appeal into effect. It was the World

Federation of United Nations Associations that had proposed to the Conference of non-governmental organizations, in February 1947, that they should fully support the Appeal, which by definition in paragraph 2(b) of the document cited, was essentially their task. Paragraph 10 indeed paid special tribute to its activities. In Norway, Cuba, and Turkey, it had taken the initiative in launching the Appeal, and in many other countries had done its utmost to further it.

He wished to point out that though the Appeal had shown certain weaknesses, inevitable in a new enterprise on a world scale, it had been a marked success, not only financially, but psychologically and politically. It had brought to the realisation of the man in the street of fifty countries that the United Nations organization was resolutely concerned with human welfare, and that the ordinary citizen could contribute to its success.

The Council, therefore, should give serious consideration to continuing the Appeal, or some effort on similar lines.

The CHAIRMAN, noting that the discussion on the merits of Mr. Ennals' contribution would take place in closed session, declared the meeting open for questions.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) asked what form Mr. Ennals suggested a continuation of the United Nations Appeal for Children should take.

Mr. ENNALS (World Federation of United Nations Associations) said that the United Nations Appeal for Children should be continued, but there had been some discussion of the extent to which it could be co-ordinated with the International Children's Emergency Fund, or whether one agency should be formed from the two.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking in his capacity of representative of the United Kingdom, suggested that perhaps the Appeal might be continued under the full control of the non-governmental organizations with consultative status, or those of them that had been particularly concerned with it, intimating that it might now be able to dispense with the financial support of the United Nations required when it was first launched.

Mr. ENNALS (World Federation of United Nations Associations) opined that this would not work. He believed the remarkable success of the Appeal, as compared with, for instance, that of the International Union for Child Welfare, to be largely due to the fact that it was backed and launched by the United Nations Organization itself. Moreover, it was an aspect of the work of the United Nations able to strike popular imagination, and could thus be said to give prestige to the United Nations and make the task of propaganda so much the easier. Again difficulties in the way of travel, transfer of funds, etc. made it essential to have government support, and this, without the backing of the United Nations, might not be forthcoming. Finally, it was an example of successful co-operation between the non-governmental organizations with consultative status and the United Nations secretariat, a co-operation to which these organizations attached enormous importance and which it would, therefore, be a pity to interrupt.

He added that, without knowing how much money the United Nations had put into the Appeal, he was convinced that far less expenditure would be required for the second year, particularly since in the light of a year's experience various economies could be made.

The CHAIRMAN invited Mr. Ennals to speak on his second point, item 19 of the Council's Agenda, the Crime of Genocide.

Mr. ENNALS (World Federation of United Nations Associations) said that he would reserve a detailed exposition of this technical subject for the speech which he hoped to be allowed to make to the Council. He had had abundant confirmation in the last few months, in the shape of resolutions and suggestions, of the truth of Mrs. Roosevelt's statement when, presiding at the meeting of the Human Rights Commission at Lake Success when the question was first discussed, she said that no topic attracted more attention from the non-governmental organizations. The broadness of support was shown by the fact that organizations of such different views as the World Federation of Trade Unions, the American Federation of Labour, the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, the World Jewish Conference, the International Federation of Christian Workers, and the World Federation of United Nations Associations, were of one mind in the importance attached to this issue.

The present draft Convention he considered a great improvement on the original drafted by the Secretariat; it was a good document. It was, however, not unanimously accepted by the ad hoc Committee, and amendments were desirable so as to produce a document that would obtain the maximum possible support.

The Council had now to choose whether it would adopt the Convention in its present form, or amend it or refer it either again to the Human Rights Commission or to the International Law Commission which had not yet been formed.

Though the first solution might be the easiest and quickest, it would be far more satisfactory to give effect to a recommendation passed unanimously in the General Assembly in 1946 by making certain changes which might make the Convention acceptable to all nations, which changes could be made now. Public opinion would be deeply disappointed if a resolution adopted by the General Assembly two years ago were again postponed, making it appear that the Council was not in a position to carry out the General Assembly's recommendation.

If he were allowed to speak to the Council he would suggest two or three slight amendments which might obtain general agreement. His organization was acting as a focalising point for the interest of other non-governmental organizations, which attached extreme importance to the achievements of a generally accepted Convention.

To a question from the representative of the United States as to the nature of the amendments that he proposed, and whether they were supported by all the organizations mentioned or only by his own, Mr. ENNALS replied that his own organization had certain suggestions to make on Articles 2 and 3, and in regard to implementation. Just before the meeting he had presided at a meeting of eight non-governmental organizations, which had discussed how complete agreement could be reached between the organizations interested, so that the amendments could be put forward in the names of eight or ten such organizations.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) suggested that if these organizations agreed on a text, it should be presented in writing. Mr. ENNALS said that this would be done.

The CHAIRMAN, thanking Mr. Ennals for his statement, said the meeting would have to discuss in closed session whether this statement could add substantially to what would be said by members of the Council. An unfavourable decision would mean no lack of respect for an organization held in high esteem.

Mr. ENNALS, representative of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, withdrew.

The CHAIRMAN asked the meeting whether it would prefer to discuss Mr. Ennals' statement or to hear other representatives of the non-governmental organizations and discuss them in a group.

M. de FOLIN (France) pointed out that there were to be several declarations on the United Nations Appeal for Children (point 25 of the Council's Agenda), and in any case he would prefer to hear all the representatives of the non-governmental organizations in order to form an idea of the relative importance of their statements.

The same view was expressed by the representatives of the United States and China, and the CHAIRMAN announced that this procedure would be adopted.

On the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. AUGUST A.J. VANISTENDAEL, representative of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, took his place at the Committee table.

Mr. VANISTENDAEL, speaking on item 17 on the Council's Agenda (Report of the Third Session of the Commission on Human Rights) said that the document on which he had to speak had come into his possession only the previous day, but if the request of his organization to be heard before the Council was granted it would then be represented by its President.

The Federation of Christian Trade Unions was the only organization in Category A explicitly inspired by Christian principles and it represented the working classes who had special need for protection by a Declaration of Human Rights; he therefore thought that the Council might usefully hear its views on a question to which it had devoted especial study for many years.

In regard to the proposed Declaration, it was necessary to proclaim more explicitly the rights of the family, in itself and in the various fields of property, education, social security, etc. He noted the absence of any limitation of the use of property, whether individual or collective, and of any reference to the United Nations, the fundamental principles of human rights, or the will of the people. There should be a recognition of the principle of equal pay for equal work, recognised in the Treaty of Versailles, and re-affirmed in the International Labour Organization conferences and by the Economic and Social Council itself. There was an absence of any reference to the natural right of parents in regard to the upbringing of their children.

In the Convention there should be provision for co-ordination of the work of special institutions, notably the International Labour Office. Future agreements should be confined with the existing ones.

In regard to implementation, no speaker in the Human Rights Commission had stressed the importance on a national plane of organizations representing public opinion, or the educative value of an abridged form of the Declaration for the use of schools.



In reply to a question from Dr. Kobushko (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. VANISTENDAEL said that of course by equal pay for equal work he was referring to equality between men and women, and that in speaking of the rights of parents regarding the education of their children, he meant both that it was a moral right and the material means to do so should be provided.

The CHAIRMAN, explaining, as he explained to each speaker, that should a request for hearing by the Council not be granted, it would mean no lack of sympathy for the arguments advanced, said that probably the majority and certainly he himself personally, fully agreed with the views that Mr. Vanistendael had presented.

Mr. VANISTENDAEL, representative of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, withdrew.

On the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. MILHAUD and Mr. DARBIER, representatives of the International Co-operative Alliance, took their places at the Committee table.

Professor MILHAUD, at the Chairman's invitation, said that the International Co-operative Alliance was extremely perturbed at the prospect that the United Nations Appeal for Children might be suspended in 1949. He wished to point out that the International Co-operative Alliance hoped that the Appeal would be continued in 1949.

In reply to a question by the Chairman, speaking in his capacity as United Kingdom representative, Mr. Milhaud said that if the Economic and Social Council heard the World Federation of United Nations Associations on this question, the Alliance would not also ask to be heard.

The CHAIRMAN then asked Professor Milhaud to submit his remarks on point 6 of the agenda of the Seventh Session.

Professor MILHAUD (International Co-operative Alliance) recalled that although the Hot Springs Conference emphasised the part which co-operative organizations could play in economic reconstruction by setting up harmonious relations between production and consumption, this possibility appeared to have been disregarded later. At the first conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization, there was still place for agricultural co-operatives, but now there was no mention of consumer co-operatives. The International Co-operative Alliance believed that any marks of sympathy or appeals addressed to agricultural consumer or producer co-operative organizations, of which there were a large number throughout the world, would meet with very considerable results.

It asked the Committee and the Economic and Social Council to draw the attention of agricultural consumers and producers to the services which could be rendered by consumer organizations (for example, by setting up model shops designed to fight against the black market) and producer co-operatives (to improve quality) and to the advantages which might accrue from the relations they could set up between them. The Alliance was insistent that the tradition begun at Hot Springs should be maintained. This tradition called upon producer or consumer co-operatives to participate in the world economic recovery.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) asked for more precise indications of how the International Co-operative Alliance could co-operate constructively with the Food and Agriculture Organization and related organizations in their efforts to overcome shortages in food production.

Mr. MILHAUD replied that the psychological effect of an appeal by the Economic and Social Council to the producers' cooperatives of the whole world, as necessary artisans of recovery, would be considerable. Such an appeal would spread the ideas of the United Nations among the rural masses, while the urban consumers cooperatives would find therein a new impulse in their efforts to ensure the quality of products and a reasonable price level. It would also encourage direct relations between agricultural producers and urban consumers, and the development of cooperation throughout the world. The relationship between the New Zealand Producers Cooperatives and the Consumers Cooperatives of Great Britain was an example of such collaboration on an international scale.

Mr. BARBIER (International Co-operative Alliance) was invited by the Chairman to submit the opinion of his organization on point 44 of the agenda. He thanked UNESCO for the fine spirit which had inspired its report. He believed that priority should be given to the education of a new type of human being and gave an account of the activities in adult education carried out by the organization which he represented, which had set up dozens of committees and co-operative study circles, such as existed, for example, in Sweden and Switzerland, and groups of co-operative guilds.

With regard to the teaching in schools of the purposes and principles, structure and activity of the United Nations, he said that his organization preferred educational methods aimed rather at very young children than at young men of fifteen or sixteen. The International Co-operative

Alliance would like to see wider distributions of the works of the International Bureau of Education and of the pamphlet of Mr. Maurice Colombin, head of the co-operative section at the International Labour Office, on co-operation in schools.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) asked the representative of the International Co-operative Alliance if he did not think that his suggestions went beyond the competence of the Economic and Social Council and were rather a matter for UNESCO.

Mr. BARBIER (International Co-operative Alliance) agreed that such matters were indeed within the competence of UNESCO. But when UNESCO was mentioned, public opinion thought of the world of education. He believed that if an organization such as the Economic and Social Council took up this question, in doing so it would demonstrate its view that the creation of a new type of human being was not merely an educational problem but was at the very foundation of economic organization. It would thus link up with the idea, cherished by enthusiasts in the co-operative movement, that economic activity is bound up with education and that bankruptcy on the moral and social level would equally mean economic bankruptcy.

Messrs. MILHAUD and BARBIER, representatives of the International Co-operative Alliance, withdrew.

The CHAIRMAN, noting that no other representative of Category A organizations was available for hearing, asked the wishes of the Committee as to the items on its agenda to be taken next. In the course of discussion, Dr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what

action was expected to be taken in connection with the report on the Conference of non-governmental organizations.

The CHAIRMAN said that he understood from the Secretary that this item figured on the agenda simply because of its general interest, and might even be deleted.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) suggested instead taking it up, but he too wondered if action on it should be taken. If not, the report could be noted and the attention of the Council called to its existence.

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had not read the report in question but its consideration should be postponed to the next meeting, if it needed discussion.

Mr. WU (China), at whose request (as Mr. White of the Secretariat had noted), this item had been put on the agenda, said that at Lake Success it had seemed that interest should be taken in the successful conference of the non-governmental organizations with consultative status. He suggested that the Secretary should be asked to make a summary of it for submission to the Council without comment.

After a short discussion in which the Chairman, the representative of France, and Mr. White (Secretariat) took part, Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that, combining the three suggestions made by the representative of the United States, the representative of China and himself, it should be agreed to take note at a later date of the summary which the Secretary should be asked to make. This proposal was adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.