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COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR
CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING
held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 3 August 1948, at 10.22 a.m.

Present:

CHAIRMAN	Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom)
China	Mr. WU
France	Mr. LAMARLE
United States of America	Mr. KOTSCHNIG
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Mr. KOBUSCHKO

Secretariat

Mr. Lyman White	Secretary of the Committee
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N.B. Will delegates who wish to have corrections made to the Summary Records please submit such corrections in writing to the Secretariat, Room C-436, within twenty-four hours of distribution of the Summary Records.

REQUEST OF ORGANIZATIONS TO BE HEARD BY THE COUNCIL
ON THE UNITED NATIONS APPEAL FOR CHILDREN.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the decision regarding the non-governmental organizations that had requested to be heard by the Council on the United Nations Appeal for Children had been communicated to the organizations concerned which were now meeting to consider the proposal.

DISCUSSION ON UNITED STATES DRAFT RESOLUTION ON PERIODICAL
REVIEW OF ORGANIZATIONS GRANTED CONSULTATIVE STATUS
(DOCUMENT E/C.2/W.10/Add.3 page 28)

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the United States Draft Resolution on periodical Review of Organizations granted Consultative Status (Document E/C.2/W.10/Add.3 page 28) be next taken.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) in presenting the U.S. draft resolution stated that some organizations were only interested in consultative status for reasons of prestige; this was not the intent of Article 71. He felt that the proposed review would also afford a good opportunity to study the consultative arrangements with a view to improving them. He amended the Preamble of the United States proposed resolution by the deletion of "and to eliminate ... facilities for consultation."

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that this Resolution was both too stringent and premature. Some of the organizations concerned had been admitted to consultative status too recently for an adequate appraisal of their activities. The facts should be secured before any decision was taken.

Mr. LAMARLE (France) said that his Delegation, which had voted in favour of the draft resolution when it had been

discussed, recognized the necessity of reviewing at regular intervals the work of the non-governmental organizations which had been granted consultative status. He fully endorsed the criticism expressed by the United States representative when he had said that non-governmental organizations too frequently saw in consultative status only a means of embellishing the heading of their notepaper. But, if there were cases where consultative status had been granted too generously, there were others in which non-governmental organizations had been treated too severely.

If the Committee accepted that view, it would be possible to amend the text under discussion so as to efface the unfortunate impression that it might otherwise have on the uninformed reader. No member of the Committee, and the author of the proposal less than anyone - as he had shown by agreeing to the deletion of the last words of the preamble - desired to see an exclusion pronounced for arbitrary reasons. It would therefore be desirable, not to delete paragraph 2(a) but to show therein what reasons would be held to justify the exclusion from continuing consultative relationship of certain organizations. Although he was convinced that it would be easy to agree on an amendment, he would nevertheless abstain from submitting a formal proposal.

Mr. WU (China) while supporting the United States proposal in principle, suggested that it might be reworded so as to put less stress on possible exclusions than on a review which would enable the quality of the consultative activities of organizations to be estimated. The data to be assembled by the Secretariat should further make it possible to judge whether there was any duplication of

activities by similar organizations.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) stated that his proposal did not imply any hostility toward the organizations. His government had supported Article 71 and had voted for many organizations. To meet the foregoing various objections he suggested the following amendments to his proposal:-

(1) In the Preamble, the concluding phrase "and to eliminate from consultative relationship those organizations which have not taken adequate advantage of the facilities for consultation" to be deleted;

(2) In paragraph 1 of the operative section the words "up to 1 July 1948" to be deleted, and the words "with special attention to those organizations which were brought into consultative relationship not later than at the Fifth Session of the Council" to be inserted after the word "Council"; and

(3) In paragraph 2(a) of the operative section, the existing text to be replaced by the words "any organizations which should be found not to have taken adequate advantage of the facilities provided for non-governmental organizations brought into consultative relationship."

In reply to the suggestion of the Soviet Union Representative that such a review was premature, he recalled that when the Resolution of 21 June 1946 was adopted, it had been clearly stated that the organizations would be reviewed from time to time; in the records a period of two years had been mentioned. The review he was now advocating would take place only in 1949, while his suggested amendment to paragraph 1 provided for a distinction between

organizations whose consultative status was of long standing and those to which it had been more recently granted. What he had in mind was not only the possible exclusion of organizations that had not availed themselves of the facilities granted them, but the ascertainment of facts that could serve as bases for improved relationships.

The CHAIRMAN asked that a time-limit should be proposed for the period to be covered by the Secretary-General's report, leaving, say, a six-months gap in which the Secretariat could collect the information. Otherwise, he was informed, additional staff, and hence budgetary implications, would be involved.

He then moved that, as the United Nations Appeal for Children was about to come up in plenary, the meeting should rise.

The anticipation of the organizations concerned deciding to accept the Committee's proposal that the American Federation of Labour, the International Co-operative Alliance, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the World Federation of United Nations Associations should appoint one joint representative to be heard on that subject, he asked the Committee to authorize him to read to the Council the draft resolution in which that proposal was embodied (E/C.2/W.16) so that the Council might take a decision.

This was agreed.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.