



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/C.2/254
27 June 1950

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

Dual Distribution

Council Committee
on Non-Governmental Organizations

PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE DRAFT COVENANT SUBMITTED
TO THE COUNCIL BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS *
Statement submitted by the International League for
the Rights of Man, a non-governmental organization
granted consultative status in category B

The Secretary-General has received the following statement which he
is having circulated in accordance with paragraphs 22 and 23 of Council
Resolution 288 B (X).

16 June 1950

The International League for the Rights of Man requests the Council
to complete during its eleventh session the draft Covenant on Human Rights
drawn up by the Commission on Human Rights at its sixth session.

In that connection, it submits the following proposals:

- 1) The League requests the Council to include in the Covenant:
 - a) the individual and public rights which the Commission deferred to a
second or third Covenant (right of asylum, right of minorities to special
protection, right to inviolability of home and correspondence, right to
own property, right to take part in government etc.);

* E/CN.4/507

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b) Economic, social and cultural rights, consideration of which was likewise deferred by the Commission to a later date.

2) The League requests the Council to set up an organ of implementation which shall be permanent, by virtue not only of its constitution, but more particularly of its functions, the most important of which should be the following: .

a) To supervise the observance of the Covenant's provisions by collecting information with regard to such observance and by carrying out enquiries on the spot;

b) To restore respect for those provisions, when violated, by means of conciliatory measures, by action through legal channels, by publishing its findings, by appealing and submitting definite requests to the State at fault.

3) The League requests the Council to grant a right of petitioning the body in question, not only to States but also to individuals and groups and to non-governmental organizations specifically granted the exercise of such a right, on the grounds that the right of petition is an elementary right of human beings and constitutes the very basis of any effective system of implementation,

4) Further, the League protests against the excessive limitations imposed in the Commission's draft Covenant upon the exercise of the rights and liberties of the individual. The League declares itself in favour of the implementation of the Covenant in all states, provinces, and cantons forming part of a federal State, and also in non-self-governing territories. It considers that the Covenant should enter into force after receipt of ten ratifications.

The requests on which the League places particular emphasis are those relating to the inclusion of economic, social and cultural rights in the Covenant and the granting of the right of petition to individuals, groups

and non-governmental organizations. The League considers, in fact, that a Covenant without provisions ensuring such rights would be of no practical value.

In the event of it being impossible for the Council or even the 1950 General Assembly to supplement the Commission's draft on the lines indicated, the League recommends that a special Assembly be convened at the beginning of 1951 or that the draft be referred back to the Commission so that the Covenant may be adopted, at the latest, by the General Assembly at its regular session late in 1951.