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COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

REPORTS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE ORGANIZATION
AND OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMISSIONS

Statement submitted by the Women's International
League for Peace and Freedom, a non-governmental
organization in Category B consultative status.

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 22 and 23 of Council resolution 288 B (X) :

Dated : 6 September 1951

Received : 7 September 1951

It is with real concern that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom took note of the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Organization and Operation of the Council and its Commissions that the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities be discontinued and that its work be transferred to the Commission on Human Rights.

The WILPF has repeatedly expressed its regret that meetings of the Sub-Commission were often cancelled, shifted about or not provided for at all in the calendar of conferences.

Despite these obstacles the Sub-Commission has, during the three sessions so far held, made considerable progress in appraising the diverse and world-wide problems with which it has to deal and in working out possible solutions on the basis of certain general principles.

The Sub-Commission has been considered by the WILPF as particularly important, composed as it is of experts representing the whole body of the United Nations rather than national governments - experts who, as a group of individuals selected because of their interest in and understanding of the problems involved and uninfluenced by national concerns and considerations, seem highly qualified to discuss and recommend effective measures for the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities.

The dissolution of the Sub-Commission would seem to justify the complaints of those who placed their entire trust in the United Nations and are now feeling increasingly discouraged and abandoned.

The WILPF is eager to see the United Nations continue active leadership in the fight against discrimination and for the protection of minorities wherever and for whatever reasons they feel unprotected.

While fully appreciating the desire for and need of economy in the operation of the United Nations, it seems that here a more important issue is at stake: the duty to provide adequate measures for the effective protection of human beings.

The WILPF doubts that the Commission on Human Rights, occupied as it is and as it will be for some time to come with drafting a Covenant on Human Rights, will be able to find the time necessary to concentrate on this task which is so urgent and one of the vital factors in establishing and maintaining a just and durable peace.

For the reasons given above the WILPF earnestly hopes that the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee will not be accepted.