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AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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

**MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

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I. Provisions concerning consultation with non-governmental organizations in the new additional Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council. (Draft of the Secretariat)

II. Provisions for Consultation in the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Economic Commissions

Note: Material relating to these two Items is not yet available in full.

It will be, therefore, included in E/C.2/W.11/Add.1, to be submitted to the next session of the Council NGO Committee in the middle of July in Geneva.

III. Report on the present state of distribution and sale of documents to consultative non-governmental organizations. (References: E/C.2/SR.31, pages 8-10; E/C.2/SR.32, pages 1-2; E/C.2/SR.33, pages 1-2)

This is the follow-up of the information given by the Secretariat during the last Session of the Council NGO Committee on the distribution of documents to consultative non-governmental organizations:

1. All documentation of the Economic and Social Council, including that of its Commissions, and copies of the United Nations Bulletin, are automatically sent by surface mail to the headquarters of consultative organizations in Categories (a), (b) and (c). Organizations in Category (a) also receive documents of the ECOSOC Committees and Working Parties.

2. Arrangements are now being made for consultants away from the headquarters of their organizations also to receive all such documents as referred to above under 1 upon request.

3. In addition, daily documents may be collected by consultants at United Nations Headquarters in the offices of the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations of the Department of Public Information.

4. Up-to-the-minute documents are available to consultants upon showing their cards to the Documents Officers on duty in the Economic and Social Council Chamber and Conference Rooms when the Council and its Commissions are in session.

5. According to new arrangements, from 1 July on, it will be possible for organizations who so request, to receive only certain categories of documents, as, for instance, the Economic and Social Council documents, or documents of all Commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

6. From 1 July on, the following subscription plan will be put into operation whereby further copies of documents of the Economic and Social Council and its Commissions, and other organs of the United Nations will be made available to organizations.

/"Organizations

"Organizations or individuals desiring only the documentation of certain of the organs of the United Nations will be able to subscribe for a twelve-month period in accordance with the following schedule of prices:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Plenary Documents of the General Assembly | \$ 30.00 |
| 2. Documents of the Committees of the General Assembly | 65.00 |
| 3. Plenary Documents of the General Assembly <u>and</u> of the Committees of the General Assembly | 75.00 |
| 4. Documents of the Economic and Social Council | 30.00 |
| 5. Documents of the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council | 90.00 |
| 6. Documents of the Economic and Social Council <u>and</u> of the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council | 100.00 |
| 7. Documents of the Security Council | 100.00 |
| 8. Documents of the Trusteeship Council | 30.00" |
7. The Report of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations, convened by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations in May 1948 in Geneva, states the following in regard to documentation:

"Two main problems are of general concern: (1) the need for speed in transmission, and (2) the need for selection. As a partial solution of the first problem, it is suggested that sufficient copies of documents be sent by air to the United Nations Information Centres to enable them to lend documents to organizations requiring them urgently. The summary records could be omitted from documents sent to organizations not definitely requesting them. In strategical centres where there is no official Information Office, documentary centres for reference and lending should be set up through public libraries, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. It is essential to receive the agenda of meetings well in advance, and the Department of Public Information is requested to institute a mailing list for organizations wishing to receive agenda by air, in advance of the regular dispatch of documents. It is urged that when the proposed subscription arrangement for documents is instituted it will be possible to exercise more selection in the documents to be subscribed for. As a means of sorting documents it is felt that, in addition to the main differentiation by colour, and the official classification symbols, documents in different fields should be marked with conspicuous stars, letters, or bands. It is hoped that the United Nations will consider printing instead of mimeographing the daily documents, to achieve better reproduction /and lighter

and lighter bulk. The utmost economy and efficiency in distribution methods should be striven for to save on the overall cost of documents. It is proposed that a card index of documents be made available to organizations, by subscriptions. (Report of Committee I: Documentary, to Plenary Session, 18 May 1948)"

8. The request for "the need for selection" will be made partially by the systems referred to above under Points 5 and 6.

9. Concerning the point "the need for speed in transmission", organizations with consultative status have repeatedly stressed that under the present arrangements, they do not receive documents in time, and, therefore, are handicapped in efficiently fulfilling their consultative functions.

The Secretariat deems that due to budgetary limitations, as a whole, the situation cannot be remedied at present.

However, a system is now under study, to consider the possibilities whereby organizations, especially those requesting documents by air mail, would receive this service, it being understood that the air mailing expense would be covered by the organizations themselves.

IV. Report of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations
(Held in Geneva, Switzerland, 15 to 21 May 1948)

A. As requested by one of the members of the Council NGO Committee, the Secretariat submits the following brief report of the results of the conference in reference to the Council NGO Committee:

B. The Conference at Geneva was in reality four separate Conferences, one of which was the third in a series called by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations. This Conference met on 17, 18 and the afternoon of 21 May.* Another Conference which met in the evening of 17 May was held under the auspices of the United Nations Appeal for Children.

* The report on the conference of international non-governmental organizations on United Nations information held under the auspices of the Department of Public Information has been issued by the Department of Public Information. This report contains recommendations on specific problems involving means of information and contains the following headings:

- (a) Documentation
- (b) United Nations Bulletin
- (c) Other Publications
- (d) Writers' Board
- (e) Mass Communications
- (f) Speakers
- (g) Teaching the United Nations
- (h) Scholarships
- (i) Youth Camps and International Exchanges
- (j) United Nations Day
- (k) Model Assemblies
- (l) Community Activities

This report is, however, confined to the two Conferences called by the Ad Hoc Committee of Consultative Non-Governmental Organizations a body composed of eighteen organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council.*

This committee although it worked in close liaison and co-operation with the United Nations Secretariat, was an entirely independent body which freely made its own decisions. It was set up by the non-governmental organizations which attended the Interim Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations which the United Nations Department of Public Information convened for September 1947, in order that plans might be made for two days' discussion of substantive matters at the time of, but independently of the next Conference called by that Department. The Ad Hoc Committee held meetings on 6 and 18 November 1947, 23 January, 21 February and 30 March 1948. During the course of its work it was decided to call two separate Conferences, one for the discussion of human rights, and the other for the discussion of the arrangements for consultation.

(I)

EXPLORATORY CONFERENCE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
GRANTED CONSULTATIVE STATUS BY THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

This Conference met in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Saturday 15 May and on Friday morning, 21 May. In addition to its Agenda and Rules of Procedure, it had before it the following Working Papers:

Relations between Specialized Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (14 pages).

* The Members of this Ad Hoc Committee were:

World Federation of Trade Unions
International Co-operative Alliance
American Federation of Labor
International Chamber of Commerce
International Federation of Christian Trade Unions
International Federation of Agricultural Producers
Inter-Parliamentary Union
International Organization of Industrial Employers
World Federation of United Nations Associations
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
International League for the Rights of Man
International Council of Women
International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues
International Student Service
International Transport Workers Federation
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
World Jewish Congress

/Statements

Statements of Non-Governmental Organizations concerning their relations with Inter-Governmental Organizations, with particular reference to existing consultative arrangements with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (43 pages).

Past experience and present efforts in inter-organizational relationships (49 pages).

The assistance which Non-Governmental Organizations can give to the Secretariat of the United Nations (15 pages).

Arrangements of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations: Guide for Consultants (Economic and Social Council document E/INF/23, 30 April 1948) (46 pages).

This Consultative Conference was limited to the seventy-one organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council and was attended by over one hundred persons representing fifty-four Organizations.

This Conference set up an "Interim Committee of Consultative Organizations" for the following purposes:

- (a) To consider the present consultative relations with the United Nations and to ensure that all necessary technical facilities are provided.
- (b) To study the question of continuing relationships between Non-Governmental Organizations with consultative status.
- (c) To study the relationships with the Organizations without consultative status and to invite three representatives of these Organizations to participate in this study.
- (d) To consider any recommendations of the present Conference.
- (e) To decide, after consultation with the Department of Public Information and other appropriate Departments of the United Nations, the scope of the next Conference or group of Conferences of Non-Governmental Organizations, and to make the necessary preparations.
- (f) To submit the results of its work to the next Conference.

(II)

EXPLORATORY CONFERENCE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, ESPECIALLY THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

This Conference, which met on 19-20 May, was attended by all of the organizations represented in Geneva, with or without consultative status. To this Conference some 270 delegates came, representing 112 Organizations.

/In addition to

In addition to its Agenda and Rules of Procedure, it had before it the following Working Papers:

An International Bill of Human Rights - United Nations Department of Public Information Background Paper No. 40, Lake Success, New York, 15 April 1948. (22 pages).

Statements on the efforts of Specialized Agencies and other Inter-Governmental Organizations in favour of Human Rights (7 pages).

Statements on the efforts of Non-Governmental Organizations in favour of Human Rights (4 pages).

Bibliography on Human Rights (17 pages).

C. A full report of the two conferences referred to above containing the Summary of the decisions and the resolutions adopted has been issued as a United Nations document (E/C.2/98) and is being submitted separately to the members of the Council NGO Committee.

D. The following exchange of messages took place between Mr. Georges Thelin, President of the Conferences of Non-Governmental Organizations and Mr. Trygve Lie, the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

1. Cablegram of Mr. Thelin:

"FROM GENEVA (SWITZERLAND)

SENT 22 MAY 48 1300 (GENEVA)

RECD 23 MAY 48 0337 EDST

WDGE 42/40

SECRETARY-GENERAL

CONFERENCE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS MEETING PALAIS NATIONS
GENEVA DESIRES EXPRESS GRATITUDE TO UNITED NATIONS FOR HOSPITALITY
AND CO-OPERATION HOPES RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN UN AND NGOS MAY BE
INTENSIFIED AND PROMISES BACKING ALL EFFORTS UN FOR WORLD PEACE

THELIN PRESIDENT"

2. Letter of the Secretary-General:

"ECA 10/1/065/LH :

14 June 1948

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge, and to thank you for, your cablegram to me of 22 May 1948, sent in your capacity as President of the Conferences of non-governmental international organizations recently held at Geneva.

The results of these conferences have been of the greatest possible interest to me, and I fully appreciate the importance of the assistance which the organizations that attended those meetings have agreed to give to the United Nations.

/I can assure

I can assure you that the United Nations, from its side, will at all times put forward every effort to develop relations with the non-governmental organizations which will be of advantage to both of us.

I am, etc.,

Trygve Lie
Secretary-General

Mr. Georges Thélin,
President, Federation of Semi-official
and Private International Institutions,
established at Geneva,
43 quai Wilson,
Geneva,
Switzerland"
