

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

## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

Lake Success, New York,

Monday, 2 February 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

## Present:

Chairman: Mr. PAPANEK\* (Czechoslovakia)

Mr. Wu (China)

Mr. de Folin (France)

Mr. Kobushko (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

Mr. Alexander (United Kingdom)

Mr. Kotschnig (United States of America)

Secretary: Mr. White (Non-governmental Organizations  
Section, Division of Co-ordination  
and Liaison)

IV. (Cont.) CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS18. International Association of the Medical Press (No. 18, document  
E/C.2/W.8)

The application of the International Association of the Medical Press  
for consultative status was rejected as its field of work lay within that  
of WHO.

49. International Union of Socialist Youth (No. 49, document  
E/C.2/W.8/Add.1/Rev.1)

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that  
the International Union of Socialist Youth had neither a definite

\* Mr. Papanek stated that since a new President of the Council had been  
~~elected that morning~~ that he would neither vote nor abstain from voting.  
However, he presided since the members of the Committee had  
requested him to do so.

programme nor definitely established rules of procedure. In the short period of its existence it had accomplished nothing. It had decided to publish a bulletin, but as far as he knew had not yet done so. Of the countries which had been members, the United States of America, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Italy and France had already left.

There was no evidence that the activities of the organization were directed towards the accomplishment of the aims and objectives of the United Nations, and he thought that the application should be rejected.

Mr. KOISCHNIG (United States of America), while agreeing with the USSR representative that the organization had not yet shown much evidence of constructive activity, thought that it had as much interest in social and economic problems as, for instance, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, which had been granted consultative status. The only difference between the two organizations was their political background. He would be reluctant to reject the International Union of Socialist Youth, but would suggest postponing decision for one year, during which period the organization should be able to develop its activities.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) favoured postponing decision upon the organization for one year.

The proposal to reject the application of the International Union of Socialist Youth was rejected by three votes to one, with one abstention.

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed surprise that the organization should be compared with the World Federation of Democratic Youth. On the basis of the information supplied by the Secretariat, it did not fulfil one of the conditions for consultative status set out in document E/43/Rev.2, and he could see no reason for postponing decision upon it.

Mr. KOISCHNIG (United States of America) drew attention to its large membership, and to the second of the three general purposes outlined: "the struggle for better working conditions for young workers...", which came within the scope of the Economic and Social Council. There were many different ideologies in the world, and socialist economic concepts were just as important to the Council as capitalist or communist concepts.

There was enough evidence to justify serious consideration of the organization at a later date.

The proposal to postpone decision upon the application of the International Union of Socialist Youth for one year was adopted by three votes to one, with one abstention.

V. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS OF NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS (E/C.2/W.9)

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) reminded members of the procedure formerly adopted when considering national organizations: they had to have the support of the State to which they belonged, and the Committee would only recommend them for consultative status if they were quite outstanding.

2. Czechoslovak Academy of Agriculture

Mr. PAPANEK (Czechoslovakia) stated that, while he knew that the Czechoslovak Academy of Agriculture was an important organization which rendered great services in its own particular field, his delegation had no special instructions and he would not ask for its admission until instructions were received from the Czechoslovak Government.

1. Association nationale d'Expansion économique

Mr. DE FOLIN (France) had no instructions from his Government about this organization, and so would not ask for its admission.

3. National Peace Conference

4. American Social Hygiene Association, Inc.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) thought that the National Peace Conference could work more effectively through the Department of Public Information and the American Social Hygiene Association, Inc. through WHO, at least for the time being.

There being no support from the governments concerned, the applications of the four national organizations were not open to consideration.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF REAPPLICATION OF ORGANIZATIONS PREVIOUSLY REFUSED CONSULTATIVE STATUS

36. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (No. 36)  
document E/C.2/W.8

Mr. WU (China), supported by Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) and Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom), proposed to recommend the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom for consultative status in category (b), on the basis of the additional information received concerning its activities and its interest in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) saw no reason to modify the previous decision of the Committee.

It was decided, by four votes to one, to recommend the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom for admission to consultative status in category (b).

37. The World Calendar Association International (No. 37, document E/C.2/W.8)

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) saw no reason to reverse the previous decision of the Committee, as the Economic and Social Council did not wish to become involved in the question of calendar reform at the present time.

The SECRETARY felt it his duty to inform the Committee that a communication dated 27 January 1948 had been received from the Association, enclosing a recent publication and a petition to the President of the Economic and Social Council with a resolution passed by the Association on 15 January, asking for consultative status in category (a) or (b).

The Committee agreed unanimously to reject the application of the World Calendar Association International.

55. Agudas Israel World Organization (No. 55, document E/C.2/W.8/Add.2)

The CHAIRMAN, supported by Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) and Mr. DE FOLIN (France), proposed that the Agudas Israel World Organization should be recommended for consultative status in category (b).

In reply to a question from Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) concerning the kind of consultation the organization could give the Economic and Social Council, the SECRETARY stated that the organization had had representatives at the session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) while not opposing the admission of the organization, pointed out that three other Jewish organizations had already been granted consultative status, and he hoped that at a later date, when the various organizations were reviewed, some system of grouping could be found. It was not in the interest of either the Council itself or the various organizations for them each to be represented separately.

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not see that anything had happened to change the decision taken at both the fourth and fifth sessions of the Economic and Social Council not to grant consultative status to the organization.

It was decided, by three votes to one, with one abstention, to recommend the Agudas Israel World Organization for consultative status in category (b).

56. International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law (No. 56 document E/C.2/W.8/Add.2)

Upon the CHAIRMAN pointing out that the International Association of Penal Law had already been admitted, Mr. DE FOLIN (France) stated that the activities of the Bureau were of a different nature, and that the Bureau needed separate consultative status.

/Mr. ALEXANDER

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) proposed that the Bureau should be recommended for admission to category (b). It had a specific task and its work was of great interest from many points of view. The Secretariat of the United Nations had profited considerably from contacts with the Bureau.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) thought that the president of the two organizations was the same, in that case, the two organizations could be represented by one person.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) agreed that there happened to be interlocking membership, but the same could be said of many other organizations. The same official could be performing different functions in the two organizations.

It was decided, by four votes to one, to recommend the International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law for consultative status in category (b) the Secretary to request that both the Bureau and the Association should be represented by the same person, as far as possible.

#### VII. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY ORGANIZATIONS

##### ALREADY ADMITTED TO CONSULTATIVE STATUS

The Committee took note of additional information concerning the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Conference of Social Work, the International Statistical Institute, the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electric Power and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (Nos. 38 to 43 inclusive, document E/C.2/W.8).

#### VIII. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) introduced his draft resolution, as follows:

##### "THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

"Considering that several non-governmental organizations, whose applications for consultative status under Article 71 or for reclassification were denied by the Council, immediately re-applied and

"Considering that paragraph 2 of Section II of the Council Resolution of June 21, 1946 states in part that 'it should also be recognized as a basic principle that the arrangements should not be such as to overburden the Council'.

"Decides that any re-applications for status or requests for reclassification should be considered by the Council NGO Committee for recommendation to the Council, at the earliest eighteen months after the last action taken by the Council on such applications or requests."

/Mr. WU

Mr. WU (China) asked whether the period in the last paragraph could be changed to twelve months. He thought a period of eighteen months might be too discouraging to organizations.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) pointed out that twelve months would mean that organizations could re-apply at every second session of the Economic and Social Council. He would, however, agree to add at the end of the last paragraph the words: "unless otherwise decided at the time such action is taken".

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) found that the draft resolution tended to generalize organizations, whereas he thought they should be considered separately. Some cases would need more than eighteen months before reconsideration, others less. The main object of the interval was to allow new information regarding the organizations to be received. He would vote against the resolution.

The United States draft resolution, as amended by the United States representative, was adopted by four votes to one.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER OR NOT CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL REGARDING THE EXPULSION OF THEIR SPANISH AFFILIATES (document E/C.2/W.8/Add.2, No. 57)

The SECRETARY explained that the International Automobile Federation and the International Touring Alliance had informed the Secretary-General that their Spanish affiliate was not represented on their (joint) General Committee. The Spanish affiliate had, furthermore, been informed that all relations were suspended with both organizations pending the receipt of a letter of resignation or expulsion according to the constitutions of these two organizations. The Legal Department, having been asked to give an opinion whether that action met the conditions of the Council's decision, had replied that the Council should be asked to state whether the word "exclusion" used in its resolution of 13 August 1947 meant the final act of separation or could be applied to the intermediate step of suspension.

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the application of those organizations for consultative status should be rejected on the grounds that they had not complied with the Council's condition.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) agreed with the USSR representative that the Council's resolution had not been complied with. He would not, however, reject their applications, but rather withhold consultative status until such time as the conditions had been fulfilled.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) pointed out that the organizations in question were doing all in their power to sever relations with their Spanish affiliates but that such action took a certain time according to their statutes. He proposed that they should be recommended for consultative status forthwith.

/Mr. DE FOLIN

Mr. DE FOLIN (France) supported that proposal. In his opinion, the two organizations could be considered to have severed relations with their Spanish branches already.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) stressed that exclusion of the Spanish affiliates was not complete until they had actually been expelled or had resigned. The fact that in practice the Spanish branches had no relations with the parent bodies did not satisfy the requirements of the Council's resolution.

Upon Mr. Kotschnig's pointing out that the original Council resolution of 28 March 1947 (Resolution No. 57 (IV)) made an exception in the case of branches which were "not active at the present time", Mr. Alexander stated that the same resolution ruled that organizations with legally constituted branches in Spain were to be "excluded".

The USSR proposal to refuse the applications of the International Automobile Federation and the International Touring Alliance was rejected by three votes to one, with one abstention.

The United Kingdom proposal to withhold consultative status indefinitely until the Spanish affiliates had been finally excluded was rejected by two votes to two, with one abstention.

Mr. WU (China) proposed that the two organizations should be given twelve months within which to comply with the Council resolution; if they had not complied by that time, they should be rejected.

The Chinese proposal was adopted by three votes to two.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) and Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) asked to have it noted in the report of the Committee that their delegations requested an interpretation of resolution 57 (IV) of the Economic and Social Council.

International Organization for Standardization (No. 57 (II), document E/C.2/W.8/Add.2)

The International Organization for Standardization having complied with the requirements of the Council resolution, the Committee agreed that it had met the requirements for consultative status.

International Bar Association and International Federation for Housing and Town Planning (No. 57 (III), document E/C.2/W.8/Add.2)

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) proposed that as the International Bar Association and the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning had sent no information concerning the fulfilment of the Council's condition, they should be given a time-limit of twelve months within which to comply.

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that both organizations should be rejected. He considered they had already had ample time in which to reply.

The USSR proposal was rejected by four votes to one.

The United Kingdom proposal was adopted by three votes to one, with one abstention.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) explained that he had abstained, since those cases were also subject to the interpretation of resolution 57 (IV).

The SECRETARY asked whether, in the case of the Spanish affiliate of any organization resigning or being expelled, he would be correct in informing that organization that it had consultative status.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) said that consultative status could not be granted until the Committee had taken note of the expulsion and declared itself satisfied.

Upon Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) pointing out that in the case of ICAO, the agreement with the Economic and Social Council had been put into force the very day that its Spanish affiliate had been expelled, Mr. Alexander replied that in the case of non-governmental organizations he proposed that the Committee should first have to declare itself satisfied.

Mr. KOBUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed that such a decision must be taken by the Committee and the Council.

The United Kingdom proposal was adopted by four votes to none, with one abstention.

X. CONSIDERATION OF GRANTING ADDITIONAL RIGHTS TO CATEGORY (b) ORGANIZATIONS  
(E/530/Corr.1)

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) proposed that rules 5 and 44 of the rules of procedure of functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council, which concerned the distribution of agendas, reports, resolutions etc., should be amended to include non-governmental organizations in category (b), and possibly also (c), in the list of recipients.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) and Mr. WU (China) reserved their position on the question, for budgetary reasons. A great deal of documentation was involved, and it would depend on the number of category (b) organizations.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) suggested that organizations in category (b) could perhaps receive the documentation of only those Commissions in which they were particularly interested. The words "and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in category (b)" added to rules 5 and 44 would meet the case.

/The SECRETARY



The SECRETARY informed the Committee that all organizations in every category were already receiving all the documents of the Economic and Social Council, with the exception of the special letter convening Commissions, which went to category (a) organizations only. To sort out the documents appropriate for each separate organization would involve so much labour that it would be cheaper to continue to send all documents to all organizations.

Mr. KOEUSHKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the right to place items on the provisional agendas of the Commissions should be reserved to mass democratic organizations, and that each request to place an item on the agenda should be the subject of a separate examination and decision.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) asked if the Secretary could prepare a report for the Committee, giving details of the distribution of documents to non-governmental organizations.

With regard to the right to place items on the provisional agenda of Commissions, he pointed out that that right was almost the only privilege granted to category (a) organizations which was not enjoyed by category (b) organizations, and to grant it indiscriminately to organizations in all three categories would end in obliterating that distinction. Category (b) organizations already had the privilege of having their documents circulated to Members of the United Nations, and it would be wise to see to what extent they had utilized the facilities granted to them before considering the extension of those facilities. He viewed with dismay the USSR proposal to grant rights to some organizations in Category (b) and not to others. This was tantamount to creating a new sub-category and against the terms of the basic NGO resolution.

He suggested that the question should be postponed for a year or two, to be examined later in the light of experience.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the time was not yet ripe for the extension of the right to propose items for the agenda. He formally proposed that organizations in category (b) should not be granted that right.

The distribution of documents, however, was a very important part of the whole process of consultation, and he could not see that it would involve a great expense.

The USSR proposal that certain mass democratic organizations in category (b) to be specified by the Committee, should have the right to place items on the agendas of Commissions was rejected by four votes to one.

The United States proposal that organizations in category (b) should not be granted the right to propose items for the provisional agendas of Commissions was adopted by four votes to one.

/It was agreed that

It was agreed that the points raised by the United Kingdom representative concerning documents should be studied by the Secretariat and details submitted at the next meeting of the Committee.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS REFERRED TO THE FISCAL COMMISSION

It was agreed that no action could be taken until the Fiscal Commission had met.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIPS OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) saw no reason to discuss the question. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East evidently felt no need for a reference to consultative relationship in its rules of procedure, since there were very few non-governmental organizations in the countries of the Far East.

Mr. WU (China) agreed that there was not the same need as in other Commissions. The matter could be left for the present, to be reviewed if more Far Eastern non-governmental organizations applied for consultative status.

Mr. KOBUSEKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) urged that non-governmental organizations with consultative status should have the right to extend their consultation only to those regional commissions whose area corresponded to theirs.

The CHAIRMAN, supported by Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom), thought it would be sufficient to draw the attention of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to the relevant rules in the rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe and to the remarks of the USSR representative.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) urged that regional commissions should be left to decide their own procedure.

Mr. KOBUSEKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for a vote to be taken upon his proposal.

The USSR proposal was rejected by three votes to one, with one abstention.

XIII. PROPOSAL OF SECRETARIAT TO REQUEST CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATIONS TO REPORT ANNUALLY

It having been agreed that consultative organizations should be requested to report annually on their consultative work in order that information would be available for the review of their consultative status two years after the grant thereof, the Secretary was asked to prepare a draft letter to that effect and submit it to the Committee.

XIV. INSTRUCTIONS TO SECRETARY ON REPLY TO "INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL OF COMMERCE AND PRODUCTION"

The SECRETARY explained that the Secretariat had been instructed, when informing

informing organizations of decisions of the Council, to pass on only constructive information. Did the Committee wish to instruct him how to reply to a letter sent by the Inter-American Council of Commerce and Production requesting reasons why it had not been granted category (a) status and what had been done about its suggestions regarding the classification of organizations in category (b)?

The Secretary was instructed to give no information on these points, on the grounds that the meetings of the Committee were closed and such information therefore restricted.

XV. CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATION FROM THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Agenda Committee had received from the Acting Secretary-General a letter from the World Jewish Congress, asking him to send to the Agenda Committee a memorandum concerning the situation of Jewish populations in Arab countries. As the World Jewish Congress was a category (b) organization, the Agenda Committee had referred the letter to the NGO Committee.

Mr. ALEXANDER (United Kingdom) urged that it was essential that in this case as in others, whatever steps were taken must be in full conformity with the procedure laid down. The political implications involved made this even more important than it usually was.

The SECRETARY explained that the procedure was for each communication to be put on a list with the substance briefly indicated, and issued as a E/C.2/ - document. Circulation of the full text would only take place upon the request of a Member of the Council.

It was agreed to follow the usual procedure with respect to the communication from the World Jewish Congress.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

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