

## TRANSLATION OF THE CLASSICS

## Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Aase LIONAES (Norway)

1. During the second part of the first session of the General Assembly the Delegation of Lebanon sent a letter (document A/DUR/47) to the Secretary-General requesting that the question of the translation and publication of the world's classics be placed upon the Agenda. The Delegation of Lebanon later submitted a draft resolution on the subject (document A/C.3/109).

2. The General Assembly, at its forty-seventh plenary meeting on 9 November 1946 referred the question to the Third Committee, which considered it on 5 December 1946.

3. The representative of Lebanon, Dr. Malik, in introducing the subject, stressed the need of initiation by the General Assembly of studies and surveys on intellectual and cultural problems. His proposal was supported by the representatives of Chile, Syria, France, the United States, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and India, some of them however stressing the part to be played by the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization in the undertaking of such studies.

The representative of Saudi-Arabia also supported the proposal, but emphasized that the works should be selected in such a way as to promote international goodwill and that the definition of classics should not be restricted to any period.

4. The Delegation of the United States submitted an amendment proposing that the problem be referred first to the Economic and Social Council

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and then to UNESCO.

This amendment was adopted unanimously.

5. The Third Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING that the translation of the world's classics into the languages of the Members of the United Nations will promote understanding and peace among nations by the creation of a community of culture in which the peoples of all nations may participate:

1. DECIDES to refer this question to the Economic and Social Council for reference to the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization and suitable action;

2. RECOMMENDS to the Economic and Social Council and to the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization the following principles to be considered in its study of this question:

(a) That the translation of the classics is a project of international concern and of great significance for the promotion of international cultural co-operation;

(b) That certain nations do not have sufficient facilities and resources for the authentic translation of numerous classics into their languages;

(c) That such translation is greatly conducive to their cultural development;

(d) That the definition of classics should not be limited by reference to any particular culture but should include products of all nations or cultures which are deemed by the highest authorities to have universal significance and permanent value.