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TRANSFER TO THE UNITED NATIONS OF THE FUNCTIONS AND
POWERS EXERCISED BY THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNDER THE
SLAVERY CONVENTION OF 25 SEPTEMBER 1926: DRAFT
PROTOCOL PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith communications received from the Governments of Greece, Haiti and Switzerland in reply to a note addressed by the Secretary-General, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 475 (XV) of 27 April 1953, to the States Parties to the Slavery Convention signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926, with a view to obtaining their comments on the draft Protocol prepared by the Secretary-General regarding the transfer to the United Nations of the functions and powers exercised by the League of Nations under the Slavery Convention.
2. The Secretary-General has also received communications from the Government of Canada informing him that it has taken note of the draft Protocol and has no observation to offer thereon, and from the Government of Monaco to the effect that it has no observation to make on the draft Protocol.

GREECE

Letter, dated 27 August 1953, addressed to the Secretary-General
by the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

The Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to letter No. SOA 17/1/02 of 21 July 1953 transmitting for comment by the Greek Government a draft protocol regarding the transfer to the United Nations of the functions and powers exercised by the League of Nations under the Slavery Convention of 1926.

The Permanent Representative of Greece begs to inform the Secretary-General that the Greek Government agrees in principle both with the idea of the transfer and with the text of the draft protocol and the amendments to the articles of the Convention therein proposed.

HAITI

Letter, dated 18 August 1953, addressed to the Secretary-General
by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Haiti

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Secretary-General's letter of 21 July last, No. SOA 17/1/02, drawing the attention of the Government of Haiti to paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 475 (XV) relating to slavery, adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 27 April 1953.

Pursuant to that resolution the Government of Haiti, which is a party to the Slavery Convention of 1926, has examined the draft protocol prepared by the Secretary-General regarding the transfer to the United Nations of the functions and powers exercised by the League of Nations under that Convention. The Government of Haiti has no objection to the draft protocol. It considers, however, that the question of the contemplated transfer could be linked with that of the advisability and possible content of a supplementary convention to the Convention of 1926.

In its opinion the results of the consultation carried out by the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 4 of the operative part of resolution 475 (XV) should be awaited before the projected transfer is carried through.

If, in line with the possibilities envisaged in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Slavery, and as is to be desired, a majority of States is in favour of the adoption of a revised convention on slavery, the slave trade and other forms of servitude, consideration might well be given to the possibility of arranging the transfer by obtaining parliamentary action on the whole question of slavery at one time. If, on the other hand, it were agreed to adopt a supplementary convention to the Convention of 1926, the Government of Haiti is of the opinion that it would be advisable to do no more at this time than arrange for transfer to the United Nations of the functions and powers exercised by the League of Nations.

SWITZERLAND

Letter, dated 31 August 1953, addressed to the Secretary-General
by the Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations

The Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations presents his compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to refer to letter No. SOA 17/1/02 of 21 July 1953 relating to the draft protocol regarding the transfer to the United Nations of the functions and powers exercised by the League of Nations under the Slavery Convention of 1926.

According to a communication from the Federal Political Department, the competent Swiss authorities - while affirming that none of the forms of slavery covered by the 1926 Convention exists in Switzerland - see no objection to the amplification of that instrument by the proposed protocol, or to the transfer to the United Nations of the League of Nations' powers in this matter.
