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Chairman: Mr. Hermod LANNUNG (Denmark).

AGENDA ITEM 31

**Draft International Covenants on Human Rights
(E/2573, annexes I, II and III, A/2907 and
Add.1 and 2, A/2910 and Add.1 to 6, A/2929,
A/3077, A/C.3/L.460, A/3149, A/C.3/L.528,
A/C.3/L.532, A/C.3/L.580 to 585) (*continued*)**

**ARTICLES 11 AND 12 OF THE DRAFT COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/2573,
ANNEX I A) (*continued*)**

1. Mr. MASSOUD-ANSARI (Iran) said he saw no need for a reference to the right of everyone to "the continuous improvement of living conditions", as stated in article 12 of the draft Covenant (E/2573, annex I A). While States had the duty to see that the individual enjoyed an adequate standard of living, they were often powerless to improve his living conditions; it was primarily the responsibility of the individual himself to exert an effort towards that end. Moreover, there were various obstacles in the way of any process of continuous improvement: in the socialist countries, for example, the limitation imposed upon the right of property, and elsewhere, the progressive taxation of income.

2. Mr. HOOD (Australia) suggested that the Committee, instead of setting up a working party, could either request the Secretariat to prepare a summary extracting the elements common to the various proposals, or else vote on the various amendments in the order in which they had been submitted.

3. Miss SOUTER (New Zealand) suggested that the Committee might adopt as a basis for discussion some draft which was comparatively close to the original text, such as that proposed by the United Kingdom and Uruguay (A/C.3/L.582).

4. Mrs. SHOHAM-SHARON (Israel) supported the New Zealand representative's suggestion. It would be difficult to define the terms of reference of a working party, since the amendments submitted differed more in form than in substance.

5. Mr. CASTAÑEDA (Mexico) said the amendments were all quite close to one another, so that there should be some possibility of reconciling them. He therefore proposed that the Commission should decide immediately to set up a working party to study articles 11 and 12 and the amendments to them.

6. Mr. VARNAKOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) supported the Mexican representative's proposal.

7. Mr. PONCE (Ecuador) also supported the Mexican representative's proposal, and proposed that the working party should be instructed "to try to bring together, in harmonized form, the proposed amendments and sub-amendments".

8. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Mexican proposal as supplemented by the Ecuadorian representative.

The proposal was adopted by 33 votes to 12, with 8 abstentions.

9. After a brief discussion in which Mr. EUSTATHIADES (Greece), Mr. CHAUDHURI (Pakistan), Mrs. QUAN (Guatemala), Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) and Mr. PAZHWAQ (Afghanistan) took part, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the working party should be composed of the sponsors of all the amendments and sub-amendments, together with the Rapporteur.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.