

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SECOND SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 5 December 1947, at 10 a.m.

Present:**Chairman:**

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt (United States
of America)

Members:

Col. W. R. Hodgson (Australia)

Professor Dehousse (Belgium)

Mr. Stepanenko (Byelorussian S.S.R.)

Dr. Wu (China)

Mr. Loutfi (Egypt)

Professor Cassin (France)

Mrs. H. Mehta (India)

Mr. Pourevaly (Iran)

Dr. C. Malik (Lebanon)

Mr. M. Amado (Panama)

General C. Romulo (Philippine Republic)

Lord Dukeston (United Kingdom)

Mr. Klekovkin (Ukrainian S.S.R.)

Mr. A. E. Bogomolov (U.S.S.R.)

Dr. V. Ribnikar (Yugoslavia)

**Representatives of
the Commission on
the Status of Women:**

Mrs. Begtrup

Mrs. Uralova

Secretariat:

Professor J. P. Humphrey

Mr. E. Lawson

Specialised Agencies:

Mr. J. de Givry (I.L.O.)

Non-Governmental
Organizations:

Category A:

Miss T. Sender (American Federation of
Labor)

Mr. Robinet de Clery (Inter-Parliamentary
Union)

Mr. Serrarens (International Federation
of Christian Trades Unions)

Non-Governmental
Organizations:

Category B:

Dr. Bienenfeld (World Jewish Congress)

Mr. Duchosal (International Committee
of the Red Cross)

Miss van Eeghen (International Council
of Women)

Mr. F. Nolde (Commission of the Churches
on International Affairs)

Miss de Romer (International Union of
Catholic Women's Leagues)

Mr. M. Winn (Consultative Council of
Jewish Organizations)

The CHAIRMAN stated that, since the Commission had formally decided in favour of the setting up of three Working Groups, those Groups would start their work simultaneously at the end of the present plenary meeting. The establishment of three Working Groups meeting simultaneously raised certain technical difficulties for the Secretariat, which it had endeavoured to overcome by forming linguistically homogeneous groups.

The composition of the Working Groups would be as follows:

1. Group on the Declaration: United States of America, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Byelorussian S.S.R., Philippines, Panama and China.
2. Group on the Convention: United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, India, France, Chile, Lebanon.

3. Group on Implementation: Australia, Belgium, Iran, Ukrainian S.S.R., Egypt and Uruguay.

The Commission needed to set up a Sub-Committee to deal with the Human Rights Yearbook, the examination of the Report of the War Crimes Commission and the document on the Evolution of Human Rights. That Sub-Committee would consist of the representatives of Belgium, Egypt and Yugoslavia.

Professor CASSIN (France) asked, in view of the part he had played over a long period in the work connected with the elaboration of an International Declaration of Rights, to be associated with the work of the Group on the Declaration, rather than with that of the Group on the Convention.

The CHAIRMAN agreed to that request, and proposed that the representative of China should take Professor CASSIN's place in the Group on the Convention.

Dr. WU (China) agreed to that proposal.

Colonel HODGSON (Australia) asked whether it would not be possible for a Delegation to take part in the work of two Groups at the same time.

The CHAIRMAN did not think that was possible, as the Groups would be working simultaneously.

Colonel HODGSON (Australia) suggested that the deputies or alternates of members might take their places.

The CHAIRMAN stated that they would only be able to attend the meetings as observers without the right to vote; Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure stipulated in fact that an alternate was only granted the right to vote when replacing an absent member: that was not the case in the present instance, and it would be more appropriate to call such observers "representatives", rather than alternates.

Lord DUKESTON (United Kingdom) stated that if the Working Groups overlapped they would hold each other up. It would be preferable if they confined themselves to their own work, which should subsequently be discussed in plenary session.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that it was merely a question of the Advisers of regular members of the Commission attending the meetings of the other Groups as representatives, with the right to take part in the discussion on request.

Mr. LOUTFI (Egypt) stated that he would like to take part in the work of the Group on the Convention. Mrs. Mehta (India) would be willing to take his place in the Group on Implementation.

The CHAIRMAN agreed to that change.

Mr. BOGOMOLOV (U.S.S.R.) wished it to be understood that the work of the Groups was no more than a preliminary stage, the final stage being the discussion in the plenary Commission. Members would therefore have the right to reserve their opinions, even on points concerning the work of their own Groups. Furthermore, he could see no advantage in the proposal of the Australian representative, since each Member would be able to state his criticisms in plenary session.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Australian proposal was prompted by a desire to save the Commission's time. Through the intermediary of the observers, members would be able to keep themselves informed of the work of the other Groups as it progressed, thereby avoiding unnecessary repetition during the discussions in plenary session.

Colonel HODGSON (Australia) asked whether the representatives of the Specialized Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations intended to speak before the close of the present plenary meeting.

Mr. BOGOMOLOV (U.S.S.R.) was glad the Australian representatives had raised that question.

The CHAIRMAN, before inviting the representatives of the Specialized Agencies or the observers to submit their observations, wished to point out that it was for each Working Group officially to invite one of the representatives of the Commission on the Status of Women to attend their meetings whenever a question within their sphere of interest was to be discussed.

Miss Toni SENDER (Representative of the American Federation of Labor) stated that it was customary for the representatives of the Non-Governmental Organizations to participate in Sub-Committees with the same rights as they enjoyed when participating in plenary Commissions. Those rights included permission to submit written statements.

Mr. de GIVRY (Representative of the International Labor Organization) stated that, with regard to questions such as trade union rights and implementation, the International Labour Organization would be glad to have its observations submitted orally by its delegates participating in the work of the various Groups.

Dr. BIENENFELD (World Jewish Congress) expressed his gratitude to the Commission for the part it was allowing him to take in its work.

Mr. WINN (Representative of the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations) stated that the Organization he represented had already submitted a memorandum on the subject of the draft Declaration and Convention, and that he would submit his observations on the work undertaken in the Groups.

Mr. ROBINET de CLERY (Inter-Parliamentary Union) stated that Mr. Boissier and himself had already submitted a memorandum

on the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the field of Human Rights, and reserved the right to take part in the meetings of the Working Groups.

Mr. SERRARENS (International Federation of Christian Trades Unions) stated that the Federation had already submitted a memorandum to the Commission and reserved the right to submit a new note relating to questions which concerned workers.

Mr. NOLDE (Commission of the Churches on International Affairs) wished to express his gratitude to the Commission on Human Rights.

Miss de ROMER (International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues) wished to recall that she had already proposed various amendments at the Commission's previous session on behalf of her organization, and reserved the right to submit them again in the various Groups.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the representatives of the Specialized Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations for their statements, adding that they would enjoy the same rights in the Working Groups as in the plenary Commission.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.