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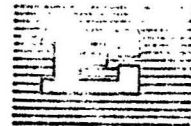


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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN/SA COLLECTION

Tenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 23 March 1956, at 10.30 a.m.

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Present:Chairman:

Mrs. RÖSSEL (Sweden)

Members:

Mrs. CORREA MORALES de APARICIO	Argentina
Miss GIBSON	Australia
Mrs. CISELET	Belgium
Mrs. NOVIKOVA	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Mrs. CHU	China
Miss MAÑAS	Cuba
Miss BERNADINO	Dominican Republic
Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX	France
Miss ROESAD	Indonesia
Mrs. BEN-ZVI	Israel
Begum ANWAR AHMED	Pakistan
Mrs. DEMCINSKA	Poland
Mr. GIRON	Sweden
Mrs. SPIRIDONOVA	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Dame Lucile SAYERS	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mrs. HAHN	United States of America
Mrs. SANCHEZ de URDANETA	Venezuela
Mrs. MITROVIĆ	Yugoslavia

Observers for Governments of States Members of the United Nations:

Mr. SARAIVA GUERREIRO	Brazil
Mr. STOYANOV	Bulgaria
Mr. STRNAD	Czechoslovakia
Miss CORCOS	Italy
Miss LUNSINGH-MEIJER	Netherlands

Representatives of specialized agencies:

International Labour Organisation	Mrs. FIGUEROA
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Miss SALAS
World Health Organization	Miss HOWELL

Representative of an inter-governmental organization:

Inter-American Commission of Women                      Miss LUTZ

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A

International Confederation of Free Trade                      Mrs. EKENDAHL  
Unions

International Federation of Christian                      Miss NAGELS  
Trade Unions                      Mrs. SCHMIDT

World Federation of Trade Unions                      Mr. DRINKWATER  
Mrs. NOCE

World Federation of United Nations                      Mrs. KRETSCHMER  
Associations                      Mrs. TROUPIN

Category B

Catholic International Union for Social                      Miss BOSMANS  
Service                      Miss HERTOCHÉ  
Miss de ROMER

International Council of Women                      Mrs. CARTER

International Federation "Amies de la                      Mrs. van WERWEGE  
Jeune Fille"                      Mrs. WOOD

International Federation of Business                      Mrs. FINIDORI  
and Professional Women                      Miss TOMLINSON

International Federation of University                      Miss ROBB  
Women

International Federation of Women Lawyers                      Lady CHATTERJEE  
Miss MANFREDINI

International League for the Rights of Man                      Mrs. WOLLE-EGENOLF

Liaison Committee of Women's International                      Mrs. de CAZOTTE  
Organizations                      Mrs. HYMER

Pan Pacific Women's Association                      Mrs. HYMER

Women's International League for Peace                      Mrs. BAER  
and Freedom

World Federation of Catholic Young Women                      Miss FARQUET  
and Girls                      Miss HERRIN

World Movement of Mothers                      Miss DHELLEMMES

World Union of Catholic Women's                      Miss de ROMER  
Organizations                      Miss THUAN

World's Women's Christian Temperance Union                      Mrs. LEUBA

World Young Women's Christian Association                      Miss ARNOLD

Young Christian Workers                      Miss PEZZULLO

Representatives of non-governmental organizations (continued):

Register

Open Door International	Mrs. BAER
Scroptimist International Association	Miss WIND
St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance	Miss CHALLONER Mrs. KINSELLA

Secretariat:

Mrs. Tenison-Woods	Representative of the Secretary-General
Mrs. Grinberg-Vinaver	Secretary to the Commission

1. EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK (item 5 of the agenda) (E/CN.6/L.197/Rev.1, E/CN.6/285 and Corr.1) (resumed from the 220th meeting and concluded).

The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to discuss the draft resolution on equal pay for equal work (E/CN.6/L.197/Rev.1), submitted jointly by the delegations of Cuba, Sweden and the United States of America in its revised form.

Mrs. CISELET (Belgium) said that, after a careful perusal of the revised text of the joint draft resolution, she considered operative paragraph 4 to be incomplete, since it provided that the draft pamphlet which the Secretary-General was invited to prepare should deal only with progress on the principle of equal pay. The resolution as a whole dealt not only with that matter but also, and in particular, with methods of giving effect to the principle, which were of very special interest to the several countries. She thought it advisable to mention those methods in paragraph 4 and would propose the insertion in that paragraph after the words "..... a draft of a pamphlet concerning .....", of the words "methods of giving effect to the equal pay principle and .....".

Mrs. BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) and Mrs. HAHN (United States of America), supported the Belgian amendment.

The Belgian amendment was adopted.

The joint draft resolution on equal pay for equal work (E/CN.6/L.197/Rev.1), as amended by the Belgian proposal, was adopted unanimously.

Mrs. FIGUEROA (International Labour Organisation) said that, although most of the information received from governments which had not ratified International Labour Convention No. 100 was contained in the report prepared for the tenth session of the Commission by the International Labour Office (ILO) it had not been possible to include the information received from those countries which had sent in their reports after the closing date. A progressive report on the subject would be submitted each year, but it would contain only supplementary information. The ILO would be happy to help as soon as possible in the preparation of the booklet mentioned in the resolution which had just been adopted by the Commission, but could not undertake to do so in 1957.

The CHAIRMAN declared that the Commission had completed its consideration of item 5 of the agenda, equal pay for equal work.

2. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN (item 7 of the agenda) (E/CN.6/L.189, E/CN.6/282 and E/CN.6/284) (resumed from the previous meeting)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to continue its consideration of item 7 of the agenda - economic opportunities for women - and invited the representative of the International Labour Organisation to reply to the question asked by the French representative at the previous meeting about the composition of the European Regional Conference of the International Labour Organisation held in January-February 1955.

Mrs. FIGUEROA (International Labour Organisation) said that a total of 257 representatives had attended the European Regional Conference, of whom 246 had been men and 11 women. The women representatives had been distributed as follows:

Austria	One government representative
Belgium	One government representative
Czechoslovakia	One workers' representative
France	One government representative and one workers' representative
Federal Republic of Germany	One workers' representative
Hungary	One government representative
Norway	One workers' representative
Poland	One government representative and one workers' representative
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	One government representative

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) thanked the representative of the International Labour Organisation for her reply. She had nothing to add, as the figures spoke for themselves.

Mrs. BEN-ZVI (Israel) said that it was doubtful whether any considerable demand for part-time women workers in Israel might not prove a hindrance to women in their careers, and a danger to their economic rights; that appeared to be the case in some other countries also. Many people in her country were engaged in part-time work, either because of their family responsibilities or their studies, or to suit the convenience of their employers. As a result of collective bargaining, they were paid for half a day's work

60 per cent of the rate for a full day's work. About forty per cent of all women workers were employed part time, whereas only 14 per cent of men were so employed. The majority of part-time workers were unskilled, and, where there was unemployment, they worked for part of the week or month only. The percentage of part-time workers rose with their age. For women of between 18 and 34 it was 33 per cent, for women of between 35 and 54 forty per cent and for those above 55, fifty per cent. That fact was linked with the second problem, the employment of older women workers. Strange as it might seem, unskilled women workers with no experience were considered too old to start work at 35. Owing to the conditions which had prevailed in Europe during the Second World War, many women who were now over 35 had not been able to learn a trade or to acquire a profession, and a considerable number of women in this category, who were often the sole breadwinners of a family, had emigrated to Israel. In order to solve the problems with which such women were faced, intensive vocational training courses had been established by the Israeli authorities and various organizations. Projects such as the monopoly of the sale of tobacco, the supervision of public telephones, the sale of stamps etc. were being contemplated for older women who could not be taught new trades. Vocational training could solve the problems of employment for older women workers to a certain extent, or at any rate alleviate it.

Miss MANFREDINI (International Federation of Women Lawyers), speaking at the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, said that the right to work, regardless of civil status, was one of the fundamental rights solemnly proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Her Federation was disturbed to find that in some countries that right was ignored, and working women were dismissed or asked to resign when they married. The reason was that employers preferred unmarried female workers, who did not cost them anything in maternal welfare charges. In other countries, as was evident from a report prepared by the ILO<sup>(1)</sup> women were commonly disqualified from continuing their careers in primary or secondary teaching after they were married. Actually the bar was not always based on law, but sometimes on a custom restricting the employment of

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(1) See: "Conditions of Employment of Teaching Staff", report of Advisory Committee on Salaried Employees and Professional Workers. (ILO Geneva 1954).

married women. Thus women were faced with the difficult choice of either giving up their careers, which not only helped to raise the family standard of living but also developed their personality, or abandoning the idea of marriage. It was easy to imagine the disastrous consequences of such a definitely discriminatory attitude, which created conflicts and put a premium on irregular union.

At its thirtieth session the International Labour Conference had tackled the question in a resolution, adopted on 8 July 1947, which laid down the principle of the right of every individual to work, irrespective of sex or civil status. In May 1954 the ILO Advisory Committee on Salaried Employees and Professional Workers had laid down as one of the general rights of teachers' exemption from "discrimination of any kind based on considerations extraneous to the practice of their profession".

Her Federation hoped that the Commission would consider the possibility of studying labour legislation and public law, asking the Secretary-General to undertake an inquiry into the question for that purpose.

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) reminded the representative of the International Federation of Women Lawyers that the Commission had already considered that subject, and fully recognized its importance. She referred her to an earlier resolution of the Commission on the right of married women to independent employment<sup>(1)</sup>, to certain studies on the status of women in private law<sup>(2)</sup>, and to the replies of governments to the questionnaire on restrictions on the access of women to public office.

Miss LUTZ (Inter-American Commission of Women) speaking at the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, supported the views expressed by the representative of the International Federation of Women Lawyers on the inequity of the practice of requiring women to resign their appointments on marriage. That practice did not exist in Brazil, where the civil service provided full safeguards for married women, including maternity benefits, and private employers

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(1) See: E/2571, annex 2.J.

(2) See: E/CN.6/228

were bound by law to extend the same privileges to their women employees. That principle was widely upheld in Latin America, and was in force in many of the countries of the New World.

She had been struck by the divergency of opinion among the representatives of governments and of non-governmental organizations on the questions of the retiring age for men and women and part-time work, and felt that it was essential to establish a clear distinction between the different types of work: agriculture and handicrafts, industry, the civil service and the liberal professions. If such a distinction were made, agreement would easily be reached in respect of the last two categories, as women in the upper ranks of administration and the liberal professions did not wish to curtail their opportunities of work. There would still be differences of opinion on the subject of part-time work between countries with a flourishing economy and those where part-time work was women's sole means of survival, but such a distinction would surely help to clarify the findings of the Commission on the two questions.

Mrs. FIGUEROA (International Labour Organisation), replying to a remark made at an earlier meeting to the effect that the report of the ILO on part-time work was insufficiently complete, drew attention to the fact that it was a progress report - the fourth submitted by ILO to the Commission - and accordingly dealt only with events which had not been included in earlier reports.

None of those reports could suggest definite conclusions, as the problem did not admit of any immediate solution. The views expressed at the present session had varied greatly, and showed to what extent the position depended on the country and also on the market for women's labour within different industries inside any one country.

The ILO proposed to start work early in 1957 on the enquiry on part-time work and the employment of older women which it had been asked to undertake in the resolution adopted on the subject by the International Labour Conference<sup>(1)</sup>. On 5-10 November 1956, a Committee of Experts from twelve different countries

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(1) See: Resolution No. II, 1955.

with widely differing backgrounds would be meeting to discuss those problems in relation to vocational training and technical assistance in under-developed countries. Although the Committee was not expected to find itself in a position to recommend any definite solutions, it would at least be able to present a general picture of the problems involved.

Turning to the report on cottage industries and handicrafts, she said that the second report prepared by the International Labour Office on opportunities for women in that field (E/CN.6/282) was simply a progress report. Nevertheless, the general tendencies shown in the previous report were apparent in it. The handicraft and cottage industries were considered to be complementary to industry rather than in competition with it. They were practised principally in the less highly industrialized countries and, apart from their artistic value, needed suitable markets. It was necessary to study ways of improving techniques to increase production, to lower costs, to adjust output to market demand, to provide capital or credits at low rates of interest, to supply equipment, to organize markets and to institute vocational training for such workers.

One of the possible methods of improving the conditions and quality of the work, which was mainly done by women and which affected millions throughout the world, many of whom were totally dependent upon it, was through the establishment of co-operatives, which would eliminate existing abuses by middlemen, regulate salaries and fix selling prices. Until the cottage industries had been thus regulated, they would continue to be a mere home industry without hope of improved social security, regular hours, wage control etc.

The report mentioned fifteen technical assistance projects that were currently being carried out, mainly in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East countries. Among them was the survey by an expert of working women's conditions in nine countries in Asia, to ascertain which were the most urgent problems involved and what national or private measures were being taken to deal with them. His report, which would be ready in April, would greatly assist the ILO in preparing its concrete technical assistance plans. The Committee of Experts, due to meet in November, to which she had referred earlier, would also discuss the question of part-time and older women's work.

Begum ANWAR AHMED (Pakistan) said that she had listened to the remarks of the representative of the International Labour Organisation with great interest. At the previous meeting a member of her delegation, which was deeply concerned with the question, had given an exhaustive account of the conditions of cottage industries in her country. She herself had introduced a resolution on the subject, and would speak to it as soon as it had been distributed.

Mrs. CORREA MORALES de APARICIO (Argentina) drew attention to an aspect of the cottage industries which, to her knowledge, had not yet been touched upon. As a consequence of efforts made to improve the position of the home textile industries in the north-west of Argentina (production of wool carpets and ponchos), which were operated mainly by women, the work had unfortunately lost all its artistic values. Vegetable dyes had been replaced by synthetics, old designs had disappeared and creative initiative had been lost.

She wondered whether, in the studies to be undertaken on the subject, it would not be possible to take that aspect into consideration and make some attempt to preserve valuable traditional elements which still flourished in home industries.

Mrs. HAHN (United States of America) said that for the second successive year the ILO had presented the Commission with an excellent, practical and constructive report on opportunities for women in handicrafts and cottage industries. The projects described in that report would help to promote industrial development in the countries in which they were carried out, and the advancement of the economic status of their women workers. Projects being carried out under the expanded programme of technical assistance in the countries of Asia were of particular interest to the Commission.

Through the development of home handicrafts, the United States of America had been able to preserve craft skills which the people of other nations, in particular the early settlers of the Southern Appalachian mountains, had brought with them. Household crafts had been carried on in those mountains long after they had disappeared in other parts of the country, and when communications had improved various attempts had been made to save them from extinction.

The southern handicraft industry had been organized on a paying basis in

the 1930s, with the co-operation of the Government, industry and educational institutions. A study made by the Women's Bureau in 1935 ("Potential Earning Power of Southern Mountaineer Handicraft") showed that in earlier times the worker who made articles in her home had lost valuable time in calling for and delivering her work. She bore the cost of light, heat and equipment, and had had to contend with many other difficulties, such as lack of direction as to design etc. and unfamiliarity with the milieu in which the product would find its end use. She had also been hampered in marketing her wares by the fact that markets had not been clearly defined and orders not generally placed in advance. In the past twenty years, however, those crafts had been developed beyond the phase of leisure activities, and had become co-operative businesses furnishing the craft-workers with a cash income sufficient to provide an adequate livelihood. The Women's Bureau study had given impetus to that development by providing authoritative information on market possibilities, and directing attention to the need for the establishment of rural production centres within walking distance of the craft-worker's home. Co-operative production and market centres had been established, and hand production had been shifted out of the home to numerous small shops, and overhead and selling costs thus materially reduced. The elimination of middlemen and sharing of profits permitted the craft workers to earn a reasonable wage. Co-operatives had been established to provide centralized design services, production of samples and market research, to draw up specifications for production, to maintain contact with sales experts in the larger cities, to secure assistance from schools and colleges in the teaching of handicrafts, and to develop additional methods for increasing the marketability of women's handicraft and producing it under controlled shop conditions.

The handicraft system had been further expanded in recent years by the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare, in carrying out its extensive programme for the vocational rehabilitation of injured and disabled persons, under which the handicapped worker received skilled vocational training to enable him or her to earn a living again. The development of handicraft skills had turned out to be one of the most satisfactory means of achieving that aim. She would mention in particular the Goodwill Industries

of America programmes, and the State-operated programmes carried out in Wisconsin and Minnesota, which had proved extremely beneficial to the workers and turned out work that could compete with any similar products on its own merits, without relying on the sympathetic appeal of having been made by a handicapped person.

The proved value of handicrafts both to the individual worker and to the economy generally depended, however, on the provision of adequate safeguards against the "industrial homework" system, which was a means of sending mass production work out of the factory to be made or finished in homes, through which the middleman evaded the regulations concerning minimum wages. In her country, industrial homework had been regulated at both Federal and State levels. The Federal Fair Labour Standards Act of 1938 set wage standards for all workers producing goods entering into trade between States, whether in factory or home, and provided penalties for its violation. Homework was permitted only for workers who could not take factory work because of age or physical handicap, or who had been employed previously as homeworkers in the same industry. In certain major industries homework on goods which might enter inter-State trade was prohibited. Some twenty States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rica also exercised government control over industrial homework. In nearly all States official permission was required for both employers and workers to engage in such work. In some States, the employer was required to pay a fee.

She was in basic agreement with the statement made in the ILO report on Handicrafts and Cottage Industries, that the approach to the problem of industrial homework might have to be different in countries whose economy was still predominantly agricultural. The subject might, however, be given more extensive consideration by the Commission, in view of the many grave dangers inherent in the industrial homework system, which, once established, became a serious social and economic problem, for the following reasons: the homeworker paid for light, heat, power and space; the employer obtained the services of several workers for the price of one, as the homeworker was often assisted by other members of his family; the homeworker did not enjoy the protection of many labour laws applicable to factory workers; and the burden of expansion and contraction of work rested on the worker.

In conclusion, production and marketing of handicrafts under fair conditions helped the woman craftworker to gain self-confidence and to contribute towards the economic development of her country. It was essential that the Commission give further consideration to the measures by which the home handicraft system could be improved, and at the same time remain alive to the disadvantages and dangers of industrial homework.

Begum ANWAR AHMED (Pakistan) pointed out that in the under-developed countries handicrafts and cottage industries were of much the same relative importance as industry proper in the more highly developed countries. In Pakistan, for instance, handicrafts did not turn out mere souvenirs or decorative products, although the preservation of ancient skills was not neglected, but provided a livelihood and occupation for the average woman. Pakistan was making a great effort of industrialization, but it had a very large population for which industrial occupations could not be found in a short space. In the meantime, people would have to earn their living by producing goods for which there was an immediate demand within the country. She agreed with the representative of the International Labour Organisation that co-operatives were very necessary in under-developed countries, especially where women were unfamiliar with marketing methods, new design and the like, and where communications were very inadequate, and she had been glad to learn that the ILO expert in the East would be reporting shortly. That report would undoubtedly be very revealing, and would probably show that the problems were the result not only of economic exploitation and the lack of co-operatives, but also of ill-health, the difficulty of fetching water over considerable distances and similar factors. Undoubtedly, life in the country districts was hard, but the widespread system under which household work was shared out among the family left time for work in handicrafts. She hoped that the Pakistani delegation would be able to give a fuller account at the next session.

Mrs. FIGUEROA (International Labour Organisation) said that the Pakistani representative had given an excellent account of the problem of women's employment in handicrafts. She desired to stress its cultural value, and therefore the need to protect that regional activity and to widen local outlets for its products. There seemed to be a tendency to overemphasise the cultural side of the problem. During the Latin-American Meeting on the

utilization of women's work held in Lima in 1954 under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation, the conclusion had been reached from the experience of those countries that the products of handicraft industry were chiefly intended for sale to tourists. Considering that in some countries that was very often the only kind of work open to women, the International Labour Organisation was quite right to encourage efforts to develop the national and even the international market for it. Clearly more importance should be attached to the economic value of handicraft products than to their often disputable artistic value. There was a technical assistance project for the development in that region of the weaving of carpets with real artistic value which could sell both on the national and on the international market.

In Ecuador too a scheme had been worked out for execution by both traditional and modern techniques, on a co-operative plan by which workers obtained materials on special terms, loans, and other facilities. Thus the best way of promoting the rational development of handicrafts was to develop vocational training for craftswomen, to maintain the artistic value of their products and to find a market for them, and for that purpose, to seek means of reducing production costs.

Miss SALAS (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) said that ILO specialists on cottage industries and handicrafts had co-operated in the work of the fundamental education centres of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). UNESCO had carried out a programme of education through the arts which had stressed the importance of handicrafts as expressions of traditional cultures and their place in modern life.

Mrs. CORREA MORALES de APARICIO (Argentina), after thanking the representative of the International Labour Organisation for her explanation of her agency's work on handicrafts, expressed the opinion that handicraft products should aim not merely at the tourist trade but also at wider outlets. While means must be sought for improving the status of women in handicrafts, an attempt must also be made to maintain the artistic level of craftsmanship which distinguished handicrafts from other products and enabled them to face

competition in the domestic and even in the international market. She very much hoped that the Commission would go into that question, which was of particular interest to her country.

Dame Lucile SAYERS (United Kingdom) said that she had been greatly struck by the accounts given to the Commission, especially by the difference between circumstances in the more highly developed and those in the under-developed countries. That difference was important, but it was equally important to convince women in agricultural districts that the Commission was deeply interested in their lives and in the development of their personalities, a process that could be very much helped by a well-devised scheme of cottage industries. In the United Kingdom the bodies concerned with such schemes were predominantly voluntary agencies. The Women's Institutes, for example, had made an enormous difference in the lives of farm workers in isolated areas.

The Commission might well show more interest in the therapeutic relation of handicrafts to disablement, whether mental or physical. It had been found over and over again that disablement was alleviated by a definite, interesting occupation. That was a very wide and most interesting field, which should be considered at length at some future session.

Mrs. HYMER (Pan-Pacific Women's Association), speaking at the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, said that her organization was very much concerned about handicraft and cottage industries, because handicrafts were of basic economic significance in the region with which the Association was concerned, providing as they did a means of augmenting the family income. Handicrafts had proved the first step towards the participation of women in the economic life of their countries. Techniques should therefore be improved, and more attention paid to marketing methods and facilities. In addition, handicrafts were of importance as a means of keeping the traditional crafts alive as part of the cultural life of a country, and as a means of enhancing the cultural life of women.

Accordingly, the ILO progress report (E/CN.6/282) would be brought to the notice of her organization's members. It was to be hoped that the programme of research and analysis and the operational programmes would be continued and that a report on the studies and any conclusions reached on the subject would be submitted to the Commission at its next session. One of

the outstanding features of her organization's recent conference in the Philippines had been an exhibition of handicrafts from the various territories of the Far Eastern region and Pacific Basin. Several meetings at that conference had been devoted to a discussion on home industries, and problems connected with their revival, and on means of increasing their economic value. Interest had been expressed in the economic aspects of rural and home industries, especially in agricultural economies, and the value of developing the creative spirit and channelling it to useful ends. Although it was difficult to adapt ancient crafts to the requirements of modern markets, it had been reported that experts working in many of the countries had given valuable assistance in developing products with a greater market value. It had been stressed that traditional standards should be maintained and all indigenous crafts developed, but that assistance should be sought in finding ways to adapt them for the market. It had also been felt that, most of the craft workers being women, women's organizations could do much to help to preserve crafts and skills and to increase the economic value to their country of women engaged in handicrafts.

Miss MAÑAS (Cuba) said that she had been so much interested in the discussion that she thought that the Commission might well consider some way of asking the International Labour Organisation and UNESCO to make a more extended study of ways in which the preservation of traditional skills might be combined with the discovery and exploitation of new markets. She did not suggest that new work should be undertaken, but the existing work might be presented in a fuller form at a future session.

Mrs. CORREA MORALES de APARICIO (Argentina) thought that the members of the Commission might usefully reflect on the protection of the artistic heritage, which had already been raised in the United Nations, with a view to discussion at the next session.

Begum ANWAR AHMED (Pakistan) supported the Cuban proposal.

Mrs. SPIRIDONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) endorsed the idea that the artistic traditions of handicrafts should be maintained and encouraged. She also supported the suggestion concerning a more thorough study of the conditions of workers in handicrafts and cottage industries, with the object of improving their protection. A comparison should be made of wages and facilities as between handicraft workers and workers in industry proper.

She, too, therefore supported the Cuban proposal. She agreed with the Pakistani representative that, although the true line of development for under-developed countries lay in speedier industrialization, handicrafts and cottage industries should in the meantime be maintained and strengthened until the necessary development of basic industry had been achieved and more employment opportunities had thus been created. The International Labour Organisation was to be commended for introducing more modern techniques into handicrafts. Cultural traditions should be maintained, but strictly as a supplement to the development of basic industries. Further attention should be given to co-operatives, which could guarantee much more favourable conditions for handicraft workers.

Mrs. DEMBINSKA (Poland) agreed with the United States representative that co-operatives would probably provide the best solution to handicraft problems. Producers' co-operatives for handicrafts and cottage industries had been widely developed in Poland, and had been able to ensure favourable working conditions. Even though Poland was becoming highly industrialized, handicrafts still flourished in country districts, although they were mainly seasonal, being carried on in intervals between work in the fields. There was an institute which dealt with samples for industry. Artists were employed and given orders for samples, and the institute then chose what was required by industry or the co-operatives. The head of the institute was a woman. Traditional crafts flourished among women in the villages, who were encouraged to work with the artists in the production of the samples. There were also some craftswomen's collectives using equipment produced by heavy industry. Some of them engaged an artist who encouraged creative work, criticised it and suggested improvements. Creative cottage industries, which had been too long neglected, were now receiving a great impetus, and research was being developed on the type of products likely to be most popular. Such handicrafts were often able to compete fairly successfully with industrial products.

Mrs. CISELET (Belgium) said she had listened with particular interest to the debate which had just taken place on the protection of the artistic, economic and social status of handicrafts, for Belgium had a handicraft lace industry and so was faced with the problems that had been mentioned. She therefore unreservedly supported the Cuban representative's proposal.

Mrs. CHU (China) said that handicraft and cottage industry products were one of her country's most important exports. She agreed with the Pakistani representative that a great deal had still to be done to improve methods of production, marketing methods and home conditions. In her opinion, however, those industries, although originally developed for home consumption, should not be developed primarily for that purpose. They could well produce goods for export when the demand arose. Her Government was taking steps to develop handicrafts not only from the economic, but also from the educational point of view, and for the rehabilitation of the disabled. She hoped that full attention would be given to that subject at the Commission's next session.

Mrs. NOVIKOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that the motive force in the Byelorussian SSR had been and would always be industrialization, as the sole key to progress. At the same time, the State and co-operatives attached great importance to handicrafts, and they and the people as a whole were much concerned to maintain native handicrafts; the State helped in supplying the materials and marketing the products. The main crafts in which women worked were the famous Byelorussian needlework, woollen belts and baskets, which required very delicate workmanship and always had a Byelorussian motif. Decorative materials were also produced for family use and for buildings and offices. Women engaged in handicrafts enjoyed all the social benefits afforded to women workers in State enterprises, and special schools had been set up to teach such crafts as weaving. In 1955 a group of women from the United Kingdom of all shades of political opinion had noted how the Byelorussian SSR was preserving and developing its national culture. The Pakistani representative had rightly suggested that handicrafts should be developed while basic industrialization was under way. In the interval, handicrafts would assure women workers of a better life, and all steps to improve the living standards of handicraft workers through United Nations technical assistance should be supported.

The CHAIRMAN declared that the Commission had completed its general discussion on sub-item 7(d) of the agenda: report on cottage industries and handicrafts.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.