

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Rights held its first session during the period 27 January to 8 February 1947 with the following Members in attendance:

Col. William R. Hodgson	Member from	Australia
Mr. T. Kaminsky	" "	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Mr. Felix Nieto Del Rio	" "	Chile
Dr. P. C. Chang	" "	China
Mr. Osman Ebeid	" "	Egypt
Professor Rene Cassin	" "	France
Mrs. Hansa Mehta	" "	India
Dr. Ghassame Ghani	" "	Iran
Dr. Charles Malik	" "	Lebanon
General Carlos P. Romulo	" "	Philippine Republic
Mr. Charles Dukes	" "	United Kingdom
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt	" "	United States of America
Mr. V. F. Teplyakov	" "	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Dr. Don José A. Mora	" "	Uruguay
Mr. V. Ribnikar	" "	Yugoslavia

2. Mr. Fernand Dehousse of Belgium and Mr. Ricardo J. Alfaro of Panama were unable to attend but were represented by substitutes:

Mr. Roland Lebeau, and

Dr. German Gil Guardia,

respectively. The Member from the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was not present. The Member from the Philippine Republic was forced to leave early and was replaced by Colonel Amado Bautista.

3. The Specialized Agencies were represented at the Commission by:

Mr. E. Hutchinson, for the International Labour Organization;

~~Dr. Archibald MacLeish,~~

~~Mr. Valere Darchambeau, and~~

Carnes for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization.

4. Consultants in attendance were:

Mr. L. Teper, and  
Miss Toni Sender, for the American Federation of Labor;

Mr. W. Campbell, for the International Co-operative Alliance;

Miss Lena Spiegel, for the World Federation of Trade Unions.

5. Professor John P. Humphrey was Secretary of the Commission.

6. The Commission elected the following members as its officers:

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt	as Chairman
Dr. P. C. Chang	as Vice-Chairman
Dr. Charles Malik	as Rapporteur

7. The Commission adopted, after amendment, the Provisional Rules of Procedure (document E/33/Rev.1) as its Rules of Procedure.

## CHAPTER II

### INTERNATIONAL BILL OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The Commission decided:

(a) That the Chairman, together with the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, undertake, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the task of formulating a preliminary draft International Bill of Human Rights, in accordance with the instructions and decisions of the Commission at its First Session, to be submitted to the Commission at its Second Session for thorough examination.

(b) That the Chairman, in the course of this work, may enlist the co-operation of, and shall receive, orally or in writing, any observations and suggestions from, any Member of the Commission.

(c) That the Chairman may consult experts chosen with the consent of their Governments, Members of the United Nations.

(d) That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, in drawing up the preliminary draft of the International Bill of Human Rights, might consult any person or document deemed by them of relevance to their work.

(e) That, while recognizing that it is not at present in a position to formulate precisely its views concerning the means of ensuring the observance of the rights to be included in the International Bill of Human Rights, to invite the drafting group to explore this field and to study the Australian Proposal (E/CN.4/15) and any other documents which may be submitted to it, so that the Commission at its Second Session may be able to work out proposals on this subject in fulfilment of the duties assigned to it by the Council. (Journal of the Economic and Social Council Number 29).

2. As a guide to the drafting group in its work, the Members of the Commission stated their views concerning items they considered should be included in or excluded from the International Bill of Human Rights.

/The expression

The expression of these views is embodied in the verbatim and summary records of the meetings of the Commission, which are available for use by the drafting group.

### CHAPTER III

#### SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

1. The Commission decided to establish a Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, as empowered by the Economic and Social Council (Journal No. 29, page 522).

#### 2. Functions of the Sub-Commission

The Commission decided to recommend to the Council that the functions of the Sub-Commission be:

(a) In the first instance, to examine what rights, obligations, and practices should be included in the concept of freedom of information, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights on any issues that may arise from such examination.

(b) To perform any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council or by the Commission on Human Rights.

#### 3. Composition

The Commission decided:

(a) That the Sub-Commission consist of one representative nominated by each of the following eleven Members of the United Nations:

(b) That, with a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Sub-Commission, the Secretary-General be requested to consult with the nominating Governments before the representatives are finally nominated by them and confirmed by the Commission.

(c) That representatives may act as members of the Sub-Commission pending their confirmation by the Commission at its session following their nomination.

(d) That the term of office of Members shall be, in the first instance, two years, subject to reconsideration by the Commission before the end of that period.

4. In view of the fact that this Sub-Commission had been set up, and anticipating the forthcoming Conference on Freedom of Information to be convoked, pursuant to the resolution of the General Assembly (document A/229), the Commission decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council authorize the Sub-Commission to formulate recommendations regarding the programme of that Conference and to assist in its preparation.

#### CHAPTER IV

##### SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

1. The Commission decided to establish a Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities instead of creating separate Sub-Commissions on the Protection of Minorities and on the Prevention of Discrimination, as empowered by the Council. (Journal No. 29, page 522).

##### 2. Functions of the Sub-Commission

The Commission decided that the functions of the Sub-Commission shall be:

(a) In the first instance, to examine what provisions should be adopted in the definition of the principles which are to be applied in the fields of the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities, and to deal with the urgent problems in these fields by

making recommendations to the Commission.

(b) To perform any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council or the Commission on Human Rights.

3. Composition

The Commission decided:

(a) That the Sub-Commission consist of one representative nominated by each of the following eleven members of the United Nations:

(b) That with a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Sub-Commission, the Secretary-General be requested to consult with the nominating Governments before the representatives are finally nominated by them and confirmed by the Commission.

(c) That Representatives may act as Members of the Sub-Commission pending their confirmation by the Commission at its Session following their nomination.

(d) That the term of office of members shall be, in the first instance, two years, subject to reconsideration by the Commission before the end of that period.

ANNEX 1

PARTICIPATION OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN THE DELIBERATIONS  
OF THE COMMISSION

1. UNESCO

Representatives of UNESCO stated:

(a) That UNESCO was concerned with freedom of information and therefore was eager to co-operate in the preparation and sponsorship of the forthcoming Conference on Freedom of Information.

(b) That UNESCO was also interested in the general question of human rights, had called conferences of experts for this year on the philosophical principles of human rights and would report their conclusions to the Commission.

2. ILO

The Representative of the International Labour Organization called the attention of the Commission:

(a) To the interest of his organization in human rights, especially in the fields of prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, as reflected in the many conferences on these questions by the ILO.

(b) To the success of the ILO in the implementation of its purposes through the many international conventions in force as a result of their efforts, and in influencing positive national legislation in the social and economic fields.

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