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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sixth session

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE YEARBOOK
OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Yearbook consisting of the representatives of Australia, Belgium, China, France, Guatemala and the United Kingdom, and, should the representative of Guatemala be absent, the representative of Chile, was established by the Commission on Human Rights at its 143rd meeting.
2. The Committee met on 13 April 1950 and elected Mr. H. F. E. Whitlam, the Representative of Australia, as its chairman and requested him to present its report to the Commission. The Committee also met on 1 May 1950 and adopted its report. The Committee had before it a draft report, document E/CN.4/AC.12/L.1.
3. The summary records of the discussions of the Committee are contained in documents E/CN.4/AC.12/SPS.1 and 2.
4. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Yearbook recommends to the Commission on Human Rights that it recommend to the Economic and Social Council the following resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Having requested in its resolution of 21 June 1946 (resolution 9, section 4 (2)) the Secretary-General to make arrangements for the compilation and publication of a Yearbook on Law and Usage relating to Human Rights;

Having considered the reports of the fifth and sixth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the question of the Yearbook;

Having considered the Yearbooks on Human Rights for 1946, 1947 and 1948 compiled and published by the Secretary-General;

I. Requests the Secretary-General to continue annually the compilation and publication of the Yearbook on Human Rights which, beginning as soon as possible but not later than with the Yearbook for 1951, shall be compiled on the following general lines:

/1. Each
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1. Each volume of the Yearbook shall contain a compilation concerning the application, and so far as necessary, the evolution, in as many countries as possible of one of the rights or of a group of closely related rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This compilation shall be prepared from information supplied by Governments and may include digests of this information prepared by the Secretary-General and shall be documented by reference to legislative enactments and other authoritative sources.
2. For this purpose, the Secretary-General shall draw up a plan indicating, for a number of years ahead, which right or group of rights should be treated in each year.
3. The Yearbook shall continue to record international and national developments concerning human rights which have taken place during the year, and for this purpose shall contain:
 - (i) a report on the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights;
 - (ii) relevant texts or summaries of international instruments in this field, including decisions of international courts and arbitral tribunals;
 - (iii) texts or summaries of or sufficient references to constitutional and statutory provisions which constitute important developments in the field of human rights during the year;
 - (iv) summaries of or sufficient references to decisions of national courts where these decisions constitute important developments in the field of human rights.
4. The Yearbook shall also include texts or summaries of, or sufficient references to, basic laws on human rights in respect of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories.
5. The Yearbook shall include adequate references to the sources of any texts or summaries which appear in it. It shall be produced in a form which is easy to handle and of moderate price, and the reproduction of constitutional or statutory texts shall be confined within the limits imposed by these requirements.

5. During its discussion the following points were made by members of the Committee:

- (a) Without losing its present form and its character as an annual work of reference, the Yearbook could be of greater use to Governments and experts and could also reach a wider public if it devoted less space to the reproduction of original texts and treated in each volume a particular right or group of closely related rights on the basis of material to be supplied by Governments or by correspondents appointed by them. The Yearbook should contain references to, summaries of and, in cases of special importance, quotations from new constitutions, national legislation, court decisions and international instruments concerning human rights. It should, however, avoid the reproduction of material which is otherwise available to experts.
- (b) The hope was expressed that each annual survey would be of assistance to Governments in considering the question of particular conventions in that field of human rights covered by each volume.
- (c) The Commission should maintain its previous recommendation that the Yearbook be printed in the official languages of the United Nations.
