

representatives supported the approval in principle of an international tribunal and thought that the question required further study.

The Chinese, Polish and U.S.S.R. representatives stressed the importance of including a specific undertaking to enact national law in conformity with the Convention. The New Zealand representative thought that in some instances an extension of the existing practice as to extradition would assist in the punishment of offenders. The Chinese representative called attention to the importance of narcotic drugs as an instrument of genocide.

The Polish and U.S.S.R. representatives also urged that additions should be made to the draft Convention and its Preamble so as to include a declaration on the connection between Fascist ideological theories and the crime of genocide, and to the effect that the command of a superior authority should be no defence to a charge of genocide.

Reference was made in the debate to the comments which had been received from the World Federation of Trade Unions (E/C.2/104) and the World Federation of United Nations Associations (E/C.2/105). It was pointed out that these documents were available to the General Assembly.

The Council decided (resolution 153(VII)) to transmit to the General Assembly the draft Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide submitted in the report of the ad hoc Committee (E/794) together with the remainder of this report and the records of the proceedings of the Council at its seventh session on this subject.

4. Status of Women

a. QUESTIONS CONSIDERED AT THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL—COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission on the Status of Women in the report of its first session (E/281/Rev.1) recommended to the Economic and Social Council the following procedure for handling communications on the status of women:

"(a) That the Secretary-General be requested to compile a confidential list of communications received concerning the Status of Women, before each session of the Commission.

"(b) That this confidential list, also specifying the contents of the communications, and giving the names of any organization sending such communications, be forwarded to the members of the Commission at least fourteen days before the opening of each session.

"(c) That the members of the Commission at their request, have the right to consult the originals of these communications.

"(d) That the Secretary-General be requested to inform the writers of all such communications that these will be brought to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women."

The Economic and Social Council considered this question at its fifth session in conjunction with the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights for dealing with communications concerning human rights.⁹¹

The recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights were taken as the basis of the Council's consideration of the question in its Social Committee, and a drafting committee adapted the resolution referring to communications on human rights to apply to communications concerning the status of women.

This resolution (76(V)) was adopted by the Council at its 106th plenary meeting on August 5 by 13 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.

The operative part of the resolution is identical with that concerning communications on human rights, except that under paragraph (c) the words "the principles relating to the promotion of women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields" take the place of "the principles involved in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights" and in paragraphs (d) and (e) "communications concerning the status of women" are substituted for "communications concerning human rights".

b. SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

At its second session held at Lake Success from January 5 to 19, 1948, the Commission on the Status of Women considered, inter alia, women's political rights, women's economic rights and women's educational opportunities.

It passed recommendations to the Economic and Social Council on the following subjects:

- (a) Abolition of political inequality;
- (b) Participation of women in the national and international activities of governments;
- (c) Discrimination against women resulting from conflicts between national laws relating to nationality, domicile, marriage and divorce;
- (d) Educational opportunities for women;
- (e) Employment and remuneration;
- (f) Property rights of married women and their rights to act as guardians;
- (g) Influencing public opinion.

The Commission reviewed the draft International Declaration of Human Rights as requested by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 48 (IV) and suggested that two articles of the Declaration should be amended to read as follows:

⁹¹ See pp. 578-79.