

bill on human rights is itself subdivided into three parts. The first part is a draft international declaration on human rights. The second part is a draft international covenant on human rights and the distinction between a declaration and a covenant is a matter which I think perhaps Mr. Hopkins could discuss with you more properly than I. The third part of the document contains a number of suggestions for the implementation of the declaration and the draft covenant once those documents have been adopted in any form.

I think, Mr. Chairman, unless there are some specific questions that this brief survey of the procedure by which the document has been prepared and of the further procedure to which it will be subjected might perhaps suffice as an introduction to what Mr. Hopkins has to say at this stage.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Riddell will be available at future meetings of the committee and the rest of the day, so perhaps any questions which you may have in mind to address to Mr. Riddell could be deferred until after Mr. Hopkins makes his statement, because he (Mr. Hopkins) has to go away tonight.

Mr. Hopkins, what is your position in the Department of External Affairs?

E. R. Hopkins, Legal Adviser, Department of External Affairs, called:

The WITNESS: I am legal adviser to the department.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, Mr. Hopkins, will you give this committee such assistance as you can?

The WITNESS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have been elsewhere engaged during the last few weeks and I have not had the opportunity of going into this matter or giving it the undivided attention which its importance warrants; but I am sure that both Mr. Riddell and myself personally are only too glad to give the committee whatever assistance lies within our power.

If I may have the permission of the chair, I would suggest that I might read some preliminary observations which I have jotted down; and I would welcome, if that is allowed, interruptions or interventions at any time by any member of the committee who may wish elaboration or illumination on what I may have said. Is that procedure acceptable?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is all right.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, dealing with the present draft of the International Bill of Rights I would not wish to leave the impression that I am in any sense expressing official views; indeed, it is not my understanding that firm official views have yet been formulated.

Canada is not represented on the Human Rights Commission, nor have Canadian comments, as I understand it, yet been made on the working papers now before this committee. I think it is perhaps wise to point out that these are working papers, and I think that is the most apt description which could be given to them. They are working papers which have yet to receive any formal seal of approval by the United Nations. This being so, the present working papers I suggest may be examined entirely on their merits; and in the most of what I may say I will be expressing my personal views for what they may be worth, except perhaps in respect to certain international legal aspects of the various documents.

The present papers have been prepared by the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council in an effort to eliminate the relevant provisions of the charter of the United Nations, all of which provisions I think have been drawn to the attention of this committee or its predecessor of last year. The principal of these provisions in the charter I take to be Article 55 (c) of the charter, and section 62 (2) and (3) of the charter. Perhaps I might