

By Mr. Irvine:

Q. What is the idea of the two year, three year and four year terms for the various states?—A. The idea is that a part of the commission will be elected each year. At the first election, therefore, it was necessary to give various terms of office. One-third of the members will retire each year.

The Officers of the Commission are:—

Chairman, Mrs. Roosevelt
 Vice-Chairman, Dr. Chang
 Rapporteur, Dr. Malik
 Secretary, Professor J. P. Humphrey

Representatives of the following organizations attended the meetings of the Commission: the I.L.O., UNESCO, the American Federation of Labor, the W.F.T.U., and International Cooperative Alliance.

By Mr. Hazen:

Q. May I ask where Byelorussia is located?—A. It is one of the constituent republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and is in the northwest of the Soviet Union. There follow all the documentary resolutions of the Economic and Social Council by which the Commission on Human Rights was established.

Q. May I ask another question? How is it that the U.S.S.R. and two states of the Soviet Union are members?—A. When the United Nations was established membership in the United Nations was granted to the U.S.S.R. itself and to two of its constituent republics, Byelorussia, or the White Russian Soviet Socialist Republic, and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Those two constituent republics of the Soviet Union enjoy full rights of membership in the United Nations.

By Mr. Beaudoin:

Q. They are two separate states?—A. Well, they enjoy full rights of membership as if they were two separate states. We have quoted here the resolution of the Economic and Social Council by which the Commission on Human Rights was established. You will notice this refers also to a subcommission on the status of women. At a subsequent meeting of the Economic and Social Council the subcommission on the status of women was made into a separate commission of the Economic and Social Council.

Resolution of the Economic and Social Council of February 16, 1946:—

Commission on Human Rights and Subcommission on the Status of Women—Resolution of the Economic and Social Council of 16th February, 1946 (document E/20 of 15th February, 1946) on the establishment of a commission on Human Rights and a subcommission on the Status of Women, supplemented by the action taken by the Council on 18th February, 1946, completing paragraphs 6 and 7 section A and paragraphs 4 and 5 of Section B concerning the initial composition of these bodies.

Section A

1. The Economic and Social Council, being charged under the Charter with the responsibility of promoting universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and requiring advice and assistance to enable it to discharge this responsibility,
 Establishes a Commission on Human Rights.

2. The work of the Commission shall be directed towards submitting proposals, recommendations and reports to the Council regarding:

- (a) an international bill of rights;
- (b) international declarations or conventions on civil liberties, the status of women, freedom of information, and similar matters;