

read those, Mr. Chairman. There are rather important provisions in the charter, but I think in the light of these particular documents that these are the most germane. Article 55 (c) reads as follows:

With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the United Nations shall promote—

And it is a most important word, "promote"—

shall promote, (c) universal respect for and observations of human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

Article 62 (2) and (3) of the charter states:

It (that is the Economic and Social Council) may make recommendations—may make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

(3) It (that is also the Economic and Social Council) may prepare draft conventions for submission to the general assembly with respect to matters falling within its competence.

It seems to me that it is under the provisions of these or other articles of the charter, that the present working papers now appear before this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there something about promoting international co-operation?

The WITNESS: Yes, there are provisions.

The CHAIRMAN: But you do not quote them?

The WITNESS: I haven't quoted them here. I believe all the related provisions, Mr. Chairman, are already included in the proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

The WITNESS: It is evident that these provisions of the charter are general in character, and that they require further definition before the question of "promotion" can properly arise. This being so, the efforts thus far expended by the Human Rights Commission, and in particular by its distinguished chairman, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, should be welcomed. The commission has produced these working papers upon which attention may be focused by members of the United Nations and which may provide a basis for further discussion in the appropriate organs of the United Nations.

As Mr. Riddell has predicted, there will probably occur the problem of definition.

If anyone would like to interrupt me at any time, I would be very happy.

The problem of definition is far from easy. "Human rights and fundamental freedoms" are concepts which derive from political or moral philosophy. Different meanings may in good faith be attached to the expression by persons of differing philosophical understanding. The problem is not simplified by the fact that the world is not yet united by a single understanding, let alone by a single code, of political or moral philosophy.

In practical terms it would seem to be the task of the Human Rights Commission, and ultimately of the United Nations, to develop a formula for the definition and then a plan for the "promotion of universal respect for an observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion". Such a formula would have to be generally acceptable to the members of the United Nations. It would not be enough to develop a perfectly credulous a priori formula which would not be accepted by the United Nations members, whatever effect it may have on acceptance by the United Nations. Such a formula would not necessarily have to reconcile the irreconcilable.