

delegation then persuaded the other great powers to accept the amendments. How this was achieved has never been explained. Perhaps, in the rush of last-minute decisions, not much thought was given to the revolutionary character of what was happening.

"Some of the countries represented at San Francisco would have accepted stronger human rights provisions than the ones which were put into the Charter. Several Latin American countries even wanted it to contain an international bill of rights. But the great majority, including the great powers, were not ready for such a step. The result was that, although the Charter mentions human rights in a number of places, it does not define or even list them.

"But ... an article was inserted by which the Economic and Social Council was instructed to create a commission on human rights; and it was generally understood that this commission would draw up an international bill of rights.... One of the first acts of the Economic and Social Council was to create this commission and [to] instruct it to draft the bill.

"Mrs. [Eleanor] Roosevelt was one of the greatest personalities ever to be associated with the United Nations, and her prestige was one of the chief assets of the Human Rights Commission in the early years. There was a tendency in certain parts of the Secretariat to play down the human rights program as an exotic in an international organization. But when the time came for the first session of the Human Rights Commission, we had to meet in the largest hall available, so large was the audience that wanted to see Mrs. Roosevelt.

"Once the fourth session of ECOSOC [the Economic and Social Council] was out of the way, I turned my attention to preparing a draft of a declaration on human rights. The Secretariat was still housed in the Sperry Gyroscope plant at Lake Success and, while working conditions there were not bad, this was not the best place in which to do the kind of job I had to do.... It was therefore at the Lido Beach Hotel, where my wife, Jeanne, and I were living at the time, that I prepared the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"I was no Thomas Jefferson and, although a lawyer, I had had practically no experience drafting documents. But since the Secretariat had collected a score of drafts, I had some models on which to work. One of them had inspired the draft declaration which Cuba had sponsored at the San Francisco Conference. There was also a text prepared by a committee chaired by [John] Viscount Sankey after a public debate conducted in Britain by the *Daily Herald*. One had been prepared by Professor Hersch Lauterpacht and another by H.G. Wells. Still others came from the American Law Institute, the American Jewish Congress and the editors of *Free World*. The American Bar Association had sent in an enumeration of subjects. With two exceptions, all these texts came from English-speaking sources and all of them from the democratic West.

"The best of the texts from which I worked was the one prepared by the American Law Institute, and I borrowed freely from it....

"My draft comprised 48 short articles. Although most of the articles related to civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights were