

THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN

Incorporated under the Laws of N. Y. State as the International League for the Rights of Man and for the New Democracy

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A NOTE FOR OUR AFFILIATES, NGO'S AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dear Sirs:

Our League has submitted a memorandum on the covenant of human rights, as it did during the last session of the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council. This memorandum, of which a summary is enclosed, states the position our representatives take at the current Geneva sessions.

We would appreciate it if affiliates prepared to express a view on the whole issue would be kind enough to address the League. Those desiring the complete memorandum will receive it as soon as possible after request.

Concerning the chance of a better covenant, it is difficult to prophesy. The Commission on Human Rights has been put under pressure by the Council and the Assembly with their excellent directives, but the Commission is almost the same. The comments by governments addressed to the U.N. are not generally helpful. Is it too much to expect that those who drafted the first Covenant will be much impressed by new directives?

Much depends upon the big powers. France has always had good intentions but keeps changing its position. The U.S. might change its position. Has the time come to do it? One of the greatest obstacles is the attitude of the British government which is quite reactionary on the covenant, as its recent observations show. In the opinion of the League, it is to be regretted that it is a labor government that opposes economic and social rights and the right of private petition.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) ROGER N. BALDWIN
Chairman of the Board

(Signed) DR. MAX BEER
League Representative at the U.N.