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ARTICLE 71

TEXT OF ARTICLE 71

The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The structure of the present study for Article 71 remains the same as those for *Supplements 5 and 6*.

I. General Survey

2. During the period under review, the relevant United Nations Organs, as their subsidiary bodies (notably the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations) continued to interpret and apply Article 71 in similar manner as in the past. Cited repeatedly during the period, as in the past, was Council resolution 1298 (XLIV).

****A. The purpose of consultation**

****B. Establishment of consultative relationships**

II. Analytical Summary of Practice

The Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

3. During the period under review, the Council Committee on Non-Governmental (the Committee) continued to meet biennially and to conduct its work in the same manner as in the past. The Committee did, however, recommend to the Economic and Social Council (the Council) that the committee should schedule its future sessions in such a manner as not to coincide with those of other subsidiary bodies.¹

B. Admission to, and review of, consultative status

4. During this period, one recurring issue was that of the Committee's review process for applications to consultative status with the United Nations, and its

- power, under Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), to withhold consultative status from some organizations and to withdraw it from others.
5. In 1985, the council decided to withdraw the consultative status of the International Police Association.² The Association had been found to have connections with *apartheid* South Africa, since 850 policemen from apartheid South Africa had been granted membership to this NGO.³ “[M]ost delegations supported the decision because of the active link between the International Police Association and the Government of South Africa; other delegations supported the decision because the organization had provided misinformation to the committee”.⁴
 6. The resultant Draft Decision which read: “ The Economic and Social Council decides to withdraw consultative status from the International Police Association”, was adopted without vote as Council decision 1985/114.
 7. In 1987, the Committee reported that one delegation had raised the issue of hidden funding being given to NGOs by governments. The governments in question would then use these organizations to promote their foreign policy.⁵ Such activity, according to this delegation, would be in contravention of Council Resolution 1296 (XLIV). The delegation therefore urged the Committee to be

¹ E/1987/32, para. 2.

² E S C Decision 1985/114

³ See also, The *Repertory* for Article 71, under *Supplement* 8.

⁴ E/1985/19 p. 11, para. 14.

- more careful in reviewing future applications and to withdraw consultative status from any such organization.⁶
8. “The Committee concluded its consideration of the item by appealing to all non-governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Member States and to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.”⁷
9. Also of note, during the period, was the Committee’s rejection of the Sikh Commonwealth’s application for consultative status. “The Committee considered that the unanimous rejection of the application of the Sikh Commonwealth reflected the Committee’s strong belief that the goals and objectives of that organization were incompatible with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).”⁸ That resolution outlined grounds for withdrawal of consultative status, one of which was evidence of governmental financial influence to induce an NGO to undertake acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

**C. Criteria of eligibility

**D. International organizations within the meaning of Article 71

⁵ E/1987/32., para 44.

⁶ E/1987/32, para., 44. The delegation went on to name specific organizations whose activities concerned the delegation.

⁷ *Ibid.*, para 45.

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⁸ E/1987/32 para., 17.