

THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS - 1967

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, in 26th Biennial Assembly convened, wishes to reaffirm its support of the United Nations and its efforts on behalf of world order and peace and the betterment of human life throughout the world. The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods is appreciative of the fact that members of non-governmental organizations have benefited from the inspirational and educational opportunities afforded by the United Nations. We are at the same time mindful of the fact that non-governmental organizations have contributed ideas on international affairs to their respective missions to the United Nations and are in a position to give the United Nations support and endorsement before their memberships; to publicize UN aims and achievements; and to give informational materials published by the United Nations wide circulation. In view of this reciprocity of benefits, the Secretary General of the United Nations is respectfully requested to consider ways in which the help of the non-governmental organizations may be more extensively utilized and how their continued participation in the programs of the United Nations and its affiliated agencies may be expanded.

In this connection, and especially in view of the great segments of public opinion represented by non-governmental organizations and the importance of public support for the coming International Human Rights Year, we would respectfully urge the desirability of having representatives of responsible, interested non-governmental organizations attend the Conference on International Human Rights to be held by the United Nations in Teheran, Iran, from April 23-May 13, 1968.

International Human Rights Year—Because the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has inspired the raising of standards of human rights in many countries and has constituted a milestone in the history of the United Nations, the UN has designated the year 1968, the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as International Year For Human Rights and has urged that 1968 be devoted to intensive national and international activities in its observance; called upon the governments of all countries and the people of the world to intensify the struggle to safeguard fundamental freedoms and human rights to hasten the elimination of such violation of human rights as racial discrimination, and to advance by all available means the strengthening of peace throughout the world and friendship between peoples.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods urges renewed dedication of our members and their governments to the manifold concerns for human rights within the growing world community and thus to larger measures of justice and freedom and the furthering of peace on earth; and calls on its members to observe 1968 as International Year For Human Rights and to carry on appropriate activities and programs throughout the year in furtherance of the observance.

Human Rights Conventions—The United Nations Conventions on Slavery, Forced Labor, the Political Rights of Women and Genocide, which were the subject of a resolution passed at the NFTS 25th Biennial Assembly in San Francisco in 1965, have not yet been ratified by the United States Senate. These Conventions have already been ratified by as many as 73 member nations of the United Nations; thus the United States finds itself, with the Republic of South Africa, Spain, Yemen and Gambia, among the member nations which have not yet ratified these Conventions. This failure constitutes a denial of the moral commitments of the United States to human rights and should be a source of deep embarrassment to all its citizens as well as to the United States in dealing with other member nations.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, in the name of its United States affiliates, urges the United

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States Senate speedily to ratify these Conventions. Furthermore, NFTS requests its U.S. Sisterhoods, and their members individually, not only to communicate their urgent desire for ratification of these Conventions to the White House, the State Department, the United States Mission to the United Nations, the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and national, state and local leaders of the major political parties, but also to become active leaders in communal education toward these ends.