

Woodward, Ellen
1946-52

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

May 28, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I know you have much reading to do but I thought you might be interested in reading the informal report that I made to our Administrator on the Economic and Social Council Session, where I served as a Member of the U. S. Delegation. The work was interesting but very strenuous.

You have always been so wonderful to me that I feel that I want to tell you of any good fortune that comes to me. The Woman's College of the University of North Carolina is to confer upon me the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws on June 2. I consider this a very real honor and appreciate it very much.

Our Information Bureau has gotten out some information regarding my service in the Federal Government these past 14 years together with some mention of my experience in Mississippi as a Member of the Legislature and in the several executive posts which I held. I am going to ask the Bureau to send a copy to you since I feel that whatever I have been able to accomplish since I came to Washington 14 years ago is due largely to the opportunities that you have helped to make possible and to the inspiration and encouragement that you have always given me.

Ere long I shall hope to see you in New York. I hope you are feeling real well.

My love to you always.

Affectionately,

Ellen
Ellen S. Woodward
Director, Office of Inter-Agency
and International Relations

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York, New York



E. Woodward

Thank

my name

I shall

hope

to see you

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FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
Office of Inter-Agency and International Relations

April 7, 1947

REPORT ON THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

by

Ellen S. Woodward
Adviser from the Federal Security Agency
to the U. S. Member of the Council

The Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations was held at Lake Success from February 28 to March 27, 1947. Leroy D. Stinebower, Deputy for the U. S. Member, represented the United States since no member has yet been appointed to take the place of Hon. John G. Winant. The Council has now been functioning for 14 months since its first meeting in London on January 23, 1946. At this session the setting up of specific machinery for dealing with international economic and social problems was completed.

Commissions for Economic Reconstruction

A major accomplishment of the session was the establishment of two regional commissions—the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. These commissions will be concerned with economic reconstruction. The Commission for Europe will deal with such practical measures as the most effective utilization of inadequate coal supplies and better coordination of the means of inland transport. For the first time, the Council had before it the reports of its permanent commissions. The major work of the Council at this Session, therefore, involved consideration and action on recommendations for programs made in various fields by the commissions. Eight commissions, all except the Fiscal Commission, held their first meetings either in January or February and reported to this Session of the Council. These commissions included the Economic and Employment, the Social, the Transport and Communications, the Population, the Narcotic Drugs and the Statistical and the Commissions on Human Rights and Status of Women.

The United States Member asked me, as adviser from the Federal Security Agency, to undertake especial responsibility for advising on the reports of four commissions—the Social Commission, the Population Commission, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, I carried responsibility for work in relation to the International Children's Emergency Fund, the proposal for a One Day's Pay Plan to raise voluntary contributions for the Children's Fund and the U. S. statement on the utilization of the proceeds from the sale of UNRRA supplies.

The general procedure followed by the Council in relation to the Commission reports was to have first a general debate in a plenary session, followed by referral to the Social Committee of the Whole. After thorough discussion in this Committee the resolutions covering the recommendations of the Commissions were referred to a drafting committee, which then reported back to the Committee of the Whole before action was taken in a plenary session.

7. Approved the action of the Social Commission in setting up a Temporary Social Welfare Committee to meet before the second session of the Social Commission. This Committee is to make recommendations on criteria to be used by the Secretariat in allocating advisory social welfare services to countries requesting services; on whether a Child Welfare Subcommission should be set up at this time and on the relationship of such a Subcommission and the advisory social welfare services in the Secretariat to a comprehensive long-term welfare program.
8. Decided that in considering applications for advisory social welfare services submitted by countries formerly assisted by UNRRA, no distinction should be made between these countries except on the basis of need for services. This was a controversial issue as many of the countries have considered that priorities should be given to members of the United Nations which were victims of aggression and have been receiving UNRRA assistance. The Social Commission had stated that the basic principle should be that of the need of each country for welfare services but that special consideration should be given to providing these services to countries which were victims of aggression and particularly to those which are members of the United Nations and have been receiving UNRRA assistance.
9. Requested the Secretariat to report at a future session of the Social Commission on the extent to which social questions within the terms of reference of the Social Commission have been or are being studied by the specialized agencies, such as the ILO, UNESCO and World Health Organization and to suggest appropriate measures to be followed by the Commission, especially in relation to the study of standards of living in underdeveloped countries and areas.

International Children's Emergency Fund

The Council approved a report submitted by the Executive Board of the International Children's Emergency Fund outlining its proposed program to provide one supplementary meal a day to 20 million children at a cost of \$400 million a year. It is expected that one-half of this amount will come from indigenous supplies and transportation provided by the receiving countries. The Council requested the Executive Board of the Fund to submit at the next session of the Council a detailed program of work. The Council also designated Switzerland, which, of course, is not a member of the United Nations, to be a member of the Executive Board of the Fund because of its outstanding work in the field of child welfare.

After a great deal of discussion the Council also approved in principle a proposal for a special world-wide appeal for voluntary contributions to meet emergency relief needs of children. This proposal was first made by Mr. Ordning of Norway in the form of a plan for a one day's pay collection. At the suggestion of the United States, the proposal was modified to include the idea that the collection should take the form of whatever is most appropriate for a particular country and may take the form of one day's pay where suitable. The Secretary General was requested to make necessary arrangements for initiating the campaign.

In the Report of the Social Commission to the States it was first proposed that a recommendation be made to take into consideration the views of the Commission on the matter. The Commission followed the views of the States and recommended that the Commission should be asked to take into consideration the views of the States and to make recommendations on the matter.

Handling Problems of Migration

The Social Commission had recommended that a Special Ad Hoc Committee on Migration be set up. This recommendation was concurred in by the Population Commission. The United States opposed this recommendation on the basis that it involved setting up unnecessary machinery. After a good deal of consideration the Council invited the Population and Social Commissions to report to the Council on a practical plan for handling problems of migration without duplication of work among the various United Nations organs concerned with migration and asked the Secretary General to make preliminary studies to expedite the work of the commissions in this field.

Housing and Town Planning

The General Assembly in December had asked the Economic and Social Council to pay particular attention to the problem of housing. The Social Commission had been asked by the Economic and Social Council last June to consider the desirability of setting up international machinery in the field of housing and town planning. The Council asked the Secretariat to undertake a study of housing and to plan for a conference of housing experts.

Expert Assistance to Member Governments

Action of interest to the Agency was taken by the Council in instructing the Secretary General to establish machinery within the Secretariat to provide assistance to member governments which want expert advice on specific problems. The United Nations Secretariat is to provide information on expert personnel, technical assistance and other resources that the United Nations and specialized agencies can make available to governments on request and especially to the less developed countries for aiding them in their development.

Commission on Human Rights

The Council acted on plans of the Commission on Human Rights for drafting an international bill of rights. Two important subcommissions were set up— one on freedom of information and the press and the other on prevention of discrimination against minorities.

Commission on Status of Women

The report of the Commission on the Status of Women proved to be controversial, as the character of the Commission tends to make its work overlap that of commissions in the substantive fields, such as the Economic and Employment Commission and the Social Commission. After lengthy discussion, the Council approved many of the recommendations of the Commission. The Council asked the Commission to take as its immediate program of work the examination of existing legal and customary disabilities of women as regards political, social and economic rights, and educational opportunities, subject to consultation with the ILO and with a view to framing a proposal for action. The Secretary General is to consult UNESCO on plans for developing a program of basic education without distinction as to sex. Member States are to be asked to expedite their replies on the section on education of the questionnaire on the legal status of women in order to provide the Commission with data as a basis for possible action to advance the rights of women in the educational field.

Population Commission approved various reports of the Council on the status of women and the Commission on Human Rights. The Council also approved the report of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Council also approved the report of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Council also approved the report of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Population Commission

The Council approved various recommendations of the Population Commission concerning 1950 world censuses, the publication of the United Nations of a demographic yearbook, the improvement of demographic data, and the collection of data which would make possible a demographic study of each of the trust territories. The Council also approved a plan for a study by the Secretariat of the interplay of the economic, social and demographic factors which hinder the attainment of adequate standards of living and cultural development in certain countries.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Council authorized the taking over by the United Nations of the responsibility for international regulation of traffic in narcotic drugs formerly carried by the League of Nations. A detailed report of the Commission covering numerous specific recommendations on the control of drugs was approved.

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY ORDER 6

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF INTER-AGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Office of Inter-Agency and International Relations, under the supervision and direction of the Director of Inter-Agency and International Relations, shall be responsible to the Federal Security Administrator for:

- a. Coordinating the relationships of the Federal Security Agency with other Federal departments and agencies, international agencies, and organized groups concerned with health, education, welfare, social insurance and related programs by:
 - (1) Formulating and integrating policies on these relationships developed in the various constituent organizations of the Federal Security Agency; advising the Administrator on the development and application of these policies.
 - (2) Developing, establishing and maintaining cooperative relationships with other Federal departments and agencies and with organized groups; and representing the Federal Security Agency on Interdepartmental Committees concerned with health, education, welfare, social insurance and related programs in order to present and interpret the policies and viewpoints of the Agency and promote its interest in related programs.
 - (3) Developing, establishing and maintaining cooperative relationships and continuing contacts with international agencies and organizations in related fields of activity, such as United Nations, International Labor Office, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, Inter-American Committee on Social Security, etc.
 - (4) Acting as liaison with representatives of foreign governments interested in the promotion of health, education, welfare, social insurance and related programs, and advising the Administrator concerning opportunities for study and exchange of experience and information and for interchange of students and personnel.
- b. Advising the Administrator on programs and activities of all agencies and organized groups active in the fields of health, education, welfare, social insurance and related programs, and on relationships with such organizations.

- c. Ascertaining the views of other Government agencies on matters of broad policy, evaluating their effect upon the policies and programs of the Federal Security Agency and making recommendations to the Administrator thereon; and arranging Agency conferences with other interested organizations on matters of mutual concern in the general fields of education, health, welfare, and social insurance.

Walter B. Miller

Administrator

January 15, 1947

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' and social insurance.

Mrs. Klara S. Woodward
Director, Office of Inter-Agency and International Relations
Federal Security Agency

Mrs. Klara S. Woodward, Director of the Office of Inter-Agency and International Relations in the Federal Security Agency, occupies one of the top-ranking positions held by women in the Federal Government. In her present work she acts for the Administrator in the formulation of Agency policy and the establishment and organization of relationships of the Federal Security Agency with other Federal departments and agencies, International agencies, representatives of foreign governments and agencies, International agencies, representatives of foreign governments and organized groups in the fields of health, sanitation, welfare, social insurance and relief programs.

Mrs. Woodward has had long State and Federal experience in welfare administration. Prior to her present work, she had served for eight years as one of the three members of the Social Security Board, where she shared in the responsibility for formulating the policy and in administering the provisions of the Social Security Act. She was first appointed by President Roosevelt in 1936 and reappointed in 1943.

Before her appointment to the Social Security Board, Mrs. Woodward served for 5 1/2 years as Assistant Administrator of the Works Progress Administration and its predecessor. Called to Washington during the depression days of 1933, she organized, developed and directed the first Nation-wide Government work program for unemployed women who were heads of families. So successful was this pioneering effort that her responsibility was extended to include all white collar projects for men as well as women. At the peak of this Nation-wide program some 750,000 men and women were productively employed on projects which functioned under her leadership.

Mrs. Woodward's public career began in 1925 when she was elected a member of the Missouri Legislative—the second woman to serve in the House of Representatives. Her work in the Legislature was highlighted by active service on a number of important committees—the Elementary Institutions Committee, the Library Committee, Constitution Committee and the University and Colleges Committee.

Following her service in the Legislature, she accepted a position with the Missouri State Board of Development—serving first as Director of the Division of Community Development and later as the Executive Director of that State-wide organization—a position never before held by a woman. Then the Legislature created the Missouri Research Commission to make the first scientific study of State and county government, Mrs. Woodward served as its Executive Secretary. Then the Missouri State Board of Public Welfare was established in 1932. Mrs. Woodward, as a recognized authority on general social and economic conditions in her State, became the only woman on the five-member Executive Committee. In that capacity she was one of the planners in planning the first relief program in Missouri during the early days of the depression. It was at this point in her career that she was called to Washington in 1933.

Mrs. Woodward has participated in a number of White House Conferences. One of the earliest of these Conferences, held in 1933 during a most critical period in the history of our Nation, was the Conference on the Needs of

