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**FIFTH MEETING
of
CONSULTATION
of
MINISTERS
of
FOREIGN AFFAIRS**



SANTIAGO, CHILE • AUGUST 12-18, 1959

F I N A L A C T

1960

HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS:

In the preamble to the Charter of the Organization of American States it is stated: "Confident that the true significance of American solidarity and good neighborliness can only mean the consolidation on this continent, within the framework of democratic institutions, of a system of individual liberty and social justice based on respect for the essential rights of man";

The furtherance of those rights is a part of the fundamental aims of solidarity of the American states, as set forth in the preambles to the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance and to the Charter of the Organization of American States, and is one of the means for achieving solidarity, as asserted as a precept in Article 5.j of the Charter and Resolution XXXII of the Ninth International Conference of American States;

In various instruments of the Organization of American States there has been set forth and repeated the rule that liberty, justice, and peace are based on recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of the individual;

It has been considered essential, as a fundamental corollary to this rule, that such rights be protected by a juridical system, so that men will not be driven to the extreme expedient of revolt against tyranny and oppression; and

The American states have constantly demanded in the United Nations the urgent approval of the covenants on civil and political rights and on economic, social, and cultural rights, which will give world-wide application to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

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The Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

DECLARES:

That eleven years after the proclamation of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man—progress having been made during the same period in both the United Nations and the union known as the Council of Europe, in the codification and methodical study of this field until today a satisfactory and promising point has been reached—the climate in this hemisphere is favorable to the conclusion of a convention; and therefore

RESOLVES:

I

1. That the Inter-American Council of Jurists proceed to prepare, at its Fourth Meeting, a draft Convention on Human Rights, referring this task, if it should not itself accomplish it, to the Council of the Organization of American States, which shall commission for this purpose the Inter-American Juridical Committee, or the entity it considers appropriate; and that it likewise proceed to prepare a draft convention or draft conventions on the Creation of an Inter-American Court for the Protection of Human Rights and of other organizations appropriate for the protection and observance of those rights.

2. That the aforesaid drafts be submitted to the Eleventh Inter-American Conference and be transmitted to the governments 60 days prior to the opening of the Conference.

II

To create an Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, composed of seven members elected, as individuals, by the Council of the Organization of American States from panels of three names presented by the governments. The Commission, which shall be organized by the Council of the Organization and have the specific functions that the Council assigns to it, shall be charged with furthering respect for such rights.