

Minority Groups Complain on Human Rights

NEW YORK, Wednesday.

The Human Rights Commission has received thousands of complaints from minority groups and individuals throughout the world. The Australian representative (Lieut.-Colonel Hodgson) warned it yesterday against giving the impression it was a court of final appeal for the oppressed and deluding the people into the belief it had power to help them.

He opposed a motion by the Philippine delegate (Carlos Romulo) for the creation of a committee to recommend how complaints should be dealt with, saying it was the first duty of the Commission to create permanent machinery for dealing with questions of human rights. It should not deal haphazardly with individual cases.

As an example of the complaints received, he quoted one from two Australian aborigines, named Dooley and Clancy, another from Filipino city workers asking for support of a strike for more wages, and a third from American conscientious objectors.

He asked how members of the Commission could possibly decide the rights or wrongs of hundreds of such complaints. Romulo accused Colonel Hodgson of trying to fortify his arguments by using petty complaints, saying he knew how to use the principle of reduction and absurdum to confound his opponents, but there were, nevertheless hundreds of complaints which were not petty. The Commission should 'act as the world's conscience.

Romulo's motion was carried by five votes to three, with three abstentions. There were seven absentees.