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## **U.N. Rights Commission Adjourns Session for Talks on Replacement Body**

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GENEVA (AP) - The 53-nation U.N. Human Rights Commission briefly opened its 62nd annual session Monday and then immediately adjourned for one week to give negotiators a chance to end a deadlock with the United States over creation of a replacement body.

Western diplomats in Geneva have described as chaotic their efforts to prepare for the annual six-week session as several deadlines passed for talks in New York on a proposal to replace the commission with a Human Rights Council, a central element of Secretary-General Kofi Annan's bid to reform the United Nations.

The United States, which has been holding up approval of the council, wants to reopen negotiations to require that council members be elected by a two-thirds vote rather than the simple majority now called for to keep rights abusers out.

The adjournment left in doubt whether and how long the commission will meet to consider such issues as abuses of human rights in a number of countries including Sudan, Cuba, North Korea and a report on alleged mistreatment of detainees at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"This exceptional decision has been adopted, thanks to the spirit of cooperation and compromise, shown by all members represented on the commission," said Peruvian Ambassador Manuel Rodriguez Cuadros, who is chairing the commission.

The commission will try meeting again next Monday, Rodriguez Cuadros said.

Jan Eliasson, the president of the U.N. General Assembly, has rejected U.S. demands to reopen negotiations on grounds that would invite other nations to reintroduce their own proposed changes.

The Americans also want the text to explicitly bar any nation from joining the council if it is under sanction by the United Nations. The current draft says only that such measures would be taken into account when deciding membership.

The commission, whose members are selected by regional groups, has been criticized because some of the nations taking part are major rights offenders who protect one another from condemnation.