

**INTERNATIONAL  
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Ninth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST PART (PUBLIC) \*/ OF THE 204th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Monday, 24 March 1980, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. PRADO VALLEJO

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\*/ The summary record of the second part (closed) of the meeting appears as  
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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 40 OF THE  
COVENANT (continued)

Iraq (continued) (CCPR/C/1/Add.45)

1. Mr. RASHID (Iraq), continuing his answers to questions raised by members of the Committee in connexion with his Government's report, said that the central thrust of his Government's policy with regard to women was to release women from the economic, social and legislative obstacles which prevented them from making a full contribution to society and to Arab renewal. It was necessary, however, to avoid taking hasty or improvised action, for that might provoke hostile reaction. Iraq had made great efforts to grant women the place they should rightly occupy and to enable them to participate equally with men in all spheres and activities in carrying out the comprehensive national plans for economic and social development. Iraqi women had their General Union, a popular organization which enabled them to co-ordinate and organize women's activities so as to strengthen democratic progress in the country..

2. With regard to public health, he cited article 33 of the Constitution, which outlined the State's responsibilities in the public health sphere, and the Political Report of the Eighth Congress of the Party, which stressed the need for preventive medical services as the basis for future health plans. Iraq was making a determined effort to lower infant mortality in the country. To that end the Government had introduced the training of specialized paediatric nurses, had established new centres for maternal and child care, and had instituted a project for home confinement and the protection of pregnant women, with the provision of six weeks' confinement leave and six months maternity leave. Day nurseries were being constructed, along with specialized institutions to deal with handicapped children. With a population of over 12 million, the country was now able to provide one doctor per 2,154 inhabitants, one hospital bed per 465 inhabitants and one nurse per 280 inhabitants. There were 1,107 beds set aside for children in general hospitals and 993 beds set aside for obstetrical care. There were 17 specialized paediatric hospitals with a total of 1,804 beds and seven specialized maternity hospitals with a total of 920 beds. The global figure for infant mortality was now 69 deaths per thousand, as follows: under seven days of age, 31 deaths per 1,000; between seven and 28 days, 12 per 1,000; between 29 days and six months, 15 per thousand; and between six months and one year, 11 per 1,000. The number of day nurseries had risen from 124 in 1970-1971 to 333 in 1977-1978; the 2,862 nurses employed in such nurseries took care of 67,270 children.

3. On the subject of trade unions and their role in the social and economic life of the country, he said that Iraq considered the trade unions an important manifestation of the practical exercise and affirmation of popular democracy. Labour Law No. 151 of 1970 provided for the organization of trade unions with a view to organizing the struggle of the working class in a progressive manner, so as to protect the sacred value of labour and to confirm the historic role of the working class in the construction of society and the State. The trade unions sought to develop the political, social, cultural and professional awareness of workers, to protect and develop the production and the rights of workers, to ensure a spirit of respect for labour legislation, and to unify the struggle of the Arab working class against reaction, capitalism, imperialism, zionism and racial and religious discrimination.

Any group of at least 50 workers within a given province could form a union, if the workers belonged to one of the professions established under the law. The law prescribed conditions for the establishment of trade unions and, once the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs had been informed and had given its approval, the new trade union was allowed to operate. All the local trade unions were governed at the national level by the General Federation of Trade Unions, which had the status of a juridical person and enjoyed administrative and financial independence. Financial measures taken by the trade unions were subject to the control of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and were monitored by the Financial Control Council of the Revolutionary Command Council.

4. With regard to planning, an area to which his country attached great importance in the development and co-ordination of social and economic change and the construction of socialism, he said that Iraq had now established a highly competent planning body concerned with the development of short, medium and long-term plans. After the revolution of July 1968, Iraq had reconsidered its entire legislation in order to make the necessary changes to meet present and future needs. A reflexion of that effort was the Law for the Reformation of the Legal System, of which much mention was made in the report.

5. Mr. SALAMA (Iraq) said that Iraq's position vis-à-vis the new international economic order was based on the following principles: the right of peoples to establish full and effective sovereignty over their natural resources and their right to nationalize those resources to benefit the development of the entire people in full freedom; the termination of domination by multinational corporations and their neocolonialist plundering of the resources of developing countries; the establishment of qualitative federations and associations of producers of commodities in developing countries and the strengthening of existing associations, so as to deal more effectively with the monopolies of the industrialized and developed countries; the establishment of a fair and remunerative price system for the products of developing countries, so as to improve their purchasing power and prevent further deterioration in the terms of trade; and the development of effective measures to combat inflation. In that connexion, Iraq had proposed the establishment of a world fund to provide long-term assistance to developing countries and in particular to help them to cope with galloping inflation. Both the developed countries and the oil-producing countries would participate in the financing of the fund. Furthermore, Iraq had taken steps to reduce the impact of rising oil prices by providing long-term interest-free loans to developing countries since June 1979. The Iraqi proposal had been submitted to the Havana Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in October 1979 and had been approved. It had also been presented at the ministerial meeting of oil-producing countries (OPEC), where a decision had been taken to submit the proposal to the organization's Strategic Committee for consideration along with other proposals submitted by Venezuela and Algeria. Iraq was thus seeking to establish a solid basis for a new international economic order and looked forward to the coming special session of the General Assembly on such matters in August 1980.

6. Mr. RASHID (Iraq) said that his delegation would be ready to supply the Committee with further information in writing as necessary.

7. Mr. TOMUSCHAT said that, despite the replies provided by the representatives of Iraq, it still appeared that Iraqi legislation failed to provide the full coverage and protection of the rights of accused and convicted persons called for under article 14, paragraph 5, of the Covenant. He hoped that the Committee would soon obtain further information on Iraqi efforts to improve that situation.

8. The CHAIRMAN thanked the representatives of Iraq for their co-operation with the Committee in providing additional information on the Iraqi report.

The public meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.