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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Tenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 220TH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Monday, 14 July 1980, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. MAVROMMATIS

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The CHAIRMAN declared open the tenth session of the Human Rights Committee.
2. Mr. URIBE VARGAS said that he had been prevented from attending the ninth session by his duties as Minister for Foreign Affairs on the occasion of the seizure of hostages in Bogotá. He thanked the Committee for its moral support during that trying time.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (item 1 of the provisional agenda) (CCPR/C/12)

3. The agenda was adopted

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS (agenda item 2)

4. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the Working Group on communications received in accordance with the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant had met at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 7 to 11 July 1980. It had not yet completed its work and would meet again that afternoon.
5. He indicated two changes in the time-table for consideration of reports of States parties set out in document CCPR/C/12: firstly, the report of Barbados would be considered not at the current session but at the session to be held in spring 1981 in New York, where Barbados had a Mission; secondly, at the request of the Colombian Government, the report of Colombia, scheduled to be considered last, would be considered on the following day.
6. He further informed members that, owing to his duties as President of the Economic and Social Council, he would be unable to act as Chairman during the first part of the Committee's session.
7. Mr. BOUZIRI said that the changes in the time-table were regrettable. The report of Barbados had been received one year previously and the Committee had been assured that it would be considered at the current session. Moreover, to schedule discussion of Colombia's report for the next day would allow members of the Committee insufficient time for preparatory study.
8. Mr. TOMUSCHAT inquired whether copies of the Constitution of Colombia could be distributed to members of the Committee.
9. Mr. URIBE VARGAS said that copies of that Constitution would be provided by the Colombian Embassy and that the other texts referred to in the Colombian report could be consulted in the Secretariat's files.
10. Sir Vincent EVANS pointed out that Barbados was a very small country and that its report had been on the agenda for the Committee's ninth session, which had originally been scheduled to be held in New York.

11. With regard to the report of Colombia, he said that it would have been preferable for photocopies of the texts referred to in that document to have been distributed in advance of the session so as to enable them to be read in conjunction with it. Moreover, he would have appreciated translations of the texts, particularly the Colombian Constitution. The United Nations Library contained translations of many countries' constitutions into English, at least, if not into other languages and he therefore suggested that the Secretariat should obtain the relevant translations and make photocopies of them available before the end of the day. His suggestion also applied to the constitutions of other countries whose reports were to be considered.

12. Mr. TOMUSCHAT supported that suggestion.

13. Mr. ANABTAWI (Secretary of the Committee) said that he would do his best to comply with the suggestion made by Sir Vincent Evans and to circulate translations of the Colombian Constitution before the next meeting.

14. He and the Chairman had made every effort to ensure that a representative of Barbados would be available for consideration of that country's report, but it had proved impossible for Barbados to send anyone to Geneva during the current session.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.