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ALTERNATE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Services of the Secretariat concerned with human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 34/47 of 23 November 1979 on the services of the Secretariat concerned with human rights, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consider the redesignation of the Division of Human Rights as a Centre for Human Rights, in the light of the views expressed on the proposed redesignation at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate financial and other resources were allocated to the sector of the Secretariat concerned with human rights, so as to enable it to discharge its functions, in the light of the results of the relevant study to be conducted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth session in accordance with paragraph 9 of Assembly resolution 34/46. 1/ The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of resolution 34/47.

2. Following the adoption of resolution 34/47, the Commission on Human Rights, at its thirty-sixth session, held from 4 February to 14 March 1980, adopted resolution 22 (XXXVI), 2/ in which it requested the Secretary-General to consider,

1/ In paragraph 9 of resolution 34/46 the General Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights, at its thirty-sixth session, to consider the existing human and other resources that the Division of Human Rights of the Secretariat had at its disposal for the implementation of General Assembly resolutions, on the basis of complete data which the Secretary-General was requested to provide to it, and thereafter to make recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, with a view to further improving the working of the Division. See the progress report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to this resolution (A/35/373).

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council 1980, Supplement No. 3 (E/1980/13), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

if he deemed it appropriate, the redesignation of the Division of Human Rights as a Centre for Human Rights, and in its invitation to the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate financial and other resources were allocated to the sector of the Secretariat concerned with human rights so as to enable it to discharge its functions. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1980, adopted decision 1980/132 of 2 May 1980 in which it endorsed the request by the Commission on Human Rights.

3. In his annual report on the work of the Organization, which was submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, the Secretary-General stated that he was "prepared to consider all useful suggestions for strengthening the contribution of the Secretariat in a field which is of fundamental importance to the future development of our society". 3/ Moreover, the Secretary-General reaffirmed that the United Nations, as an institution, had important human rights responsibilities of its own to discharge under the Charter and under procedures and methods established by appropriate deliberative organs. The Secretary-General added that he was "more convinced than ever that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms must be at the heart of our greatest task here at the United Nations". 4/

4. With respect to the request to the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 2 of resolution 34/47, in which the General Assembly invited him to ensure that adequate financial and other resources were allocated to the sector of the Secretariat concerned with human rights, so as to enable it to discharge its functions, the Secretary-General wishes to inform the Assembly that a thorough review is currently in progress. The Assembly will be informed later of the outcome of this review, either in an additional report, or in the context of the presentation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.

5. With respect to the request to the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 1 of resolution 34/47 that he should consider the redesignation of the Division of Human Rights as a Centre for Human Rights, the Secretary-General wishes to inform the General Assembly that, while the Division meets the technical criteria for a Centre, as set forth in his report of organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat (A/C.5/32/17), he believes that further consideration of the matter is required.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/34/1), sect. VII.

4/ Ibid.