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HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: OBSERVANCE OF THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 423 (V) of 4 December 1950 the General Assembly invited all States and interested organizations to adopt 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day; to observe that day to celebrate the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in keeping with Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948; and to exert increasing efforts in that field of human progress. It also invited all States to report annually, through the Secretary-General, on those activities which were undertaken during the observance of Human Rights Day.
2. The Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 13 November 1981 addressed to all States, requested information concerning the observance of Human Rights Day, 1981.
3. The present report summarizes the information received from 27 States.

II. SUMMARY OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

AFGHANISTAN

[Original: English]

[8 December 1981]

The following cable was received from the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan:

"On the occasion of thirty-third anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I am glad to reaffirm faith in and support of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the people and Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. I regret to say that, 32 years after the adoption of this Universal Declaration, millions are still suffering because of the unjust relations and the wicked violation of human rights by imperialist, colonialist, neo-colonialist and racist, including Zionist, reactionary forces.

"It is gratifying that on the bases of the principles of the April Revolution, particularly after its new evolutionary phase, major steps have been taken for the better implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, under the guidance of the people of Afghanistan, is using all its material and human resources to create conditions in which the human rights and democratic freedoms of our toiling people can best be preserved and protected.

"Expressing my appreciation to the United Nations for its accomplishment in promoting the cause of human rights, I once again reaffirm the support of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan of the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

AUSTRIA

[Original: English]

[18 March 1982]

1. As in previous years, Austria has again in 1981 observed Human Rights Day in the conviction that this will contribute to the further promotion of the general conscience of human rights matters.
2. Among the celebrations organized by governmental and non-governmental institutions, the following deserve to be specially mentioned. The Austrian Association for the United Nations and the Austrian section of Amnesty International organized a symposium on Austria and the human rights covenants which also offered the occasion to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the human rights covenants by the United Nations General Assembly. The Federal Ministry of Justice contributed considerably to the preparations for this symposium. Furthermore, the Federal Ministry of Justice, in advance of the actual observance of Human Rights Day, contributed to the promotion of human rights discussions in Austria by organizing an international colloquium on the United Nations and human rights.
3. United Nations activities in the field of human rights have been brought to the attention of a large public in Austrian schools and in the Austrian Federal Army.

BANGLADESH

[Original: English]

[29 January 1982]

Bangladesh, which has always expressed its concern and championed the observance of human rights, observed Human Rights Day with due solemnity. The Bangladesh Association for the United Nations also arranged a seminar in which eminent educationalists, legal experts and intellectuals of the country, including representatives from United Nations agencies resident in Dacca, delivered speeches stressing not only the importance of the Day but also pointing out the necessity of upholding human rights. In this context, some speakers also deplored the absence of certain fundamental rights including the rights to political independence and self-determination in Palestine and Namibia. Human Rights Day was also observed by some other socio-cultural organizations, notably the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights which organized a symposium. Eminent jurists and educationalists took part in the discussions, which were covered widely by the mass media. Various daily and weekly newspapers also published articles and editorials to mark the occasion.

BAHAMAS

[Original: English]

[24 February 1982]

The Minister of External Affairs informed the Secretary-General that Human Rights Day was observed in the commonwealth of the Bahamas on 10 December 1981. Information concerning the purposes and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was disseminated to the Bahamian public.

BARBADOS

[Original: English]

[15 March 1982]

1. The following statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs was broadcast over the media to make the public become more aware of the meaning of human rights, their violation throughout the world and the need for their preservation:

"On 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations, moved by the denial of human rights and the abuse of human dignity in many parts of the world, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This important body of principles guarantees the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every individual. Today, countries all over the world join together to commemorate the thirty-third anniversary of that historic occasion.

"Since 1948 the international community has addressed its attention to the matter further. In 1966 another important milestone was reached with the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. These Covenants were ratified by many nations including Barbados. Embodied within the first of these Covenants are the rights of every person to work, fair wages, social security, adequate standards of living, health and education. The second Covenant acknowledges the inalienable rights to life, liberty, security and privacy of persons; it prohibits all kinds of servitude, seeks to ensure the right to a fair trial and offers protection against arbitrary arrest or detention. The fundamental rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, of opinion, expression and association, and peaceful assembly and emigration are all guaranteed by this Covenant.

"We in Barbados have most of these rights safeguarded by our Constitution. We enjoy and tend to take for granted privileges for which others have to fight. We enjoy freedom of speech, association and religion; we live free from the fear of unlawful arrest and illegal detention. At all times we are free to exercise our constitutional rights. Barbados therefore can be justly proud of its human rights record. We nevertheless realize that the struggle will not be over until all countries recognize and respect the

dignity and worth of the human person. As a country which has pledged to lend its assistance in the eradication of all kinds of discrimination, injustice and oppression from the world, Barbados will continue to fight for those principles enshrined in the 1948 Declaration. We will continue to support action in international forums to achieve the ends of the Declaration."

2. In order to instill and promote among the youth a degree of awareness of the principles of human rights and the problem of their violation in the world today, schools were asked to focus their attention on human rights on that day.

3. Churches were also involved in the "awareness" exercise in that they were asked to place emphasis on human rights in their worship around that time. Articles devoted to this subject were also published in the local news journal.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[26 January 1982]

1. In 1981, Human Rights Day was widely observed in the Byelorussian SSR. Much material in the mass media and meetings of representatives of the public in a number of cities in the Republic were devoted to this event.

2. In the hero city of Minsk, the capital of the Byelorussian SSR, a meeting of representatives of the public was opened by Mr. I. P. Shamyakin, People's Author of the Byelorussian SSR and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR. Ms. L. T. Barabanova, Secretary of the Byelorussian Republic Trade Union Council, delivered an address.

3. She emphasized in her statement that respect for political, civil, economic, social, cultural and other rights and the free access of all members of society to work, education, culture, science and participation in governing the State were assured only under socialism. Human rights and freedoms were enshrined in the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR and their implementation was guaranteed for all citizens. Concern for man, his well-being and his rights permeated all the resolutions adopted at the twenty-sixth Congress of the Party, the November (1981) plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the sixth session of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the fourth session of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR.

4. The Human Rights Day message of United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim was read out at the meeting.

5. Those attending the meeting declared in a unanimously adopted resolution that, in view of the serious aggravation of the international situation, the implementation of the Peace Programme for the 1980s adopted by the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, of the subsequent proposals contained in speeches by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium

of the USSR Supreme Soviet and of the Soviet Union's proposals at the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, was of the greatest possible importance for the fate of all countries and peoples and for the safeguarding of fundamental human rights, above all the right to live in a climate of peace.

6. The resolution contained a firm protest against the arms race imposed by imperialist circles, the decision of the United States of America to undertake the full-scale production of neutron weapons and the plans to deploy new United States medium-range missiles in Western Europe.

7. Those attending the meeting voiced their full support for all who are fighting for freedom, independence and social progress and against oppression, racism and apartheid. They called for an end to the misdeeds of the racist régime in South Africa, the crimes of the Israeli occupying forces in the Arab territories seized by them, the bloody terror of the fascist military junta in Chile and the activities of military dictatorships against the peoples of other countries of the world.

8. In numerous reports, the mass media gave wide publicity to questions of socialist democracy and the rights of Soviet citizens. They also pointed out that the Byelorussian SSR conforms strictly to the principles of international legal instruments and fulfils all the obligations ensuing from its ratification of international conventions and agreements on human rights. At the same time, radio and television broadcasts and periodicals carried a great deal of material testifying to the flagrant violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms in capitalist countries and to the fact that political, social and economic inequality are embodied in the very nature of capitalism.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[7 December 1981]

The following communication was received by the Secretary-General from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba:

"I have the honour to write you in connexion with the thirty-third anniversary of the proclamation of Human Rights Day, at a time when mankind is facing situations that urgently require observance of the first postulate of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, namely, that recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

"In the light of this postulate, it is obvious not only that gross and flagrant violations of the human rights of peoples and individuals affected by systems such as apartheid and by all forms of racial discrimination, colonialism and aggression must be condemned, but also that the international community must combat the causes, in keeping with the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

/...

"The task of protecting human rights is a pressing obligation for all the members truly committed to the purposes and objectives of the Organization. It is a principle that admits of no despicable scheming to suit the purposes of imperialist policy. The moral excellence of protecting human rights is such that it is possible to discern without any doubts the Governments which work for peace, respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States and the economic and social development of peoples and the Governments which join and support the racist, colonialist and neo-colonialist régimes that violate the human rights of millions of persons every day.

"The purpose of establishing the conditions of stability and well-being necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples embodied in the Charter of the United Nations has been strengthened by the General Assembly's characterization of the right to development as a human right and of equal opportunity for development as a prerogative both of nations and of the individuals who go to make up nations.

"In the midst of the serious economic crisis, which primarily affects the developing countries and carries malnutrition, hunger, death and ignorance in its wake, we are committed to the struggle to overcome the injustices and inequalities of the present economic order, which does no more than benefit privileged sectors in a small number of countries.

"The continuing exploitation, dependence and strong-arm policies that now threaten the world with conflagration are the root causes of all the violations of human rights in the world.

"As you know, our country is again being threatened by imperialism, which has adopted an increasingly aggressive stance, and the use of reckless and warlike language is placing the past, present and future of mankind in ever greater danger. On this anniversary, the Government of Cuba, which is at all times prepared to safeguard the Cuban people's right to self-determination and dignity, therefore reiterates its support for peace and its opposition to the régimes that cause the evils which beset mankind as the best contribution it can make to the aim of ensuring full observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[Original: English]

[2 February 1982]

The following resolution was adopted by the Czechoslovak Association for the United Nations on the occasion of the thirty-third anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

"Thirty-three years will have passed this year since the adoption by the General Assembly at its third session of an important international document known as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This happened at a time when mankind still had in living memory the horror of the Second World War and the Member States of the United Nations contemplated, as one of the primary tasks, establishing a mutually-agreed standard of human rights and freedoms for all without distinction of race, sex, language or religion and promoting its implementation. The first step toward meeting this task was the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifying the notion of human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

"The specification of the notion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, reflects a comprehensive concept of this notion, i.e., it includes both civil and political rights and, equally important, economic, social and cultural rights. Thereby, the road of further progressive development in this sphere is indicated. Binding international legal documents adopted later and concerning the position of man in a society, in particular the two pacts on human rights, are mostly based on the human rights and fundamental freedoms enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"The development in the past 33 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has juridically and in practice proved the correctness of this comprehensive concept. The foundation of a number of independent States, which were still dependent territories at the time of the adoption of the Declaration, has also shown the regularity of the development leading to the exercise of the rights of nations to self-determination which, despite the efforts of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other socialist countries, is not explicitly expressed in the Declaration, although an indication can be seen in the provision of article 2 of the Declaration.

"Whereas the actual development in this respect has largely overrun what is expressed in the Universal Declaration as the programme and postulate with regard to human rights, there has so far remained unfulfilled the postulate expressed in article 28 of the Declaration saying that each State has the right to such social and international order under which the rights and freedoms provided for in the Declaration can be fully exercised.

"It was clear in 1948 and it has been confirmed again by the development in the 33 years that have since elapsed that human rights can be exercised only in peaceful conditions and that any effort aimed at promoting and enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is real only if linked to the effort aimed at maintaining international peace and security and at developing joint action of States. International action to promote and enhance respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of race, language, sex or religion involves not only the assumption of international legal commitments in this sphere and their due fulfilment or the support of efforts aimed at the exercise of the right of nations to self-determination, but also the pursuit of a faithful and consequential peaceful policy directed to the lessening of international tensions and creating prerequisites for lasting peace.

"Such a genuinely humane policy has been pursued by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, by other States of the socialist community and by a number of progressive and peaceloving States; such a genuinely humane policy is fully advocated also by us, the Czechoslovak United Nations Association.

"The United Nations is currently confronting an especially urgent task if it is to fulfill its noble mission in the spirit of the Charter: to do everything to safeguard international peace and security to progress toward disarmament and above all to ban nuclear weapons and to liquidate their stock since it is only in such a way - in securing the most fundamental right to live and to live in peace - that it can fulfill its mission in the sphere of human rights. It is a well-known fact that only a small portion of the money spent on armaments each year would help to resolve the situation of millions of people, including children, who are starving in the world of today and living on the margin of poverty, in illiteracy, without basic medical care. Those more than 500 billion dollars that are annually swallowed by armaments could serve to solve a number of grave problems of the present world, improve the living conditions of millions of people and create prerequisites for the exercise of their human rights.

"The Czechoslovak United Nations Association is willing to be instrumental to the United Nations in an effective support for the efforts aimed at halting the arms race, disarmament and understanding among nations and thus to help secure the fundamental right of man to live in peace."

DEMOCRATIC YEMEN

[Original: English]

[8 December 1981]

The following cable was received by the Secretary-General from the Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Yemen, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and Prime Minister of Yemen:

"On behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and Government in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, we wish to extend our warm and heartfelt felicitations on the occasion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Throughout the period following its adoption, much progress has been made by the peoples of the world in their struggle for human rights and for their liberation from the yoke of colonial, imperialist, racist and reactionary oppression. That was clearly evident in many countries which wrested their national independence and democratic, political and social freedoms. We wish on the occasion to express our appreciation for the efforts exerted, by the United Nations in supporting human rights, mainly the right of the peoples of these countries to freedom, sovereignty and progress.

"We wish in the present international situation to express our deep concern over the recent violations against human rights that Zionism is perpetrating against the Palestinian people and those by racist rulers in South Africa against the Namibian people and African citizens, as well as those which are being perpetrated by the dictatorial régime in El Salvador. We also wish to express our concern over the threats that détente and peace are facing owing to the arms race in the world that imperialist circles are pursuing to threaten the right of humanity to live in peace.

"We feel confident that the struggle of nations for their right and the rights of humanity will score a victory. We also feel confident that the efforts exerted by the United Nations will be a fundamental fact in this context. Wishing you the best of health, happiness and success."

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[10 December 1981]

The following is the declaration of the German Democratic Republic Committee on Human Rights on the occasion of the thirty-third anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

"In our time all peoples are facing the most important challenge which is to ban forever the risk of a nuclear war and to guarantee the fundamental human right to live in peace.

"Together with all peace forces in the world, we give our downright 'no' to the policy of nuclear arms drive and confrontation pursued by the United States of America and its NATO allies. We resolutely combat the policy which deems a 'limited' nuclear war feasible and useful in the interest of the power and profit of the giant corporations. A war of this kind would not only turn Europe into a huge mass grave but would provoke a world-wide nuclear Armageddon and the extinction of the entire human civilization.

"In Washington they try to justify this foolish approach, foreseeing the death of millions of people, by standing up for human rights, too. But in reality this is a cynical denial of the numerous United Nations declarations and conventions on human rights which proscribe genocide, declare the right to live in peace and security as the international rule and prohibit war propaganda, and which demand the application of social, cultural and political rights on the basis of the right to self-determination of the peoples.

"In our socialist society the well-being of our people, and the right to live in peace is a state doctrine. The enjoyment of fundamental political, economic, social and cultural rights is secured. Unemployment, a life without future and fear of life are features of a world which is not known to our citizens. All our efforts are focused on the guarantee and gradual enhancement of the material and cultural living standard. Nobody in our country makes money by the arms race.

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"We support in word and deed the comprehensive peace programme adopted by the Soviet Union and its allies which is aimed at preventing a nuclear war and banning war at all from the lives of the peoples. The constructive proposals submitted by the States members of the Warsaw Treaty on arms limitation and step-by-step disarmament according to the principle of equality and equal security were tabled long ago. They do not threaten anybody but show the way to safeguarding peace.

"The implementation of the socialist peace programmes would be a genuine gain in promoting the right of all peoples to development, the exercise of which demands lasting international peace through disarmament and social progress. Only a purposeful disarmament policy can promote co-operation between States also in the field of human rights.

"The alleged 'human rights' confessions made by the crisis-shaken world of monopolies and the world of exploitation cannot obscure the fact that those who today endanger world peace and threaten other countries are also the complices of the apartheid criminals, the pillars and the suppliers of arms for blood-stained Fascist dictatorships. They pursue a large-scale neocolonial policy of plundering of other peoples. Their domestic policies entail untold millions of unemployed and drastic social decline. They are responsible for the mass violations of human rights and threaten world peace.

"On the occasion of Human Rights Day we reaffirm our solidarity with the peoples fighting for peace, national independence and social progress. Together we will gain the victory. Freedom for peace."

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF

[Original: English]

[3 February 1982]

As is the yearly custom, Human Rights Day was also observed in the Federal Republic of Germany on 10 December 1981 in the form of public functions, seminars and reports in the press and on radio and television.

One of the functions commemorating this day was held on the subject of "missing persons" by the German Association for the United Nations.

HUNGARY

[Original: English]

[19 January 1982]

1. The socialist Hungarian People's Republic, in pursuit of the noble objectives of its state and social system, devotes particular attention to ensuring the full exercise of human rights by individuals, while promoting the development

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of their creative personality and increasing their welfare. It has not only laid down human rights and respect for them in the Constitution, the legislative enactment of the highest order, but has also created legal guarantees and social conditions for the concurrent and fullest possible implementation of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

2. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, following its policy of principle, comes out at international forums for ensuring respect for human rights, consistently and resolutely opposing their mass and gross violations, strongly condemning colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial hatred, racial discrimination and the policy of apartheid, and urging effective measures to eliminate these practices in conformity with the relevant international conventions and United Nations resolutions.

3. The Hungarian Government is acting on these principles in the United Nations and other international organizations with the full support of the Hungarian people.

4. The Hungarian Government is convinced that the maintenance and consolidation of peace, the reduction of increased international tension and the curbing of the unprecedented arms race are indispensable conditions for the enjoyment of human rights. The most important duty of the community of nations is to ensure with a sense of responsibility the right for billions of people, for present and future generations to live in peace.

5. Also in 1981, Human Rights Day was duly observed in Hungary in accordance with the call of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. Observance was naturally coupled with the celebration of the thirty-third anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the programme of events forming an integral part of Hungary's consistent policy of attaching great importance to participation in international co-operation for the effective implementation of human rights in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

6. Human Rights Day provided an opportunity also for appreciating the major international instruments embodying human rights, such as the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention of the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, which are aimed at promoting the universal implementation of human rights through compliance by States with their obligations arising therefrom.

7. Educational institutions and mass communication media were likewise actively involved in the observance of Human Rights Day. The significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was appreciated by prominent politicians, lawyers and other experts in the radio and the press, local and nation-wide. The special United Nations film celebrating the Day was shown on national television.

8. The coverage of celebrations similarly underlined the importance of related events over the past three decades, dealing with their causes, consequences and impact as well as with the actions taken by Hungary to promote universal observance of human rights.

ITALY

[Original: French]

[29 December 1981]

The Secretary-General was informed that Human Rights Day, 10 December 1981, was solemnly observed in Italy. During the celebrations which took place at the headquarters of the Italian Association for the United Nations, the Minister of Cultural Affairs gave a talk entitled "The culture and traditions of peoples in protecting human rights". The text of the talk and other documents on the same topic have been published in order to draw the attention of the public to the significance of celebrating this date.

JAPAN

[Original: English]

[6 April 1982]

In Japan, one week ending on Human Rights Day, 10 December, is designated as "Human Rights Week" every year and, during the thirty-third Human Rights Week in 1981, the following events and programmes were carried out under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Justice and of the National Federation of Consultative Assemblies of Civil Liberties Commissioners, with the co-operation of various government agencies and private organizations concerned:

1. The following nation-wide public information and education activities were carried out in all parts of the country to disseminate the objectives of Human Rights Week and promote universal respect for human rights:

(a) Lecture meetings, round-table discussions, open forums, symposiums, film shows;

(b) Public information activities through mass media, such as radio, television, newspapers;

(c) Public information activities through wire broadcasting, information bulletins, publicity cars;

(d) Distribution of pamphlets, etc.;

(e) Display of posters;

(f) National essay contest on human rights by junior high school students;

(g) Parades and other types of public gatherings calling the attention of passers-by to the objectives of Human Rights Week.

Thus all efforts were made to heighten the people's awareness of human rights. The main subjects emphasized during Human Rights Week were the same as those for the previous year, namely "Co-existence of one's own rights and others' - Let's establish happy and harmonious human relations by respecting the position of each other", "Let's promote the status of women" and "Let's eliminate discrimination against Burakumin (outcasts)", with the addition of "Let's realize the full participation and equality of disabled persons" since last year was designated as the International Year of Disabled Persons.

2. Special consultation desks on human rights problems have been increased. The 8 Legal Affairs Bureaux (Civil Liberties Departments) and the 42 District Legal Affairs Bureaux (Civil Liberties Divisions), which are among the local organs of the Ministry of Justice, offer counselling service in their offices at all times, as is the case with Civil Liberties Commissioners, to those persons who come for consultation about various problems of human rights. Moreover, in furtherance of such routine service, they establish special consultation desks in city, town or village offices, public halls, department stores and other places, periodically, to make their service more readily available to the general public. During Human Rights Week, the number of times of the opening of these special desks was especially increased and a great number of people came for consultation.

KUWAIT

[Original: Arabic]

[30 December 1981]

The following is an excerpt from information received from the Ministry of Education of the State of Kuwait:

Circular to the principals of all state and private schools and kindergartens

1. The anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is celebrated throughout the world on 10 December of each year and which, this year, falls on Thursday, 10 December 1981, expresses the feeling common to all peoples that human rights must be respected and that efforts must be made to ensure that persons whose rights have been usurped can recover them so that justice and prosperity may prevail throughout the world and so that man may enjoy peace of mind and face his present and his future with confidence. By virtue of its glorious heritage, its noble values and its continuous contribution to the development of true civilization, our Arab and Islamic world is inspired by the most sublime ideals with regard to the achievement of human happiness and the elimination of all forms of injustice, oppression and aggression.

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2. Through its participation in the world-wide celebration of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the State of Kuwait is therefore promoting and protecting our national rights and international causes so that the solution of the problems relating thereto may bring security, prosperity, happiness and confidence to mankind.

3. It is hoped that the celebrations will take the following form:

(a) Co-operation among the school information media in explaining the practical applications of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(b) The organization of school competitions to relate these celebrations to our traditional values and high ethical standards;

(c) The association of this anniversary with appropriate academic subjects such as religious education and social and philosophical studies;

(d) The organization of symposia appropriate to this anniversary and the discussion of the practical applications which endow the Declaration with lasting value;

(e) The staging of theatrical performances relating to mankind and fundamental human needs throughout the world;

(f) The study of pamphlets and other publications issued by the United Nations in this connexion.

Achievements in connexion with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

4. In December 1965, the General Assembly adopted and opened for signature the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and established an international committee, consisting of 18 experts, with a view to putting an end to racial discrimination in all its forms. The Convention came into force in January 1969.

5. The year 1968, being the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was commemorated as the International Year for Human Rights. One of the important events that took place during that year was the International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran in the months of April and May. The Conference adopted the Proclamation of Teheran, which emphasized the responsibility of States to fulfil their obligations with regard to the full realization of human rights.

6. The General Assembly designated 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

7. In November 1959, the General Assembly unanimously adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

8. Another aspect of the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights is the preparation of special studies and the provision of technical assistance through the specialized agencies. Under these programmes, States Members of the United Nations are benefiting from scholarships, the advisory services of experts and various forms of technical assistance.

9. In November 1974, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and invited the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly as an observer.

Kuwait and the Declaration

10. It is not surprising that Kuwait should wish to celebrate this occasion since, in recent years, the State of Kuwait has achieved a great deal in the field of human rights at both the individual and the national level. The Kuwaiti national enjoys personal and family security at home and job security in his work. He is assured of a decent standard of living, his personal freedom is guaranteed and he is protected by the law, which safeguards all freedoms.

Celebration of Human Rights Day on 10 December 1981 in Kuwait

11. Kuwait is celebrating this Day through:

(a) The organization of symposia by national associations throughout the State;

(b) The publication in the daily newspapers of informative articles concerning the significance of the occasion;

(c) The distribution of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among students of public international law and the delivery of a lecture to explain the text in detail.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

[Original: English]

The following is the text of a cable to the Secretary-General from the Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison:

"On the occasion of Human Rights Day, which is celebrated on 10 December by all the peoples of the world, I wish to affirm that this day marks the reawakening of the international conscience manifested in the signing of the most important document in the history of humanity; namely, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"It was only natural that legislators should avail themselves of the principles enshrined in this Declaration in formulating the legislative and political systems of many countries.

"However, so far, the practical achievements in this field have not reached the expectations of either the authors of the Declaration or those of mankind in general in view of the fact that human rights are still threatened and violated in many parts of the world. Such threats and violations have been denounced wherever they occurred for they have been a source of grave concern.

"In order to keep alive the memory of this Day, we should extend our support to those peoples suffering under the yoke of racist régimes. These régimes, in their pursuit of false ideologies which instigate racial discrimination and prejudice as well as other kinds of mass hatred, resort to oppressive measures against the peoples. The danger which these measures embody is not confined to denying these peoples their fundamental human rights and freedom but it can pose a threat to the security and peace of the entire international community.

"The violation of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention by the Zionist entity is serious enough to elicit the strong condemnation of the international community expressed through its international organizations against Zionism and its racist policy which can be compared to the policy of racial discrimination practised by the Pretorian authorities against the people of Namibia and the peoples of southern Africa. Zionism and racial discrimination are based on the same principles and ideology and pursue a similar oppressive policy in order to encompass their racist and imperialist aims.

"Upholding the right of peoples to self-determination, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will continue its unlimited support to the Palestinian people indefinitely in order to enable the Palestinians to achieve their inalienable and eternal right to self-determination and to proclaim the establishment of their independent state under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization. It will also carry on its support to those peoples suffering under imperialist and foreign domination.

"The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, along with the other members of the international community, demands the authorities of the South Africa régime to stop all acts of aggression and provocation against Angola and to desist from using Namibia as a spring-board from which to attack the territories of Angola, Zambia and other neighbouring States. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is determined to continue its support to the people of Namibia under the leadership of their legitimate organization, the South West Africa People's Organization, until the Namibian people can achieve self-determination and independence.

"The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also supports the Commission on Human Rights in its total condemnation of the authorities of South Africa for their violation of the territorial integrity of neighbouring African countries. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya calls upon the United Nations to intensify its efforts on the international level to bring about the full implementation of United Nations resolutions and to mobilize other effective organs of the United Nations in order to eliminate the crime of apartheid and impose comprehensive economic sanctions on this racist régime to deter it from pursuing its iniquitous practices.

"Consequently, the time has come to intensify the efforts of the United Nations and the international organizations as well as the Commission on Human Rights and to consolidate them with the efforts of other forces which believe in the sanctity of human freedom and in respecting man's rights so that he can develop his awareness and potentialities in such a way that peace and prosperity can prevail."

MONGOLIA

[Original: Russian]

[14 January 1982]

1. The activities organized in the Mongolian People's Republic in celebration of Human Rights Day were the following:
2. On 10 December, a meeting of representatives of the Mongolian public took place in Ulan Bator and was addressed by the President of the Supreme Court, the President of the Federation of Mongolian Jurists, the President of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Mongolian Organizations for Peace and Friendship, as well as other prominent figures.
3. The President of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Mongolian Organizations for Peace and Friendship noted in his statement that all Mongolian citizens, regardless of their nationality, social origin, sex or religion, played an active part in the social and political life of the country and the management of state affairs and enjoyed the right to freedom of employment, the right to education and leisure, the right to vote and be elected and the right to free studies and medical care.
4. Public organizations such as the Executive Committee of the Federation of Mongolian Organizations for Peace and Friendship, the Central Alliance of Mongolian Trade Unions, the Central Committee of the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union, the Mongolian Women's Committee, the Federation of Mongolian Jurists, the Federation of Mongolian Scientists and the Mongolian Committee for Solidarity with Asia and Africa also took part in the meeting.

5. The Department of Marxist-Leninist Philosophy of the Party Institute of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party organized a round-table discussion on the subject of "Human rights in modern times". Scientists, teachers and students from the Institute took part in the discussions. An exhibition of books was organized to coincide with the discussion.
6. Steps were taken to acquaint the public with the problem of human rights by such means as lectures, film shows on central television, radio broadcasts and the publication of numerous articles and leaders in the major newspapers.

NEW ZEALAND

[Original: English]

[1 February 1982]

As is customary, the New Zealand Minister for Foreign Affairs issued a press statement to mark Human Rights Day and the United Nations flag was flown on Parliament buildings. The press statement reads as follows:

"The whole international community is reminded today that recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Those words begin the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was proclaimed on 10 December 1948.

"In the ensuing 33 years, much has been done to protect the principles enshrined in the Declaration. Legal effect has been given to them through the drawing up of the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. At the same time, the rights of specifically disadvantaged groups have been recognized in such international instruments as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This year in particular we welcome the United Nations General Assembly's unanimous acceptance of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

"The sad thing is that, despite the work of men of goodwill throughout the world, fundamental violations of human rights continue to occur in many places. As New Zealanders we must continue to work with the international community to achieve world-wide acceptance of the right of every individual to the freedom, justice and human dignity which form the foundations of our own society.

"The United Nations itself continues to focus on the rights of social groups which are especially disadvantaged. International awareness of the needs of the disabled and of the contribution they can make to society have been highlighted by world-wide activities over the last year. During the International Year of Disabled Persons, New Zealand has joined many members of

the international community in reassessing the adequacy of our own response. Much still needs to be done both for the disadvantaged at home and the millions denied their rights elsewhere in the world. I am confident that our people will continue to work towards the full participation in the life of their country of all New Zealanders, and support to the full efforts to make the recognition of human rights truly universal."

NORWAY

[Original: English]

[8 March 1982]

1. On the occasion of Human Rights Day, 1981, the independent Norwegian Human Rights Commission organized a meeting in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Invitations were extended to nearly 150 organizations and institutions as well as to the mass media. In addition to discussing general human rights issues, the meeting focused especially on the problems of involuntary or enforced disappearances. In a nation-wide campaign, non-governmental organizations likewise focused on the fate of disappeared persons. This campaign was given extensive coverage in the media.

2. Appeals were made to schools to observe Human Rights Day, and relevant information material was made available by the Norwegian Association for the United Nations, the Norwegian Red Cross and Amnesty International, Norwegian section. A number of seminars and lectures were organized throughout the country on different human rights questions.

SEYCHELLES

[Original: English]

[3 March 1982]

Human Rights Day in the Republic of Seychelles was marked by appropriate publicity of the United Nations message for the occasion on Radio Seychelles.

SIERRA LEONE

[Original: English]

[24 March 1982]

1. Sierra Leone attaches great importance to Human Rights Day. To demonstrate this, the Sierra Leone United Nations Association (SLUNA) organized a number of public activities, including parades by both school children and university students and dances and organized public debates to which some outstanding personalities, including our Minister for Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme resident representative in Sierra Leone, contributed.

2. In addition to these activities, a seminar to commemorate Human Rights Day was organized by the Sierra Leone United Nations Students Association (SLUNSA) at Fourah Bay College (University of Sierra Leone). The audience comprised students, lecturers and other visitors including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was patron of the Association.

3. Topics covered in the seminar included the constitutional guarantees of human rights and the practical implementation of these guarantees. To appreciate the availability or non-availability of rights in the practical as opposed to their theoretical sense, some comparison was made with other countries. From this, the head of the Political Science Department of the University was able to conclude that there were several provisions in the constitution of Sierra Leone seeking to guarantee the rights of citizens.

4. The panelists also discussed the new practice of international organizations including human rights among their conditions in granting loans of aid to developing countries.

5. To round off the activities of Human Rights Day, a SLUNA/SLUNSA seminar was held in Freetown. The theme of the seminar was "Landlords and Tenants in Sierra Leone - Problems and Possible Solutions". Several papers were presented in which references were made to the cordial relationship which exists between landlords and tenants in Sierra Leone.

6. During a general discussion on the subject, the following salient points were made by various speakers:

(a) efforts be made by the Government of Sierra Leone to provide more and better low-cost houses; (b) the Government should endeavour to make the rural areas more attractive labour-wise and decentralize certain government ministries; (c) Government should create more jobs in the rural areas in order to cut down on the urban-bent migrant population; (d) the Government should create accommodation agents who should arrange for accommodation on behalf of tenants; and (e) the Ministry of Housing and Country Planning should categorize the various types of houses and control rent according to the modern conveniences available.

The seminar was chaired by Professor H. M. Joko-Smart, Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Social Studies, Fourah Bay College, a constituent college of the University of Sierra Leone.

SRI LANKA

[Original: English]

[26 January 1982]

1. Since Human Rights Day in 1981 fell on a Poya day, a Buddhist religious holiday, the Government of Sri Lanka decided to celebrate the occasion on 11 December. The human rights celebrations culminated in the presentation of

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awards of the human rights quiz competition which was open to all school children and was considered by the Sri Lanka Foundation in association with the Ministry of Education. The competition was intended to promote wider awareness of human rights and better appreciation of people's responsibility for their protection and promotion. At the distribution of the awards ceremony, the guests of honour were Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, President of Sri Lanka, and Mrs. Jayewardene, who gave away the prizes. Other distinguished guests present were ministers of State, members of the diplomatic corps, judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, members of the judiciary, heads of government departments and lawyers. Also in attendance were school children, representing the several schools which had participated in the quiz competition, with their teachers and parents. Among the speakers were the President of Sri Lanka, the Minister of Education, the United Nations Development Programme resident representative and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Foundation.

2. The following is an excerpt from the speech by the President:

"In different ages in different societies, human rights have had different interpretations. I think today there is some unanimity of what human rights are. There, of course, may be some societies where their application is different from others.

"In some societies you kill a human being for killing another. In some societies a hand is cut off for what we would consider a minor offence. We may consider that to be torture. If we consider the various forms of human rights it will take too much time.

"We can divide the application and consideration of human rights into two broad categories. One would be human rights as between human and human and the other would be human rights between the State and the human.

"Human beings should accept the rights of other human beings to think freely and act freely. From freedoms follow the other freedoms - the freedom of worship, the freedom of expression, writing and association. If you have a society where all human beings accept these freedoms and the State protects them there would be no need even for a constitution.

"Modern society has therefore drafted constitutions and embodied these freedoms in their constitutions.

"Our country has a written constitution. Into that constitution, for the first time, we have written certain fundamental rights. We have included them under chapter 3. That shows the importance that the drafters of the Constitution gave to human rights.

"The first chapter deals with people, the State and sovereignty, the second with Buddhism, and the third with fundamental rights and thereby human rights. It consists of 18 clauses and deals with a large number of rights which have been included as human rights by the United Nations Organization. We have gone further, and for the first time said that these rights are justiciable.

"Any person who feels that human rights have been infringed or is in imminent danger of being infringed may go to a court. Some of them are freedom of speech and expression, including publication. Freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and the right to form trade unions. Like that a wide variety of freedoms have been made justiciable.

"But for the first time we have gone beyond rights to duties. We have always been stressing human rights. What about thinking for a short while about human duties. Some of them were to foster national interests and to foster national unity, to preserve and protect public property and to combat threats or attacks to public property, to preserve nature and conserve its riches. Unfortunately, we have not made these justiciable. If we had done so, the courts may have been more crowded than the traffic courts.

"Human rights to be properly followed need certain conditions. Any society in which human rights are to be followed needs, firstly, peace. Where there is peace, you also need development. Then only is it possible to practice human rights. Therefore peace is essential. Without peace, development is impossible. Development is imperative. Without development, human rights are illusory. Human rights can be practised only when there is peace. If there are no human rights, peace becomes violence."

SUDAN

[Original: English]

[10 December 1981]

1. In a statement issued on the occasion of the thirty-third anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted with appreciation that the Declaration had become a guide for national constitutions and civil rights agreements, and that it constituted a fundamental landmark in the humanitarian work of the world organization. However, it regretted that basic human rights are still grossly and fragmently violated in so many places in the world, and that a considerable number of the members of the world community is still deprived of enjoying these rights. The statement also emphasized that the international community, being committed to the noble and lofty principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, cannot tolerate a world where apartheid is an institutionalized policy in South Africa, nor can it afford the perpetual occupation and annexation of the Arab world and deprivation of the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and statehood.

2. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated the full support of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan to all freedom fighters in Namibia, South Africa and Palestine, and called on the international community to join hands to eradicate all forms of racial discrimination, colonialism, aggression and foreign domination, and to work for the restoration of peace, justice and equality in the entire world.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

[Original: Arabic]

[9 December 1981]

The following is an excerpt from a statement issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic on the occasion of the thirty-third anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

"The United Nations and the world as a whole are celebrating the thirty-third anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations issued a declaration containing a clear definition of human rights. This was followed, on 16 December 1966, by two international covenants, namely the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, containing specific details of various human rights. The United Nations also proclaimed the tenth day of the final month of every year as Human Rights Day on which it stressed the need for Member States to promulgate legislation confirming those rights and calls upon States which are still engaging in practices incompatible with the said Declaration and Covenants to refrain from such acts.

"The principal feature of these international instruments is their emphasis on the preservation of human dignity, the right to equality of all persons without distinction on grounds of race, origin, colour, sex or religion, the right to live in freedom and dignity, the right to work and education, and the right to engage in religious observances and to live in security. These instruments link those human rights to the right of peoples to self-determination and to the free disposal of their wealth and natural resources.

"Since it attained independence, the Syrian Arab Republic has always respected human rights within its territory. Numerous legislative acts have been promulgated to define these rights and to indicate the manner in which they are to be exercised and applied. The Constitution, drafted by the People's Council on 31 January 1973 as one of the achievements of the Corrective Movement led by our courageous President Hafez Al-Assad, was endorsed by the people in a national referendum. It further enriched the concept of human rights and explained the ways and means by which the rights of citizens would be protected and effectively exercised. The preamble to the Constitution states that: 'Freedom is a sacred right. A people's democracy is the ideal way in which to enable the citizen to exercise his freedom, which endows him with dignity and makes him capable of constructive endeavour. The freedom of the homeland can be safeguarded only by free citizens and the freedom of citizens is incomplete without their economic and social liberation.'

"Although the Syrian Arab Republic has fulfilled its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the above-mentioned Covenants, human rights are still being violated, denied and restricted in some parts of the world. Conclusive evidence of this can be seen in the manner in which people living under the racist and fascist régimes in Israel, South Africa and Namibia are being enslaved, persecuted, oppressed, deprived of all their civil and political rights and subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention. Several peoples, and primarily the Palestinian Arab people, are also being denied their right to self-determination.

"Following the establishment of a Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, and despite the obstruction of the Committee's work through Israel's refusal to co-operate with it, the United Nations pursued its endeavours and the question was discussed by the General Assembly, which adopted several resolutions condemning the policies and practices of the Zionist entity in the occupied Arab territories, which it regarded as serious violations not only of the Charter of the United Nations but also of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, since they deny the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homes, to exercise self-determination and to establish an independent State of their own in their homeland. The United Nations has condemned Israel on numerous occasions and has repeatedly called upon it to desist from those policies and practices. In response to these condemnations and appeals, however, the Zionist entity merely increased its violations of human rights and continued to pursue its racist and colonialist policies and practices. It did not refrain from establishing settlements on the sites of Arab villages, including those in the Golan region, after driving the original inhabitants from their homes and destroying their houses on the slightest suspicion that they were refusing to endure tyranny and oppression. These violations by Israel are unequalled even by the crimes of the Nazis and of the racist régimes throughout the ancient and modern history of mankind.

"The racist obstinacy manifested by the Zionist entity has only increased in the face of mounting international condemnation of the methods adopted by that entity. The random bombing of towns and villages in southern Lebanon and of residential quarters in the city of Beirut, the excavations under the Al Aqsa Mosque with a view to the obliteration of its religious and cultural features and the transformation of its Arab character, the closure of the University of Bir Zeit and the harassment of its professors and students, together with various other abuses, constitute a continuation and a consecration of the Israeli policy of aggression based on the violation of the principles of the Universal Declaration and the flaunting of resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, thereby clearly demonstrating the practices of the racist Zionist occupation authorities.

"On the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to emphasize that, as long as the racist régimes, particularly Israel, and international imperialism persist in their violations

of human rights and fundamental freedoms, injustice will continue to prevail in many parts of the world and resistance to oppression and aggression will be prolonged until man recovers his dignity and freedom and until colonized and displaced peoples are allowed to exercise their right to self-determination. It has become painfully obvious that the practices of racism, Zionism and international imperialism are jeopardizing international peace and security and impeding economic and social development projects in the developing countries. The Strategic Co-operation Agreement between the United States of America and the Zionist entity only serves to help and encourage the Zionist enemy to persist in its aggression and its racist, colonialist practices.

"Today, while celebrating this anniversary which the international community has vested with enhanced significance through its just resolution equating Zionism with racism and through the other international covenants and agreements for the protection of human rights and the preservation of human dignity and freedoms, the United Nations is called upon to intensify its endeavours with a view to achieving the objectives laid down in its Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"The Syrian Arab Republic, which has participated in all the efforts made, both within and outside the United Nations system, with a view to the achievement of those objectives, will continue its struggle side by side with other peace-loving and freedom-loving peoples."

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[26 January 1982]

1. The Ukrainian SSR consistently and resolutely supports the expansion of international co-operation in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms and actively participates in measures adopted for this purpose within the United Nations.
2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 423 (V) of 4 December 1950, Human Rights Day is widely observed in the Ukrainian SSR.
3. To mark Human Rights Day, a meeting of representatives of the people was held in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, on 10 December 1981.
4. The meeting was opened by Academician K. M. Sytnik of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR.
5. A report was presented by Mr. I. F. Poyda, Secretary of the Ukrainian Republican Trade Union Council. He observed that the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been an important step forward in the development of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations concerning international co-operation in the field of human rights. The principles contained in the Declaration had been proclaimed as aims for the attainment of which all peoples and States should strive.

6. The Ukrainian SSR consistently implemented the provisions of the Declaration and contributed to the realization of human rights and the shaping of international legal principles and rules in that field. Every condition had been created in the Republic for the harmonious and all-round development of the individual and of society as a whole. The citizens' widest political freedoms, social equality and justice, the rights to work and leisure, to education and housing, to the protection of health and to material security in old age, in other words, all the rights spoken of in the Declaration, had become an imprescriptible reality of socialism.

7. The Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR was of particular importance for the development of the individual and for ensuring and guaranteeing the democratic rights and freedoms of citizens of the Republic.

8. The report noted that none of mankind's achievements in the field of human rights could be considered secure while the United States of America and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization were intensifying the arms race and whipping up an atmosphere of confrontation and psychological warfare. There was therefore now no more important question for any people than the preservation of peace and the safeguarding of the most important right of every man - the right to life.

9. In a resolution which was adopted unanimously, those present condemned the mass violations of human rights in capitalist countries, the criminal system of apartheid in South Africa, the continuing occupation of Arab lands, the scandalous violations by Israel of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine and the flagrant and cruel violations of human rights in El Salvador and Chile. They protested against the nuclear arms race imposed by imperialism, against the decision of the United States of America to produce neutron weapons and against the deployment of new types of missiles on the European continent. The resolution emphasizes that, in view of the serious aggravation of the international situation occasioned by the growth of imperialist aggressiveness, the implementation of the Peace Programme for the 1980s put forward by the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is of the greatest possible importance for the fate of all countries and peoples and the safeguarding of fundamental human rights, above all the right to life.

10. Those present were acquainted with the Human Rights Day message of United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

11. In connexion with Human Rights Day, the Republic's mass media carried special articles, news and selections of material on current problems of guaranteeing and defending human rights and on the activities of the United Nations in this field.

12. There were numerous commentaries by political observers and special reviews and programmes on radio and television devoted to Human Rights Day.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[29 April 1982]

1. A meeting to celebrate Human Rights Day, attended by members of the Moscow public, was held on 10 December 1981 in the Palace of the Unions. Representatives of the All-Union Central Trades Union Council, the Soviet Peace Committee, the Soviet Committee for European Security, the Committee of Soviet Women and the United Nations Association of the USSR participated in the meeting, which was opened by Mr. A. P. Shitikov, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and Chairman of the USSR Parliamentary Group.
2. The meeting was addressed by Mr. V. P. Provotorov, Secretary of the All-Union Trade Union Council. He stated that the struggle to secure human rights and freedoms had always been one of the major driving forces behind human progress. However, as history irrefutably showed, it had been possible to make this idea of human rights a reality only with the triumph of the great October socialist revolution and the emergence onto the international scene of the world's first socialist State, the land of the Soviets.
3. It had been precisely the Soviet Union which had sponsored the inclusion of the principle of universal respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms in the Charter of the United Nations. It had striven unrelentingly to ensure that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights also expressed to the greatest possible extent the interests of the broad working masses and the oppressed sectors of the world's population.
4. Through the efforts of the USSR, such social and economic rights as the right to work, to rest, to education and to social security had been reflected in the Declaration, and colonial practices condemned, although indirectly. The inclusion in the text of the Declaration of these rights as goals for which all peoples and States should strive had marked the international recognition of a number of important achievements and principles of socialism that had already been put into practice in the Soviet Union. The USSR had sponsored the adoption of many major international instruments, including the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the International Covenants on Human Rights. In addition, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid had been drawn up with its active assistance.
5. The Soviet Union had signed and ratified virtually all the most important international agreements on human rights adopted under the auspices of the United Nations. It should be pointed out that this had not called for the introduction of any changes in domestic Soviet legislation, as it provided USSR citizens with significantly broader rights and freedoms than were envisaged in those instruments.

6. The Soviet concept of human rights was distinguished primarily by the actual implementation of the social, economic, political and individual rights and freedoms set forth in the USSR Constitution and Soviet legislation.
7. The most important guarantee of the reality of the rights and freedoms of Soviet citizens was the introduction, as a result of the socialist revolution, of public ownership of land and the subsoil and of the means of production, thus eliminating the exploitation of man by man and ensuring the progressive development of socialist society, whose motto was: "Everything in the name of man, for the benefit of man".
8. Conclusive confirmation of this, it was stressed, had been given by the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), which had drawn up a strategy for the Party and the Soviet State in domestic and foreign policy, in the implementation of the tasks of building communism. Those tasks had been given concrete expression in the decisions taken in November 1981 by the Plenum of the Central Committee of CPSU, in the address to the plenary meeting by Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of CPSU and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and in the law containing the eleventh five-year plan for the economic and social development of the USSR (1981-1985) adopted at the sixth session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, tenth convocation.
9. A prominent place in the eleventh five-year plan was occupied by the social programme, which was directly aimed at increasing the welfare of the population, improving the working and living conditions of the Soviet people and further enhancing their spiritual and cultural level.
10. The successful implementation of the programme of economic and social development in the eleventh five-year plan would provide a solid basis for the realization in practice of the entire set of rights of Soviet citizens set forth in the Constitution of the USSR.
11. Reference was made in the address to the fact that the most significant of these rights was the right to work. For over half a century now there had been no unemployment in the Soviet Union. In the USSR, the right to work was considered not only as the possibility of obtaining some kind of work in order to receive a subsistence wage, but also as a real right to work that was skilled, creative and in keeping with a person's level of education, skills and interests.
12. The Soviet Constitution, adopted in 1977, guaranteed the right to work and the choice of profession, type of occupation and work in accordance with a person's vocation, abilities, professional training and education. Soviet people had not only the right to choose their work but also the practical possibility of doing so.
13. USSR citizens were guaranteed the right to material security in old age and in case of illness and/or loss of ability to work. It should be emphasized that the Soviet Union was the first State in the world completely to eliminate social security contributions by its citizens, a burden which was assumed by the State.

14. The Soviet Union had been the first country in the world to guarantee the right of its citizens to health protection. According to the World Health Organization, a satisfactory medical service could be provided if there were 28 doctors per 10,000 population. In the Soviet Union, there were 37 doctors for every 10,000 people.

15. The twenty-sixth Congress of CPSU had set the task of significantly improving the entire public health system. Measures to accomplish this had been included in the eleventh five-year plan.

16. The constitutional right to health care was closely linked with the human right to rest. This was secured for industrial, office and professional workers by the institution of limited working hours, by annual holidays with pay, by making sanatoria and rest homes and clubs available for workers and by the development of tourism, physical training and sport. During the coming year, 13.5 million people would receive passes for sanatoria or rest homes free of charge or on special terms, and 13.4 million schoolchildren would attend children's health camps.

17. A major social achievement of the development of socialism was the guaranteeing of the right to education. In the USSR this was provided by free education of all kinds, compulsory secondary education, the provision of state grants and privileges for school children and students, the free issue of school textbooks and the possibility of studying at school in one's mother tongue.

18. Particular reference was made in the address to the right to housing, a right not provided for in the Constitution of any capitalist country. Over the past 15 years, roughly 2,200,000 apartments had been made available every year in the USSR. That was as many as had been built in all the countries of Western Europe together. During the year, the living conditions of 10 million persons were improved, and altogether in the 1970s more than one third of the country's population had moved into new housing or received more comfortable and roomy apartments in previously built housing. Apartment rents, which had remained unchanged in the USSR since 1928, accounted on average for 3 per cent of a working family's income and were the lowest in the world.

19. Together with the steady rise in the level of material well-being of workers in the USSR, which ensured that social and economic rights were a reality, the developed socialist system guaranteed the full exercise of political rights and freedoms by the Soviet population.

20. The aim of that set of rights was to involve the largest possible number of workers in Government and the administration of society. This was precisely the core of socialist democracy. For Soviet citizens, as Lenin had said, "Political freedom means the freedom of the people to be masters of their public and state affairs".

21. In accordance with the Constitution, the people of the USSR exercised state power through the Soviets, which were the political foundation of the USSR. Almost 2,300,000 deputies, representing all social groups, nations and peoples of the country, were elected to more than 50,000 Soviets at all levels. More than half

the deputies were industrial and collective farm workers, almost half were women, and about a third were young people. Thirty million people played an active part in the Soviets and their commissions; in other words, one in five adult citizens of the USSR participated in one way or another in the work of the Soviets.

22. A major achievement of Socialist democracy was to guarantee equality of rights for USSR citizens of different races and nationalities. Members of over 100 different nations and peoples lived together in a fraternal family in the Soviet Union, which was a model for the solution of the problem of nationalities, carried out by the Party on the scientific foundation of Marxism-Leninism. The equality of rights of all peoples of the Soviet Union had been established in the first days of Soviet power as a result of the implementation of the principles of socialist federalism, the free self-determination of nations and their voluntary unification. With the building of socialism, it had been supplemented by the carrying out of radical reforms which had put an end to the economic and cultural backwardness of the peoples formerly oppressed and deprived of their civil rights in Tsarist Russia.

23. The sum total of these profound changes in the material and spiritual life of a multinational society had been the emergence and development of a historically new community: the Soviet people.

24. The social maturity and cultural level of society could be judged by the position which women occupied in it. In accordance with article 35 of the USSR Constitution, men and women had equal rights in the Soviet Union, where the conditions existed for women to combine motherhood with active and constructive participation in work outside the home and in social and political activities, as well as in scientific and artistic occupations. Among the chief guarantees of equal rights of men and women was that of ensuring equality of work opportunities, remuneration and promotion. Women represented more than half the total number of industrial, office and professional workers in the USSR, and in some fields, such as health protection and public education, they played a predominant role.

25. The speaker gave some specific examples of the lack of rights of workers in capitalist countries.

26. In conclusion, he observed that in the interests of guaranteeing the foremost right - the right to life and to lasting peace - the twenty-sixth Congress of CPSU had put forward a detailed Peace Programme for the 1980s, aimed at averting the threat of war - above all nuclear war - and at disarmament, détente and peaceful co-operation among States with different social systems. The fact that for the Party and people there was no more important task at the international level today than the defence of peace was also illustrated by the new Soviet initiatives in the United Nations, and particularly the proposal for the adoption of a declaration solemnly declaring that States and statesmen that first resorted to the use of nuclear weapons would perpetrate a very grave crime against mankind.

27. The participants in the meeting unanimously adopted a resolution which emphasized the significance of the twenty-sixth Congress of CPSU, which had established as its principal task the further improvement of the welfare of the

Soviet people; stressed the consistent implementation by the Soviet Union of the provisions of the Final Act adopted at Helsinki and the upholding of its fundamental principles by the USSR at the Madrid meeting of the countries participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe; and declared that the most important human right was the right to life, the right to live and work in a peaceful world, and that in the present circumstances, with the serious aggravation of the international situation occasioned by heightened imperialist aggressiveness, the implementation of the Peace Programme for the 1980s put forward by the twenty-sixth Congress of CPSU was of exceptional importance for the fate of countries and peoples and for safeguarding that fundamental right of every human being.

28. The resolution also contained a strong protest against the arms race generated by the forces of imperialism, their production of neutron weapons and the deployment of new United States missiles on the continent of Europe, and stressed the need to avert world nuclear disaster. The resolution declared that the Soviet-United States negotiations on medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe which had begun in Geneva should be aimed precisely at these goals. It also expressed the conviction that a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe, which could make a significant contribution to the normalization of the international situation and to mutual understanding among the countries and peoples of the continent, should be urgently convened.

29. Many articles and other items devoted to socialist democracy and to the rights of Soviet citizens confirmed and guaranteed in the Constitutions of the USSR and the Union Republics appeared in the national, Republic and local press.

30. The radio and television services of the Soviet Union and of the Union Republics carried news items on the measures undertaken in Moscow and in other cities in the country, and on the statements of Soviet and foreign correspondents and commentators.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[Original: English]

[4 December 1981]

The following is a proclamation issued by the President of the United States of America:

"On 15 December 1791, our Founding Fathers rejoiced in the ratification of the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States - a Bill of Rights which has helped guarantee all Americans the liberty which we so cherish.

"One hundred and fifty-seven years later, on 10 December 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an effort aimed at securing basic human rights for the people of all nations.

"Each of these great documents was born after the bloodshed of a bitter war. We remember the great sacrifices Americans have made for 200 years, from the Revolutionary War, in which our ancestors pledged 'their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honour,' to the wars of this century, in which hundreds of thousands of young Americans and millions of others gave their lives on the battlefields of Europe, Asia and Africa in the struggle for freedom. And, yet, even today, as we celebrate Bill of Rights Day and Human Rights Day, we all are only too well aware that the individual rights declared in these documents are not yet respected in many nations.

"We have learned that the lesson our Founding Fathers taught is as true today as it was two centuries ago - liberty depends not upon the State but upon the people. Liberty thrives in the free association of citizens in free institutions: families, churches, universities, trade unions and a free press.

"Mankind's best defence against tyranny and want is limited government - a Government which empowers its people, not itself, and which respects the wit and bravery, the initiative, and the generosity of the people. For, above all, human rights are rights of individuals: rights of conscience, rights of choice, rights of association, rights of emigration, rights of self-directed action and the right to own property. The concept of a nation of free men and women linked together voluntarily is the genius of the system our Founding Fathers established.

"We will continue to strive to respect these rights fully in our own country and to promote their observance abroad. We could have no greater wish for mankind than that all people come to enjoy these rights.

"This year, after nearly 20 years of effort, the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the United Nations General Assembly have approved a declaration on the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on religion. It begins with words Americans will find familiar: 'Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion'. It declares that parents must have the right to teach their children to worship God and that all religions must have the right to teach their faith, to train their clergy and to observe their customs and holidays.

"We in America are blessed with rights secured for us by the sacrifices of our forefathers, but we yearn for the day when all mankind can share in these blessings. Never is there any excuse for the violation of the fundamental rights of man - not at any time or in any place, not in rich countries or poor, not under any social, economic or political system.

"Now, therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim 10 December 1981 as Human Rights Day and 15 December 1981 as Bill of Rights Day, and call on all Americans to observe the week beginning 10 December 1981 as Human Rights Week. During this week, let each of us give special thought to the blessings we enjoy as a free people and let us dedicate our efforts to making the promise of our Bill of Rights a living reality for all Americans and, whenever possible, for all mankind.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixth."
