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REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Report of the Secretary-General on election
procedures prepared in accordance with
Commission resolution 1985/28

Addendum

Annex I

REPLIES BY MEMBER STATES (continued)

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Israel

[23 January 1986]

[Original: English]

The Government of Israel is of the view that despite the positive results and contribution to the work of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has failed in recent years, to live up to its mandate as defined, inter alia, in preambular paragraphs 6, 7, 11, and 13 and paragraphs 2 and 4 of resolution 1985/28 and has ceased in many respects to perform as an independent and apolitical body, distinct from its "parent body", the Commission on Human Rights, whose members are representatives of governments. Indeed, the Sub-Commission duplicates, to a great extent, the work and resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights as well as its political criteria divisions and inhibitions.

The Government of Israel submits therefore that all possible measures be adopted to ensure the absolute independent, apolitical and expert character of the Sub-Commission by:

1. Ascertaining the qualifications, expertise and independence of the candidates to the Sub-Commission prior to elections;
2. Barring the candidacy of government officials and of candidates who represent their countries in other United Nations political or semi-political organs and specially in the Commission on Human Rights;
3. Adopting of the procedure of voting by secret ballot, if one member so requires;
4. Restricting membership in the Sub-Commission to a single term of office;
5. Providing for the election of half of the members every two years with a view to ensuring the continuity of work as is the practice in the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The Government of Israel believes that the adoption of the above-mentioned measures will help the Sub-Commission to overcome its present shortcomings and to fulfil its heavy responsibilities in the spirit of its mandate.

The Netherlands

[14 January 1986]

[Original: English]

The Government of the Netherlands supports the recommendation of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to elect the expert members of the Sub-Commission for a term of four years, with half the members elected every two years. In the opinion of the Netherlands, such an election procedure provides for better continuity in the work of the Sub-Commission.