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STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL RIGHTS, THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND
POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL
COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly by its resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 adopted and opened for signature, ratification or accession the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and expressed the hope that the Covenants and the Optional Protocol would be signed, ratified or acceded to without delay and would come into force at an early date. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to its future sessions reports concerning the state of ratifications of the Covenants and of the Optional Protocol. In response to that request, reports on the status of the International Covenants and the Optional Protocol have been submitted annually to the General Assembly since its twenty-second session in 1967.

2. In resolution 3270 (XXIX), adopted at the 2311th plenary meeting, on 10 December 1974, the General Assembly recommended that Member States should give special attention to the possibilities of accelerating as far as possible the internal procedures that would lead to the ratification of the International Covenants and the Optional Protocol. It expressed the hope that the International Covenants and the Optional Protocol would come into force in the near future, if possible by the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, and thus promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In paragraph 3 of that resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, pursuant to Assembly resolutions 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, 2788 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971 and 3142 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, to prepare, on the basis of communications from Governments, and submit to the Assembly at its thirtieth session a report on the progress of the ratification of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

* A/10150.

3. In pursuance of resolution 3270 (XXIX), the Secretary-General, in a note dated 7 February 1975, requested information regarding steps taken or envisaged at the national level to accelerate the procedures for the ratification of, or accession to, the International Covenants and/or the Optional Protocol. As at 1 September 1975, the Government of New Zealand had sent a reply, which is reproduced in annex I.

4. As at 1 September 1975, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been ratified or acceded to by 34 States; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by 33 States; and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by 11 States. Upon ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Governments of Denmark, Norway and Sweden made declarations pursuant to article 41 of the Covenant, recognizing the competence of the Human Rights Committee, to be established under article 28 of that Covenant, to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Covenant. In addition, 51 States have signed the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 50 States have signed the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and 18 States have signed the Optional Protocol. ^{1/} The list of States which have signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenants and the Optional Protocol, as well as the dates of their signatures, ratifications or accessions, are contained in annex II.

^{1/} Including the signature of both Covenants and the Optional Protocol on behalf of the Republic of China on 5 October 1967. It will be recalled that, by its resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971, the General Assembly decided:

"... to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and to expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it."

By a note dated 25 September 1972, addressed to the Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China stated inter alia that:

"As from 1 October 1949, the day of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chiang Kai-shek clique has no right at all to represent China. Its signature and ratification of, or accession to, any multilateral treaties by usurping the name 'China' are all illegal and null and void. My Government will study these multilateral treaties before making a decision in the light of the circumstances as to whether or not they should be acceded to."

For further information, see Multilateral Treaties in respect of which the Secretary-General Performs Depositary Functions: List of Signatures, Ratifications, Accessions, etc., as of 31 December 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.75.V.6).

5. According to the provisions of the Covenants, each Covenant will enter into force three months after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the thirty-fifth instrument of ratification or accession. 2/ Subject to the entry into force of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol will come into force three months after the date of deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession in respect thereof. The Covenants are open for signature, ratification or accession by any State Member of the United Nations or member of its specialized agencies, by any State party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and by any other State which has been invited by the General Assembly of the United Nations to become a party to the Covenants. The Optional Protocol is open for signature, ratification or accession by any State which has signed, ratified or acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. 2/

2/ Article 27 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and article 49 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

ANNEX I

Replies received from Governments

NEW ZEALAND

/Original: English/

/26 June 1975/

The Permanent Mission wishes to advise that New Zealand law and practice are now being actively examined with a view to ratification of the Covenants at the earliest possible time.

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ANNEX II

A. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Algeria	10 December 1968	
Argentina	19 February 1968	
Australia	18 December 1972	
Austria	10 December 1973	
Barbados		5 January 1973 <u>a/</u>
Belgium	10 December 1968	
Bulgaria	8 October 1968	21 September 1970
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	19 March 1968	12 November 1973
Chile	16 September 1969	10 February 1972
China <u>b/</u>		
Colombia	21 December 1966	29 October 1969
Costa Rica	19 December 1966	29 November 1968
Cyprus	9 January 1967	2 April 1969
Czechoslovakia	7 October 1968	
Denmark	20 March 1968	6 January 1972
Ecuador	29 September 1967	6 March 1969
Egypt	4 August 1967	
El Salvador	21 September 1967	
Finland	11 October 1967	19 August 1975
German Democratic Republic	27 March 1973	8 November 1973
Germany, Federal Republic of	9 October 1968	17 December 1973
Guinea	28 February 1967	
Guyana	22 August 1968	
Honduras	19 December 1966	
Hungary	25 March 1969	17 January 1974
Iceland	30 December 1968	
Iran	4 April 1968	24 June 1975
Iraq	18 February 1969	25 January 1971
Ireland	1 October 1973	
Israel	19 December 1966	
Italy	18 January 1967	
Jamaica	19 December 1966	
Jordan	30 June 1972	28 May 1975
Kenya		1 May 1972 <u>a/</u>

a/ Accession.

b/ Both Covenants and the Optional Protocol were signed on behalf of the Republic of China on 5 October 1967. In this connexion, see foot-note 1/ above.

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<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Lebanon		3 November 1972 <u>a/</u>
Liberia	18 April 1967	
Libyan Arab Republic		15 May 1970 <u>a/</u>
Luxembourg	26 November 1974	
Madagascar	14 April 1970	22 September 1971
Mali		16 July 1974 <u>a/</u>
Malta	22 October 1968	
Mauritius		12 December 1973 <u>a/</u>
Mongolia	5 June 1968	18 November 1974
Netherlands	25 June 1969	
New Zealand	12 November 1968	
Norway	20 March 1968	13 September 1972
Philippines	19 December 1966	7 June 1974
Poland	2 March 1967	
Romania	27 June 1968	9 December 1974
Rwanda		16 April 1975 <u>a/</u>
Senegal	6 July 1970	
Sweden	29 September 1967	6 December 1971
Syrian Arab Republic		21 April 1969 <u>a/</u>
Tunisia	30 April 1968	18 March 1969
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	20 March 1968	12 November 1973
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	18 March 1968	16 October 1973
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	16 September 1968	
Uruguay	21 February 1967	1 April 1970
Venezuela	24 June 1969	
Yugoslavia	8 August 1967	2 June 1971

B. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Algeria	10 December 1968	
Argentina	19 February 1968	
Australia	18 December 1972	
Austria	10 December 1973	
Barbados		5 January 1973 <u>a/</u>
Belgium	10 December 1968	
Bulgaria	8 October 1968	21 September 1970
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	19 March 1968	12 November 1973
Chile	16 September 1969	10 February 1972
China <u>b/</u>		
Colombia	21 December 1966	29 October 1969
Costa Rica	19 December 1966	29 November 1968
Cyprus	19 December 1966	2 April 1969

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<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Czechoslovakia	7 October 1968	
Denmark	20 March 1968	6 January 1972
Ecuador	4 April 1968	6 March 1969
Egypt	4 August 1967	
El Salvador	21 September 1967	
Finland	11 October 1967	19 August 1975
German Democratic Republic	27 March 1973	8 November 1973
Germany, Federal Republic of	9 October 1968	17 December 1973
Guinea	28 February 1967	
Guyana	22 August 1968	
Honduras	19 December 1966	
Hungary	25 March 1969	17 January 1974
Iceland	30 December 1968	
Iran	4 April 1968	24 June 1975
Iraq	18 February 1969	25 January 1971
Ireland	1 October 1973	
Israel	19 December 1966	
Italy	18 January 1967	
Jamaica	19 December 1966	
Jordan	30 June 1972	28 May 1975
Kenya		1 May 1972 a/
Lebanon		3 November 1972 a/
Liberia	18 April 1967	
Libyan Arab Republic		15 May 1970 a/
Luxembourg	26 November 1974	
Madagascar	17 September 1969	21 June 1971
Mali		16 July 1974
Mauritius		12 December 1973 a/
Mongolia	5 June 1968	18 November 1974
Netherlands	25 June 1969	
New Zealand	12 November 1968	
Norway	20 March 1968	13 September 1972
Philippines	19 December 1966	
Poland	2 March 1967	
Romania	27 June 1968	9 December 1974
Rwanda		16 April 1975 a/
Senegal	6 July 1970	
Sweden	29 September 1967	6 December 1971
Syrian Arab Republic		21 April 1969 a/
Tunisia	30 April 1968	18 March 1969
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	20 March 1968	12 November 1973
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	18 March 1968	16 October 1973
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	16 September 1968	

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<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Uruguay	21 February 1967	1 April 1970
Venezuela	24 June 1969	
Yugoslavia	8 August 1967	2 June 1971

C. Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Austria	10 December 1973	
Barbados		5 January 1973 <u>a/</u>
China <u>b/</u>		
Colombia	21 December 1966	29 October 1969
Costa Rica	19 December 1966	29 November 1968
Cyprus	19 December 1966	
Denmark	20 March 1968	6 January 1972
Ecuador	4 April 1968	6 March 1969
El Salvador	21 September 1967	
Finland	11 December 1967	19 August 1975
Guinea	19 March 1975	
Honduras	19 December 1966	
Jamaica	19 December 1966	
Madagascar	17 September 1969	21 June 1971
Mauritius		12 December 1973 <u>a/</u>
Netherlands	25 June 1969	
Norway	20 March 1968	13 September 1972
Philippines	19 December 1966	
Senegal	6 July 1970	
Sweden	29 September 1967	6 December 1971
Uruguay	21 February 1967	1 April 1970
