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TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING  
TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENTDraft Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading  
Treatment or PunishmentNote by the Secretary-General

1. It will be recalled that following the adoption in 1975 of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 3452 (XXX)), the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, in its resolution 32/62 of 8 December 1977, requested the Commission on Human Rights to study the question of torture and to draw up a draft Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the light of the principles embodied in the Declaration. The Assembly, at each subsequent session, requested the Commission to prepare the draft Convention as a matter of highest priority.
2. The question of the drafting of such a convention has been examined by the Commission at each of its sessions since its thirty-fourth session in 1978. Prior to each session, as authorized by the Economic and Social Council, an informal open-ended working group of the Commission has met for one week with a view to completing the work on the draft Convention, including provisions for its effective implementation. The working group, each year, continued its work also during the Commission's sessions.
3. At the fortieth session of the Commission, in 1984, the working group met again and continued its consideration of the draft Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It adopted a report to

\* A/39/150.

the Commission (E/CN.4/1984/72) to which the text of the draft Convention is annexed. The Commission considered the report of the working group at its fortieth session and on 6 March 1984 adopted resolution 1984/21 by which, inter alia, it expressed its appreciation for the work achieved by the working group in preparing the text of a draft Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and decided to transmit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the report of the working group as well as the summary records of the Commission's debate on this item during its session. On 24 May 1984, the Economic and Social Council adopted decision 1984/134 by which, noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 1984/21 of 6 March 1984, it decided to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the working group established by the Commission to draw up a draft Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the summary records of the Commission's debate on the question during its fortieth session.

4. The report of the working group to which is annexed the text of the draft Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is contained in document E/CN.4/1984/72. The relevant summary records are contained in documents E/CN.4/1984/SR.32 to 34 and 42. These documents are available to the members of the General Assembly.