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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-second session

DECISIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
RELATING TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its 1984th meeting on 15 January 1976 the Economic and Social Council took the following decisions in connexion with the items on the provisional agenda of the Commission mentioned below:

Item 5

To refer General Assembly resolution 3448 (XXX) entitled "Protection of human rights in Chile" to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-second session.

Item 14

To refer General Assembly resolution 3377 (XXX) entitled "Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-second session.

Item 15

To refer General Assembly resolution 3453 (XXX) entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in relation to detention and imprisonment" to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-second session, to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fifth session and to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its third session.

2. At the same meeting the Council decided, with regard to General Assembly resolution 3415 (XXX) of 8 December 1975 entitled "Meeting records of the United Nations bodies" 1/:

1/ The Assembly in its resolution endorsed the criteria proposed by the Secretary-General in his Report on Publications and Documentation (A/C.5/1670) as modified by the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/10299).

(a) To endorse criteria 2, 3 and 7 2/ and request the Secretariat to apply them to the sessions of the subsidiary bodies;

(b) To authorize the Secretariat to apply the procedure envisaged in criterion 5 whereby the Secretariat should, as an experiment in 1976, issued the summary records of the Council's sessional committees and of its subsidiary bodies which receive summary records, in initial general distribution, subject to the issuance of corrigenda to remove serious errors only;

(c) To authorize the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to continue to receive meeting records;

(d) To apply, with effect from 1 January 1977, criterion 9 whereby subsidiary bodies otherwise entitled to receive meeting records for all or some of their meetings should be required to dispense with them when meeting away from recognized United Nations conference centres;

(e) To reaffirm the principle contained in criterion 10 that the summary records should be limited to 15 pages per meeting of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 hours and efforts should be made to reduce the summary records of subsidiary bodies to 10 pages per meeting of the same length.

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2/ Criteria 2, 3 and 7 read as follows:

(2) Meeting records should continue to be provided for a limited number of selected subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly discussing matters of substantive importance, but only for meetings at which such items are dealt with. The bodies concerned should be required to dispense with such records for organizational, procedural and valedictory discussions and for the adoption of their reports, and be urged to dispense with them for substantive discussions of lesser importance. The General Assembly, in the resolution establishing a subsidiary body, should decide whether its proceedings were of sufficient substantive importance; in the absence of an express decision, records would not be provided.

(3) The list in section A of annex IV should be reviewed to see if it includes bodies whose meetings do not appear to have an important substantive character or for which the cost of providing records appears to be out of proportion with the possible benefit.

(7) The other main organs should be invited to observe the same criteria in deciding whether records should be provided for their subsidiary bodies.