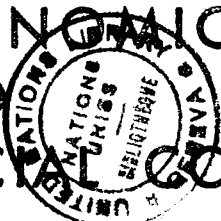




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Reports on economic, social and cultural rights, for the period
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Economic and Social Council resolution 1074 C (XXXIX)

POLAND

I. INTRODUCTION

People in the Polish People's Republic enjoy the benefits of basic economic, social and cultural rights. Those rights, contained in the first place in the Constitution, are in Poland fully guaranteed, realized and protected.

The socialist principles of Poland's economic and socio-political system provide for constant rise in living standards of the society.

The period under report, especially after the sixth congress of the Polish United Workers' Party in 1971, saw a swift progress in Poland's social and economic development. Dynamic activity was launched with a view to improvement of the pace at which human rights were realized in a number of fields as well as to their long-term development.

That purpose has been served especially by a broadly applied integration of social and economic development plans. Thus, in the period under report a long range programme of accelerated all-round socio-economic development of the country was worked out, guaranteeing a steady growth of the standard of living and a systematic improvement of economic, social and cultural conditions. The tasks planned therein in the social domain have already become an integral part of the present national socio-economic plan of the Polish People's Republic for the years 1971-1975, and are currently being carried out.

To illustrate the progress made in Poland during the period under report it may be said that nearly one and a half million new jobs were created. This was paralleled by a rapid growth of state outlays to meet the needs of workers' families and other population groups. Considerable progress was made with regard to real wages, which in 1971-1973 went up by about 24 per cent.

Also in other spheres of economic, social and cultural rights considerable progress had been achieved. The scope of social amenities had been made wider, and new population groups had been included in the social security system.

In order to achieve further improvement in the health conditions of the people the Polish Government has approved a long-range health-protection and social-welfare development programme which takes into account matters related to environmental protection.

Opportunities for people's participation in cultural life have been made much broader. This came, among other things, as a result of continued expansion of the network of all sorts of cultural agencies, from a larger circulation of books, newspapers, magazines, increased number of television sets etc.

Considerable gains have been made with regard to the right to education. Particular attention was paid to the expansion and modernization of schools. The material situation of teachers was improved. Steps have been taken to create a new educational system in Poland restructured to include, e.g., permanent education programmes etc.

Statistical yearbooks published by the Main Statistical Office give evidence that the period under report saw substantial progress on the way to realization of the economic, social and cultural rights in the Polish People's Republic, which in 1974 is celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of its post-war, socialist existence.

II. IMPACT OF UNITED NATIONS LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ON POLISH LEGISLATION AND PRACTICE

1. The discussion presented on this subject in the previous report stands valid in regard to the present periodic review. With reference to the Polish People's Republic one can still refer only to an indirect impact of the United Nations legal instruments on Polish legislation and practice.

As stressed heretofore, the basic, general norms pertaining to economic, social and cultural rights, as formulated in specific United Nations instruments, are vested in the Constitution of the Polish People's Republic and in the principles of her socio-political system. The Polish legislation and the social policy of Poland fully abide by those norms. As concerns economic, social and cultural rights, the situation in the Polish People's Republic in many respects is better and exceeds the standards established by the corresponding international instruments.

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2. The principal United Nations instruments concerning human rights have been published in Poland and are available to both legislative bodies and public at large.

III. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND COURT DECISIONS

A. The right to work

General observations presented on this subject in the previous report are relevant to the period under present review. A number of new legal acts were passed, aimed at further substantial expansion of benefits in favour of the employee, elimination of certain differences in social benefits, etc.

Work was under way on the new Labour Code to regulate in a complex manner the basic norms of labour law applicable to all citizens of the Polish People's Republic.

Also in jurisdiction, there has been a continuing trend toward:

(a) Expanding labour protection, e.g., breaking of the work contract by the employer has been ruled invalid if without prior approval of the trade union - Supreme Court rulings Nos. III PZP 41/71 of 22 June 1972, III PZP 15/72 of 26 July 1972, III PZP 28/72 of 23 August 1972, III PZP 37/70 of 22 June 1972;

(b) Expanding the rights resulting from work contracts, e.g., protection of pregnant women employees - Supreme Court ruling No. I PR 60/70 of 21 April 1970 and decision No. III PZP 7/72 of 13 April 1972; work accident indemnity claims - Supreme Court rulings Nos. III PZP 4/71 and III PZP 3/71 of 5 April 1971, II CZ 108/70 of 27 August 1970, II PR 14/72 of 16 March 1972, and so forth.

1. The right to free choice of employment

The right to free choice of employment has been fully observed in Poland. Compliance with this right did not call for any legislative measures to be taken during the period under report.

The realization of the right concerned continued to be assured mainly by general social and economic conditions providing for full employment. The more detailed discussion on the subject presented in the previous report is relevant to the period under present review.

2. The right to appropriate and satisfactory conditions of work

The right to appropriate and satisfactory work has been fully observed in Poland. During the period under report, a number of steps were taken to assure continued improvement of conditions in regard to work safety and hygiene. The following are among the more important ones:

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Realization of a programme of noise and vibration combating (resolution of the Council of Ministers of 12 August 1971);

Realization of a programme of development of ventilation, air-conditioning and dust filter equipment, particularly in coal mining, e.g., recommendation of the president of the Central Mining Office of 5 February 1970;

Steps taken to further limit the harmful effect and hardships of certain jobs by introducing shorter work hours or extended holidays, without affecting wages, in the machine industry (decisions of the Council of Ministers of 20 January 1970 and 6 August 1971);

Improvement of rules and regulations concerning norms of work safety in particular branches of industry on the basis of modern technological solutions in food-stuffs and mining industries;

Putting into effect regulations on the lowest permissible doses of ionizing radiation, etc.

3. The right to protection against unemployment and underemployment

With respect to the right of citizens to protection against unemployment, no significant changes have occurred in Poland in the years 1969-1973, either in the rules of law or in practice.

Poland is guided by the principle of full employment. In the time-span under report, the National Social and Economic Plan of the Polish People's Republic ensured employment for the whole increment of manpower.

To balance the demand and supply of manpower, in a territorial cross-section and according to sex, the Polish Government has taken a number of important steps. Those were reflected in decisions concerning:

(a) Creation of additional jobs in 1971 in areas with manpower surpluses in order to obtain extra market production (resolution of the Council of Ministers of 17 December 1971);

(b) Creation of a local fund of economic development in 1971-1975 (resolution of the Council of Ministers of 5 March 1971). In order to achieve those targets, a sum of 2.75 billion zlotys has been earmarked. In consequence over 70,000 new jobs will be created in 1971-1975, mainly for women, in small-scale industry and services. Between 1971 and 1973 alone, as many as 67,000 new jobs were created;

(c) Increased employment of women on a part-time basis (resolution of the Council of Ministers of 2 April 1971). This resolution grants women employed on part-time basis equal rights with those on full-time jobs. This resulted in a substantial expansion of that form of employment, particularly appealing to women with family duties;

(d) Development in the years 1971-1975 of the system of jobs done at home (resolution of the Council of Ministers of 23 July 1970). This resolution is of major importance to women who are not able to take up regular employment either for family or for health reasons;

(e) On-the-job training of school graduates (resolution of the Council of Ministers of 2 July 1971). The resolution has shortened the preliminary training period, etc., thus allowing graduates faster promotion and winning higher wages much sooner.

4. The right to proper remuneration ensuring decent living

During the period under report considerable progress had been registered in growth of real wages. As mentioned in the introduction to this report, real wages went up by 24 per cent in the years 1971-1973. Two factors were responsible: fast increase of labour productivity in manufacturing and the regulation of wages following a decision of the Council of Ministers to raise the wages of different employee groups. This was rendered possible due to a high pace of economic growth over that period.

Within the framework of the regulation of wages in 1971-1973, about 6.4 million workers, or nearly two thirds of all employed in the socialized economy sector, were covered by the wages-raising operation.

The lowest pay of 850 zlotys has been raised to the monthly minimum of 1,000 zlotys, and special premiums have been introduced for some groups of employees.

5. The right to equal pay for equal work, without discrimination of any kind

The principle of equal pay for equal work is fully observed in Poland. During the period under the report there have been no complaints recorded in that matter.

6. The right to annual leave and rest, including reasonable reduction of working hours and periodic paid leave

The realization of that right in Poland is based on regulations issued prior to 1 July 1969 and was discussed in the previous report.

During the period under review, shorter working hours were introduced for those who work in difficult or health hazardous conditions. New regulations also were issued allowing additional days free of work (decree of 14 July 1973).

7. The right to join trade unions

All employees have the right to organize themselves in trade unions (see previous report for details).

Trade union membership is voluntary. In practice over 95 per cent of all employees are trade union members.

During the period under report there was no need to enact any new laws in this regard.

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8. The right to strike

Detailed discussion of this subject, presented in the previous report, stands valid with reference to the present review.

The right to strike is not subject to any legislative acts. Strikes are not prohibited by law.

Under the social system in Poland employees' interests are duly safeguarded. Therefore, a strike is not considered the necessary means whereby to regulate the distribution of national income.

B. The right to social security

The period under report saw further progress in the development of the social security system in Poland. The following developments in this regard in the years 1969-1973 are of major importance:

1. Extension of social security to cover new population groups

(a) private sea fishermen and bargemen, as of 1 March 1970;

(b) members of farming co-operatives, as of 1 January 1972;

(c) persons involved in periodical and newspaper distribution and retail trade as well as in cultural and educational activities in books and press popularization centres, working on lease contracts, as of 1 July 1973.

As a result, it is estimated that the percentage of people covered by compulsory social security increased from about 78 per cent in 1970 to about 84 per cent in 1973.

2. Availability of free medical care to private farmers

As of 1 January 1972, private farmers and their families were granted the right to free medical care under the public health service system. As a result thereof practically the entire population of the country has been covered by free medical care. It is estimated that a mere 0.4 per cent of the population pay medical expenses out of their own pocket at nominal costs while benefiting from services of the public health system.

3. Increase of social security allowances

(a) As of 1 July 1972 employee sickness allowances, in the amount of 100 per cent of wages, are paid in case of inability to work due to accident at work or occupational disease. The allowances due in case of inability to work for reasons other than accident or occupational disease, have been raised in three stages:

Up to 85 per cent of net pay as of 1 July 1972;

Up to 90 per cent of net pay as of 1 July 1973;

Up to 100 per cent of net pay as of 1 July 1974.

At the same time, a principle has been adopted that the amount of the allowance cannot be reduced during the employee's stay in hospital or sanatorium;

(b) As of 1 December 1970, family allowances have been increased by an average of 40 per cent in the lowest income group;

(c) Realization of a three-year programme of raising the retirement and invalids' pensions was completed in 1970;

(d) A subsequent raise of the lowest old-age pensions (by about 7 per cent and invalids' pensions (by 4 to 9 per cent depending on category) was carried through in early 1971.

C. The right to an adequate standard of living

The right to an adequate standard of living has been fully observed (see, e.g., sections A.4 and B).

Permanent improvement of living conditions in Poland was particularly noticeable in the period under report. The growth of consumption and the improvement of the population's standard of living by meeting material and other needs are firm guidelines in plans for Poland's accelerated social and economic development.

1. The right to adequate food

In this regard, the following new legislative acts were adopted:

(a) Act on food-stuffs and catering sanitary standards of 25 November 1970;

(b) Regulation by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of 30 March 1970 defining certain maladies as contraindications to employment in the production and handling of food-stuffs;

(c) Regulation by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of 17 September 1971 on sanitary standards in food-stuffs transport.

2. The right to adequate clothing and housing

The right to adequate clothing has been fully observed. No legislation was required to safeguard the right.

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The right to adequate housing has been fully observed, too. Throughout the period under report major efforts were made to bring about tangible improvement in the rate of housing construction and in housing standards.

In 1972 the Seym of the Polish People's Republic passed an act concerning the long-term housing development programme. That programme envisages, by the mid-1980s independent apartments for all families that may want them, as well as a higher standard of housing for the whole population. The figures below illustrate the growth of housing:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Apartments put to use</u>
1971	191,000
1972	205,000
1973	226,000

3. The right to health care and social services

General observations on the subject presented in the previous report are relevant to the period under present review.

The period under report saw further progress in the observance of the right of citizens to health care (see sect. D.4).

Among others, the following legislative measures were taken to ensure more effective realization of this right:

(a) Decision by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of 14 December 1971 on the provision of health services to farmers;

(b) Decision by the same Minister of 21 January 1972 on the principles of provision of health services by the public health centres to creative workers;

(c) Instruction by that Minister of 28 November 1972 on the principles of provision of health services by the public health centres to farmers;

(d) Act of 6 July 1972 on raising social insurance sick benefits during employee's illness, etc.

Steps were taken to improve the social welfare conditions of employees. The Act of 23 June 1973 concerning manner of providing and distributing award, social welfare and housing funds, applicable to all factories and institutions, empowers them to raise special funds to meet the social welfare requirements of employees and their families.

4. The right to continuous improvement of living standards

The population of the Polish People's Republic enjoys the right to a continuous improvement of the standard of living which, as already stressed, is one of the major objectives of Polish social and economic policy.

This right has been fully observed. The long-term programme of the country's accelerated development in the social and economic spheres provides for the continuous growth of the standard of living (see, e.g., introduction and sects. A.4 and B).

5. The right to the protection and improvement of human environment

This right has been fully observed. In connexion therewith, the action taken included measures to protect the country's natural life and resources, to prevent pollution of water, air, to combat noise and vibration. A comprehensive programme of environmental protection was worked out with particular reference to the changes of the environment as brought about by the transformation of the country's economic and social structure and to the biological imbalance of the environment in dynamically industrialized areas and in large cities.

The following major legislative measures were taken for environmental protection:

(a) Decision of the Council of Ministers of 9 June 1970 on cash penalties for harmful pollution of waters and on procedure of their exaction;

(b) Decision of the Council of Ministers of 9 June 1970 on admissible levels of water pollution and conditions governing sewage discharge in water and soil;

(c) Decision of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of 14 July 1972 on pesticide pollution.

Work was under way to prepare a draft Environmental Protection Law.

Poland's initiatives and co-operation with the neighbouring countries should be viewed in close connexion with the implementation of this right. That includes the initiative on the Baltic States Conference held in Gdańsk, Poland, which paved the way to the conclusion of the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and the Belts (Gdańsk, 13 September 1973) and thereafter active co-operation to conclude the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki, 22 March 1974).

D. The right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

General observations made on this subject in the previous report stand valid with reference to the present review.

In order to provide the population with the best conditions of health care, efforts were continued to modernize and expand the material base of the public health service. New health-care facilities were built to meet the needs of in-patients and out-patients and the number of nurses and doctors considerably increased.

11,468 billion zlotys were invested in new public health service projects and in social welfare facilities, i.e., in general hospitals, clinics and mental hospitals with the total number of 11,346 hospital beds, 259 community health centres and 48 day nurseries. The number of general practitioners grew by 5,639; of dentists by 1,516 and nurses by 14,492.

Great attention was paid to raising professional qualifications of the medical personnel. Among others, nursing studies have been set up at university level.

The extensive State assistance with reference to welfare and occupational rehabilitation of invalids was continued.

Owing to the full realization of the right to health care, the average life expectancy in the years 1970-1972 was estimated at 66.8 years for men and 73.8 for women.

The following major legislative measures were taken:

- (a) Decision by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of 17 November 1969 on health standards required from personnel employed on Polish marine vessels;
- (b) Decision of 28 March 1970 defining some substances as stupeficients;
- (c) Decision of 20 February 1973 on the organization of health-care centres;
- (d) Ordinance of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of 7 August 1971 on the type of social assistance centres and on general regulations for same;
- (e) Ordinance of 10 September 1972 on protection of health of elementary, secondary and higher school teachers;
- (f) Ordinance of 18 July 1973 on day social assistance centres, etc.

1. The reduction of the stillbirth rate and of infant mortality and the healthy development of the child

The observations made on this subject in the previous report are relevant with reference to the present periodic review. Further progress has been achieved in gynaecology and pediatrics, as well as in the more efficient system of care for mother and child. All forms of care and assistance are free of charge and available to the entire population.

In view thereof infant mortality went down from 34.4 per cent in 1969 to 26.1 per cent in 1973.

In the legislative field there were taken, e.g., the following measures:

- (a) Decision of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of 28 April 1972 on medical care in summer vacations centres for children and young people;

(b) Ordinance of 7 January 1971 on dental care for children and young people in schools, universities, etc.

2. The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene

A wide-ranging campaign for higher sanitary standards brought about further considerable improvement.

The long-term programme of health care and social welfare for the period of 1973-1990 approved by the Council of Ministers on 23 February 1973 indicates that among the main guidelines for action is the improvement of sanitary conditions and environmental protection.

The new legislative instruments in this regard are mentioned in section C.5, and the examples concerning work safety and hygiene measures are given in section A.2. Reference can also be made to the verdict of the Supreme Court No. II CR 619/70 of 24 February 1971 on the excessive noise generated by factories.

3. The prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases

Over the period under report great progress was made in Poland in the prevention of communicable diseases, especially as regards the lessening of the rate of morbidity of tuberculosis.

Efforts are made continuously to reduce the number of occupational diseases, e.g., by enforcing laws (see sect. A.2) and by taking organizational measures.

As to legislation, measures taken in the preceding periods continued to be applied. Among new ones there is, e.g., the decision of 1 December 1969 on the registration of occupational diseases, and others.

4. The creation of conditions ensuring medical care for all

In consequence of the extension of social insurance to private farm-holders (family inclusive), the whole working population in Poland is eligible for free medical care (see sect. B.2).

Technical facilities and medical personnel to ensure medical care are referred to in the introductory part to this chapter.

Various forms of medical preventive action have been created to provide special care to selected groups of the population. The public health service was reorganized with a view to ensure the availability of medical services to entire population (integration of all medical institutions at district level).

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E. The right to establish family, to motherhood and to protection and assistance in that regard

The general observations on the subject made in the previous report are relevant to the period under present review. During the reported time-span steps were taken to promote and consolidate family life, in particular to help young married couples with their financial problems. Numerous social welfare measures referred to in section B, items 2 and 3, also refer to the welfare of the family.

1. The right of the family to protection and assistance

In a number of decisions, the Supreme Court made specific provisions for the protection of families and the rights of spouses and children. In resolution No. III CZP 43/72 of 7 June 1972, the Court determined that in case of breach of marital life, the innocent spouse has the right to claim the provision by the guilty spouse of means of subsistence for the family, on the basis of equal living standards. The Court's verdict No. III CRN 332/72 of 21 February 1973 determined that the ruling on the adoption of a child born out of wedlock does not affect the mother's right to claim the establishment of paternity.

2. The right of mothers to special care and assistance

Further steps were taken to expand rights and privileges for working mothers. They include measures meant to make it possible for the working mothers to combine their work with family duties and child rearing.

In 1972, paid maternity leaves were extended from 12 to 16 weeks after the birth of the first child and to 18 weeks after the birth of second or more children (the Act of 6 July 1972). Leave of absence without pay for mothers rearing small children was extended up to three years without affecting continuity of employment (decision of the Council of Ministers of 14 January 1972). Working mothers with small children were granted the right of up to 60 days off per year, with insurance benefits equal to full pay due for the time off.

As many as 4 million families are covered by these rights.

The steady expansion of the network of nurseries and pre-school centres assist women with child care while enabling them regular work.

3. The right of children and young people to special care and assistance

During the period under review attention was focused on the problems of the younger generation. On 12 April 1973 the Seym passed an act on the tasks of the State and the nation in the education of young people. The Government of the Polish People's Republic has worked out a nation-wide and complementary programme, one of few world-wide, which is concerned with young people and their economic, social and cultural rights.

The right of children to special care is also safeguarded by the acts referred to in sections E.1 and E.2.

A new system of scholarships was introduced (see sect. F.2). The promotion of systematic saving, with extra bonuses paid for good marks, made it easier for students to obtain their own housing.

4. The right of parents to free and responsible decision as to the number and date of birth of their children

This right is fully respected under the social system of Poland, dedicated to the strengthening and promotion of human rights.

The Polish people are generally familiar with family planning owing to broad activity of the public health service, operating special out-patient advisory clinics for women. A major role is played in this regard by such public organizations as the Society for Family Planning. In addition there are special consultation services for parents as well as premarital consultation centres.

There is no ban on abortions in Poland unless a physician believes that termination of pregnancy would be hazardous to the woman.

The State takes special care of families with many children. The system of mother and child care (see sect. D.1) and special rights for working mothers (see sect. E.2) assists those who have many children and facilitates family planning.

F. The right to education

General observations made on this subject in the previous report continue to be relevant in regard to the present periodic review.

Throughout this period the right to education was safeguarded by a system of schools of all types, financed and run by the State. In the year 1972/1973 there were 24,843 elementary schools; 1,222 secondary schools of general education; 9,314 vocational secondary schools; and 88 schools of higher learning (universities etc.).

1. The right to free primary education

In Poland an eight-grade primary school education is obligatory and free. In 1972/1973 there were 4,841,323 pupils attending primary schools. In addition 137,000 working people attended primary evening schools.

The system of primary education was basically reorganized, especially in villages, to enable the introduction of the eight-grade primary education.

Education in schools higher than primary is also broadly enjoyed and free. Those schools take about 95 per cent of primary school graduates.

2. The right to higher education, including technical and vocational, on the basis of equality and personal merit

Citizens of the Polish People's Republic enjoy this right fully. The detailed discussion of the subject in the previous report is relevant to the period under present review.

A particularly interesting feature is higher studies for working people in the form of extra-mural (correspondence), evening and university extension courses. In 1973 such courses embraced 37 per cent of all higher school students.

The State provides wide assistance to persons pursuing higher studies, which of course are free. In 1969 and 1973 the system of scholarships was changed to the benefit of students (up to 55 per cent of the student body receive grants with the average grant raised by 20 per cent).

Employees pursuing studies while holding full-time jobs were granted the right to claim special leave for study with full pay (decision of the Council of Ministers of 23 March 1973). They are also entitled to other facilities (e.g., reimbursement of costs of travel to school).

3. The right of parents to determine children's education

Parents have the right to a free choice of the type of education or vocation that in their view suits their children best and which is currently available in Poland.

The means of realization and facilitation of this right discussed in the previous report are applicable to the period under discussion.

G. The right to enjoy cultural life

The detailed discussion of this right contained in the previous report stands valid in regard to the period under present report. Hereinafter there are only remarks on the progress made.

1. The right to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific advance and its application

During the period under report the State's spending on culture, arts and sciences increased substantially. The right to enjoy the benefits of the gains of science and culture was safeguarded, e.g., by a network of 53,800 libraries (as against 52,400 in 1970), and other cultural establishments. The number of copies of edited books and publishers' impressions, and the circulation of newspapers and periodicals were substantially increased.

In the legislative field, among others the following measures have been adopted in regard to this right:

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(a) Decision of the Minister of Culture and Arts of 25 November 1972 on activities recognized creative;

(b) Decision of the Council of Ministers of 9 September 1972 on leave of absence for the purpose of creative activity; etc.

2. The right to protection of moral and financial benefits of scientific, literary or artistic work

This right has been fully respected, through protection of copyrights, exercised by various associations, such as the Society of Authors (ZAIKS), the Union of Polish Composers, the Union of Polish Writers, the Union of Polish Theatre and Film Artists, etc.

The respective legislative measures were, e.g.:

(a) Decision of the Council of Ministers of 7 January 1972 on principles and royalties for literary works and film scripts;

(b) Ordinance of the Minister of Culture and Arts of 24 November 1971 on the establishment of a committee of experts to draft principles of contract and royalty negotiation on works of fine art and photography.

The ruling of the Supreme Court No. II PR 686/70 on protection of copyrights is also relevant.

IV. ACTION WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING ALL CITIZENS BENEFIT
OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS

As stated on many occasions in official documents submitted to the United Nations, the Constitution of the Polish People's Republic and the country's social and political system preclude discrimination against citizens in the exercise of their economic, social and cultural rights. Any discrimination on account of race, language, religion, nationality, sex etc., is prohibited by law.

The fundamental feature of Poland's social system is the realization of the principles of socialist justice and equality.

Those principles in the first place provide for equality of opportunity and the equality of rights and duties of all citizens.

As a consequence of government decisions made during the period under report a substantial improvement was made in the practical exercise by the people of their rights, especially of social security and welfare rights. Among other things, certain differences occurring among various population groups were overcome (see sect. B).

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V. DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED IN ENSURING THE ENJOYMENT OF
THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND METHODS
AND MEASURES ADOPTED WITH A VIEW TO THEIR OVERCOMING

The legislative provisions, administrative regulations and other actions aimed at facilitating the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and overcoming difficulties in this field are described in chapters III and IV.

The efforts of the Government to improve the realization of these rights are fully approved and supported by the people.

For example, actions taken with a view to promote health care (see, e.g., sect. D) have spurred the idea of public collection of funds for the National Health Care Fund.

Another example: the Government activity aimed at the improvement and protection of environment (see sect. C.5) is supported, e.g., by public, scientific and technical organizations. In particular, the youth organizations acknowledge that it is their social responsibility to observe the principle of environmental protection and to prevent devastation of natural resources of the country.
