

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL  
E/CN.4/1164/Add.1  
30 December 1974  
Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Thirty-first session

PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Analytical summary of reports and other material on economic, social and cultural rights for the period 1 July 1969 to 30 June 1973, received under Economic and Social Council resolution 1074 C (XXXIX)

(Prepared by the Secretary-General in pursuance of resolution 16 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights)

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The present document is an Addendum to the main analytical summary - document E/CN.4/1164 - and relates to periodic reports on economic, social and cultural rights for the period 1 July 1969 to 30 June 1973 which were submitted by the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Italy, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Norway, Peru and Thailand. These reports which were received after 30 August 1974,<sup>1/</sup> and may be found in documents E/CN.4/1155/Add.16-25, bring the total number of reports from Governments to 45.

I. Concise introductory description of constitutional and legislative developments, of general policies and specific measures on economic and social development which have contributed in a significant manner during the period from 1 July 1969 to 30 June 1973 to ensuring the recognition, realization and protection of economic, social and cultural rights

2. Denmark reports that the economic, social and cultural rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were observed in the period under review as a result of pre-existing legislation. Thailand reports as relevant its series of economic and social development plans which played a major role in the implementation of economic and social rights in that country (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21 and 23).

II. Influence of United Nations instruments containing principles and norms for the recognition, realization and protection of economic, social and cultural rights and, in particular, measures adopted to implement such instruments during the period from 1 July 1969 to 30 June 1973

3. Norway reports the Act of 5 June 1970 which amended the General Civil Penal Code of 1902. This amendment extends protection against racial discrimination in conformity with Norway's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination. Norway ratified this Convention on 6 August 1970 and the amendment to the Penal Code prevents discrimination in the exercise of economic activities in hotels, restaurants, etc. Denmark ratified the United Nations Covenants on economic, social and cultural rights, and on civil and political rights, including the Optional Protocol in 1972. For the purpose of Danish ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination Act No.288 of 9 June 1971 amending the Civil Criminal Code, and Act No.289 of 9 June 1971 prohibiting discrimination on account of race, etc., have been passed. The Act was put into effect in Greenland by Ordinance No.26 of 3 February 1972, and for the Faroe Islands by Ordinance No.380 of 12 August 1972. The Convention itself was ratified by Denmark on 6 December 1971. Thailand reports in this context, in conformity with international instruments, the continued protection of family rights, the right to education, to improving of living standards, and the conditions of workers. In regard to New Zealand, it is reported that a Race Relations Act was passed in 1972 to ensure full compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination. In addition, ILO conventions, in particular those relating to the employment of women, are under examination with a view to bringing New Zealand legislation into line with United Nations practice. (E/CN.4/1155/Add.20, 21, 23 and 25).

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<sup>1/</sup> Reference paragraph 19 of document E/CN.4/1164.

III. Significant developments during the period from 1 July 1969 to 30 June 1973 with regard to the recognition, realization and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, referring where appropriate to constitutional provisions, legislative measures and administrative regulations and procedures enacted and court decisions rendered

A. The right to work

(1) Right to free choice of employment

4. Both Finland and New Zealand report their implementation of the right to free choice of employment. In New Zealand the Race Relations Act of 1972 affirms and promotes racial equality. Under this Act it is illegal even to publish an advertisement which could reasonably be understood as indicating an intention to discriminate (E/CN.4/1155/Add.19 and 25).

(2) Right to just and favourable conditions of work

5. In regard to this human right Finland, New Zealand and Norway report the adoption of various legislative measures. In Finland the Act respecting Contracts of Employment provides that employers shall comply with the national collective agreement as closely as possible in regard to wages. Finland also reports the reorganization of the supervision procedures concerning labour protection regulations. This reorganization was implemented by an Act of 16 February 1973, while the administration of labour protection in Finland was reorganized by Acts of 1972 and 1973. New Zealand reports the enactment of its Air Crew Industrial Tribunal Act of 1971 as well as the State Service Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act of 1969. Both of these measures deal with just and favourable conditions of work. In regard to Norway an addition to the Workers' Protection Act is reported. The addition, which came into force on 1 January 1973, improves the pension system. An Act of 16 June 1972 reorganized the local labour inspectorate of Norway. Peru reports the issuance of Legislative Decree No.20589 creating social ownership. Peru explains that such social ownership involves the revolutionary transformation of economic and social structures. In its reply Peru describes the organization of social ownership enterprises. Such firms are organized on the basis of allowing workers full participation in company decisions. In Thailand the National Executive Council issued its Announcement No.103, dated 16 March 1972, consolidating the labour laws and providing procedures for the settlement of labour disputes, the protection of labour and the improvement of salaries and wages. Italy reports Decision No.26 (1969) of the Constitutional Court, confirming the illegality of certain articles of the Civil Code in regard to labour matters. The Court recognized that while the labour relationship is still in existence a limitation on the right to wages often conceals a renunciation by the worker to certain rights for fear of dismissal. An earlier Decision of the Constitutional Court (Decision No.75 of 1968) provided for the right of a worker to a termination allowance under certain conditions (E/CN.4/1155/Add.19,25,20,16,23 and 24).

(3) Right to protection against unemployment and under-employment

6. The right to protection against unemployment and under-employment was further implemented in the period under review in Denmark, Finland, Norway and New Zealand. The Danish Act of 24 March 1970 on Employment Service and Unemployment Insurance provides that the employment service shall occupy a key position in an active labour market policy. As of 1 April 1970 a National Labour Board was also established in Denmark to assist the Commissioner of Labour. In Finland the Constitution provides that the labour force shall be under the special protection of the State. Furthermore, an Act of 28 July 1972 lays down the obligation of the State to provide, if necessary, an opportunity for every Finnish citizen to work. On 1 January 1971 in Norway unemployment insurance was incorporated into the National Insurance Scheme.

A Royal Decree of 25 August 1972 also established new regulations to promote labour mobility in Norway. In addition, the Act of 20 March 1970 which fixed the task of the Committee for Industrial Location, is relevant. On 15 June 1971 a system went into effect in Norway which was designed to eliminate certain forms of unfair competition, which affects employment. In New Zealand particularly relevant in this regard is the Industrial Relations Act of 1973 which safeguards against loss of income, in the form of unemployment benefits (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 19, 20 and 25).

(4) Right of everyone who works to just and favourable remuneration ensuring a decent living for himself and his family

7. In New Zealand wages and salaries are, for the most part, determined by a system of conciliation and arbitration supplemented by general wage orders. Also relevant is the Industrial Relations Act of 1973, as well as the General Wage Order Act of 1969. The latter Act was an attempt to improve the general wage order system. In Norway an Order-in-Council of 3 March 1972 provided for the charting of living conditions in Norway and for the analysis of the causes of differences. Low income groups in Norway receive special attention and such groups are provided with special wage supplements in wage negotiations. In Denmark a general increase in wages and salaries is reported for the period under review. Denmark further reports that wages and salaries are decided by private negotiations, both in the private and public sectors. Ghana reports that in 1972 it increased the minimum wage (E/CN.4/1155/Add.25, 20, 21 and 17).

8. Relevant in regard to Guatemala is Decree No.11-73 of the Congress which concerns the Law on Salaries (E/CN.4/1155/Add.22).

(5) Right of everyone, without discrimination of any kind, to equal pay for equal work

9. Both New Zealand and Denmark report the full implementation of this human right in the period under review. In New Zealand legislation was enacted in 1972 in the form of the Equal Pay Act which removed discrimination based on sex. The Act provides for the phasing-in of equal pay in five annual steps, to be completed by 1977. Also relevant is the 1960 Government Services Equal Pay Act, which covers that group of workers not included under provisions of the 1972 Act. In Denmark, it is reported that the principle of equal pay for women and men which had been in force in the public sector since 1958 was adopted in the private labour market in April 1973. As of 10 April 1973 the rates in the minimum wage sector also became identical for men and women. All restrictions based on sex in regard to this field were abolished in Denmark at the same time (E/CN.4/1155/Add.25 and 21).

(6) Right to rest, leisure and reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay

10. In Denmark an Act of 9 June 1971 extended annual holidays and approved improvements in holiday pay. In Norway an Act of 5 May 1972 reduced the working hours of shift workers to 40 hours per week. It is reported by Finland that hours of work and leisure are regulated by the State, while in New Zealand relevant provisions are contained in the Industrial Relations Act of 1973 (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 20, 19 and 25).

(7) Right to form trade unions and to join the trade union of one's choice

11. Italy reports the adoption, in the period under review, of Act No.300 of 20 May 1970 of the Workers' Statute, which contains norms designed to provide more intensive safeguards for the freedom and dignity of workers and particularly for their

rights in regard to trade union activity. It is reported by Finland that its Act respecting contracts of employment provides for the free association of employers or workers, while New Zealand reports that its Industrial Relations Act of 1973 makes provision for the right to form trade unions and to join the trade union of one's choice (E/CN.4/1155/Add.24, 19 and 25).

(8) Right to strike

12. In Finland provisions relating to the right to strike are included in the Collective Agreements Act as well as in the Contracts of Employment Act. In Italy Act No.300 of 20 May 1970 of the Workers' Statute, among other things, prohibits the so-called "anti-strike bonus" which had existed in Italy to encourage non-participation in trade union activities. In New Zealand, the Industrial Relations Act of 1973 provides that persons in certain essential industries may strike only in certain circumstances - the giving of notice of such strike action is, for example, essential here. The law in New Zealand, however, does not prohibit other ways in which a worker may exercise his right to withhold his labour, and the majority of industrial stoppages proceed without hindrance (E/CN.4/1155/Add.19, 24 and 25).

B. The right to social security, including social insurance, in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond one's control

13. Italy reports that the period under review was, for it, a period of intense legislative activity in the social security field. This was largely a result of Act No.153 of 30 April 1969 which conferred powers on the Government with a view to extending the right to social security to new categories of workers. The more important regulations emanating from this law include the following: Presidential Decree No.1432 of 31 December 1971, concerning the voluntary continuation of compulsory insurance for disability, old age, survivors and tuberculosis; Presidential Decree No.403 of 31 December 1971 concerning compulsory social insurance for workers engaged in domestic service and services for the cleaning and maintenance of premises; Presidential Decree No.325 of 12 May 1972 regarding minimum benefits for self-employed workers; Act No.464 of 1972 concerning social security and similar benefits for agricultural workers; and Act No.485 of 11 August 1972 concerning improvements in some pension and assistance benefits. Several Decisions of the Constitutional Court relating to rules of dismissal, termination allowances, and apprentices are relevant.

14. In Denmark, concurrently with the entry into force of the Public Health Insurance Act of 1 April 1973, the provisions of Denmark's Daily Cash Benefits Act of 7 June 1972 entered into force. This latter Act standardizes rules in regard to benefits, where the loss of income is due to sickness, accident or maternity. Under the Sickness Insurance Act, housewives may also qualify for such benefits. In line with European Community Regulations Denmark also reports the abolition of the nationality criterion previously required for pension eligibility. An Act of 24 March 1970 enabled part-time workers in Denmark to become beneficiaries of unemployment insurance. Also relevant is an Act of 7 June 1972 in Denmark which provided for enlargement of the group of persons to whom necessary assistance shall be granted for housekeeping. Norway reports that by an Act of 19 June 1970 Unemployment Insurance was incorporated into the National Insurance Scheme. New Zealand's Accident Compensation Act of 1972 ensures income security to additional members of society who have been deprived of income as a result of injury. New Zealand reports a long standing protection scheme for widows, orphans, the incapacitated and the elderly. In 1971 the Department of Social Welfare Act was passed to establish one government department responsible for all aspects of social welfare in New Zealand.

15. Ghana reports that its Social Security Decree of 1972 requires all employers to contribute to a social security fund an amount equal to twelve and a half per cent of their workers salary per month. In Thailand Ministerial Regulation No.9 requires employers in the mining industry to take protective measures to ensure the safety of employees. Also relevant, Thailand reports, is a Royal Proclamation of 1970 announcing the entry into force of Convention No.105 concerning the Abolition of Force Labour. In the period under review further provisions were made in Thailand for those injured as a consequence of their national duties or government service. Finally, an announcement of the National Executive Council No.294 dated 27 November 1972 provides for social welfare improvements for children (E/CN.4/1155/Add.24, 21, 20, 25, 17 and 23).

C. The right to an adequate standard of living

(1) Right to adequate food

16. In regard to the right to adequate food Ghana reports taking a number of steps in the period under review. In March 1970 a Task Force was established to improve the flow of certain food stuffs and in 1972 the Government of Ghana declared an Operation Feed Yourself programme. In the Netherlands Antilles the standard of nutrition is reported to be high, according to the results of various scientific researches (E/CN.4/1155/Add.17 and 18).

(2) Right to adequate clothing and housing

17. Denmark reports that its Act No.321 of 13 June 1973 amends the former Dwelling Inspection Act. Denmark also reports as relevant the updating of the Slum Clearance Act. These two Acts allow for improvements or elimination of obsolete dwellings. The principle of providing sufficient food is reported by New Zealand to be bound up with its social welfare legislation. However, the Consumer Information Act of 1969 provides information to consumers in regard to consumer goods, including food. The housing policy of the Government of New Zealand includes the provision of loans to various sectors of the community. In 1973, the Property Speculation Tax Act was passed and the Public Works Act of 1928 empowers the Government to take land for the purpose of public works. The Government of New Zealand reports providing assistance to various economically disadvantaged groups in regard to housing. In Thailand an Announcement of the National Executive Council, No.316 of 13 December 1972, was issued to amalgamate several government agencies with the purpose of increasing the efficiency with which housing is made available to low and medium income earners. A special fund is planned in Peru, it is reported, which has the purpose of assisting the financing and construction of workers dwellings. In Peru it is also provided that the personal dwellings of workers with good service records have priority in terms of financing (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 25, 23 and 16).

(3) Right to necessary social services

18. In New Zealand assistance and care is reported to have been offered to many sections of the community, including the socially disadvantaged or disabled (E/CN.4/1155/Add.25).

(4) Right to continuous improvement of living conditions

19. In Norway, an Act of 12 May 1972 established regulations for extending employee participation in the decision making process in Joint Stock companies of a certain size. New Zealand reports that its relevant legislation in this regard includes the Industrial Regulations Act, the General Wage Order Act, general social security



provisions, consumer services, and the Accident Compensation Act of 1972. In Peru, Legislative Decree 20653 was adopted with the purpose of land reform in Peru's jungle and jungle border areas. The Decree contains rules specifically drafted to ensure the indigenous communities in the jungle areas an integrated and leading part in the evolution of Peruvian society (E/CN.4/1155/Add.20, 25 and 16).

(5) Right to the protection and improvement of the human environment

20. In Denmark Act No.372 of 13 June 1973 on Environmental Protection provides for the combating of pollution and the placing of a high priority on the improvement and conservation of the human environment. In Norway a Ministry of Environment was established in May 1972. Norway reports amendments to the Building and Planning Act in this context. A number of new laws are being drafted in Norway which will provide for the further improvement and protection of the human environment. These include a Planning Act, an Act on pollution and noise control, and a Product Control Act. The Clean Air Act of 1972 in New Zealand provided in the light of world concern for the environment, for increased vigilance in protecting air and water. In the meantime the following five international conventions became effective: the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954, as amended in 1962; the International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in cases of Oil Pollution, 1969; the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969; the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971; and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Waste and other Matter, 1972. New Zealand also reports the establishment of an Environmental Council to deal with environmental problems.

21. In Thailand an "Announcement of the National Executive Council No.16" was issued to protect and improve the human environment. Under this Announcement penalties are invoked for those guilty of pollution. It is reported, finally, by Netherlands Antilles that the oil industry there has been making determined and successful efforts to reduce air pollution. A Council for Environmental Hygiene was recently set up and a Scientific Congress on Environmental Pollution was held in Curacao in 1973 (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 20, 25, 23 and 18).

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

22. Steps taken with a view to ensuring:

(1) The reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child

23. Denmark reports the adoption on 4 December 1971 of Order No.474 concerning the medical examination of persons under 18 years of age. Order No.54 of 1972 also prohibits young persons from working with ionizing radiation. The stillbirth and infant mortality rates in the Netherlands Antilles are reported to be one of the lowest in the whole of the Caribbean and South American area, and are more or less comparable to those in Western Europe. New Zealand similarly reports that its stillbirth rates are among the world's lowest (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 18 and 25).

(2) The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene

24. Denmark reports Act No.153 of 1973 as relevant in this regard. The Act orders employers to defray the costs involved in ensuring safety for employees. Order No.335 of 1973 lays down precise rules concerning internal safety. Order No.236 of 1973 concerns the reporting of industrial accidents to the Directorate of Labour Inspection.

And Order No.225 of 19 May 1971 lays down provisions for the protection of workers in Greenland. In Norway, an Act, due to come into force on 1 January 1975, concerns inflammable goods, while an Act concerning explosive goods has been passed and will come into force later. Ghana reports that during the period under consideration it initiated control programmes with the object of limiting various diseases, while New Zealand reports that its Departments of Health and Labour both administer provisions which provide for the improvement and protection of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 20, 17 and 25).

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

25. In Denmark the Directorate of Labour Inspection has launched campaigns on the following subject: noise abatement, the reduction of the risk of silicosis, examinations of dust in the industrial environment, etc. Also relevant are Orders of January and February 1972 which, for instance, provide protection from ionizing radiation. The Netherlands Antilles reports that the incidence of epidemics are low, though the Netherlands Antilles are situated in tropical latitude. Campaigns are also reported which are designed to eradicate such diseases as yellow fever. New Zealand reports intensive immunization campaigns among school children and states that New Zealand in recent years has been almost completely free of such diseases as cholera, smallpox and typhus. In Thailand, the licensing of opium smoking was abolished on 1 July 1959, and Thailand provides statistics on its continuing campaign in this area for the period under review (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 18, 25 and 23).

(4) The creation of conditions which would assure to all medical services and medical attention in the event of sickness

26. Under legislation enacted in 1971 a new Health Insurance Scheme became effective in Denmark as of 1 April 1973. The Health Insurance Act divides the population into two groups according to income, with persons in group one being entitled to free medical care and those in group two receiving certain allowances for their medical expenses. Finland, in its reply, provides extensive details of its system of health care. In Finland, the infant mortality rate, for instance, is reported to be the second lowest in the world, while adult mortality, especially in males, is exceptionally high. Finland further reports that its health situation could be described as deviant from many other industrialized and economically developed countries.

27. In Ghana an increase in the number of health centres is reported, and in the period under review, new programmes were undertaken to disseminate health care as widely as possible. Health reform is reported by Italy to be at an advanced stage in that country. The main purpose of this reform is the assumption by the State of full responsibility for the organization of health care and protection. Italy reports further that the working environment has been singled out as the focal point for preventive action to offset the negative effects on health of technical progress. The Netherlands Antilles reports a national scheme in which people with low incomes are entitled to free medical treatment (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 19, 17, 24 and 18).

E. The right of the family, motherhood and childhood to protection and assistance

(1) Rights of the family to protection and assistance

28. In Ghana Article 13 of the 1969 Constitution provides for the right of women and children to enjoy special care and assistance. Denmark reports amendments to its

Child and Other Family Allowances Act. The amendments simplify the child allowance scheme and Denmark also reports the inclusion of a provision in its Social Welfare Act to take care of the needs of single parents with low incomes. New Zealand reports an extensive set of laws aimed at maintaining, strengthening and protecting the family. The most important of these are the Domestic Proceedings Act 1968 and the Matrimonial Proceedings Act of 1963.

29. In Finland, several acts designed to reform the system of family allowances were enacted. Finland also provides statistics on the number of its child guidance clinics, childrens' homes, childrens' day centres, as well as statistical details of Finland's child welfare allowances and family allowances in regard to housing (E/CN.4/1155/Add.17, 21, 25 and 19).

(2) Right of mothers to special care and assistance, including the provision of child care facilities adequate to permit women to pursue careers

30. In Denmark, under legislation enacted on 4 June 1969, the rules on refund of wages to home help have been aligned with provisions of Denmark's Welfare and Care of the Handicapped Act. Denmark also reports the abolition of maternity entitlements. Henceforth, mothers in Denmark will be granted maternity aid in conformity with the provisions of the Welfare Act. In Finland the Childrens Day Care Act of 19 January 1973 provided a statutory framework for day care facilities throughout Finland. Two laws enacted in Italy during the period under review are reported to represent substantial progress towards the full recognition of motherhood in Italy as a social factor. Act No.1044 of 1971 provides for the institution of State assisted municipal crèches. Act No.1024 of 1971 sets forth new norms for the protection of the working mother.

31. Furthermore, under Act No.281 of 1970, Ordinary Statute Regions were given legislative powers with respect to public welfare, health assistance and public assistance. In New Zealand, the Social Security Act has provided for some years for extensive anti-natal, neo-natal and post-natal attention. Free anti-natal clinics exist in many areas. Finally, in 1970, in Ghana, the Government made it obligatory for all employers to grant three months maternity leave with full pay to their pregnant female employees (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 19, 25 and 17).

(3) Right of children and young persons to special care and assistance

32. New Zealand reports the adoption in 1969 of the Status of Children Act. Also relevant is the Health Camp Act of 1972 which relates to camps which provide children from the lower economic groups with the facilities to regain health in a short time. In Denmark, effective 1 April 1972, costs defrayed by day care institutions for medical supervision shall again be covered by the Central Government. Legislation of 21 March 1973 also amends the rules governing foster parents in Denmark. And in Ghana, the Labour Decree of 1967 includes provisions protecting young people by, for instance, the prohibition of their employment when they are under 15 years of age (E/CN.4/1155/Add.25, 21 and 17).

(4) Right of parents to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children

33. In Denmark Act No.350 of 1973 provides that any woman who is a resident of Denmark shall be entitled to have an abortion performed prior to the expiry of the twelfth week of pregnancy. Act No.318 of 1973 provides that any person in Denmark over 25 years of age shall have the right to be sterilized without special permission.

In Norway, an Act of 16 June 1972 provides improved facilities in the family planning field. The Government has also announced that it intends to submit a Bill on abortion to Parliament. The Bill also forms part of a comprehensive policy concerning the family. In New Zealand the Government has in recent years extended the role of Department of Health officers from an educational one to one of active participation in Family Planning Association clinics (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 20 and 25).

F. The right to education

(1) The right to free primary education

34. In Italy Act No.477 of 1973 empowers the Government to issue Decrees on the re-structuring of the school system. Italy reports a major expansion in the number of enrolments in free primary schools. In Norway an Act concerning the Basic School entered into force on 1 July 1971. From that date statutory compulsory school attendance was extended to nine years. In addition, it is the Government's intention to make specific provisions for handicapped children. In Ghana, the Accelerated Development Programme is reported as significant along with the 1961 Education Act. Primary education in the Netherlands Antilles is reported to be free, and New Zealand reports that its children, between the ages of five and fifteen, enjoy free education without discrimination. The Education Act of 1964 provides for free and secular education in State and secondary schools between the ages of five and nineteen years and compulsory education for all children between the ages of six and fifteen years (E/CN.4/1155/Add.24, 20, 17, 18 and 25).

(2) Right to equal access to higher education on the basis of capacity or merit, including technical, vocational and professional education

35. In Italy, Act No.910 of 1969 improves the access of students to higher education on the basis of merit. Act No.754 of 1969 provides, further, for the introduction of special courses to improve the cultural background of students. Under an Act of 19 June 1969 in Norway, entitled Financial Support for Young People undergoing Higher Education, the State provides economic assistance to students. In the Netherlands Antilles, during the period under review, two draft Ordinances governing primary and secondary education were submitted to Parliament with the aim of educational reform. A further draft Ordinance improves the facilities of the University of the Netherlands Antilles. In Thailand measures were adopted with the purpose of improving such access to higher education. The Ramkhamhaeng University Act of 1971 established a university which, among other things, is open to students who cannot enter other universities. Thailand also reports as relevant the aid it receives from UNESCO and UNDP which is designed to establish an increased number of educational facilities. In Ghana the Continuation Schools Programme began in 1969, and the Government reports the extension of access to educational facilities without regard to discrimination. The Netherlands Antilles reports equal access in the same way on the basis of merit, while New Zealand reports that it similarly implements this human right. In New Zealand abolition of the proficiency examination removed the last barrier to such access, it is reported (E/CN.4/1155/Add.24, 20, 18, 23, 17 and 25).

(3) Right of parents to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children

36. Parents in the Netherlands Antilles are free to choose the type of schooling they feel is best for their children. This right of parents is also reported by New Zealand to be fully implemented. Under the Education Act of 1964 parents in New Zealand may also enrol their children in private schools (E/CN.4/1155/Add.18 and 25).

G. The right to participate freely in cultural life(1) Right to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications

37. This right has been extended in Denmark through various Parliamentary Acts of which the most important are: No.275 of 18 June 1969 on the National Endowment for the Arts; Act No.314 of 1969 on the Conservation of Nature; Act No.241 of 1970 on the theatre; Act No.236 of 1972 on films and cinemas, and Act No.421 of 1973 on radio and television. In New Zealand the right to participate freely in all spheres of New Zealand life and culture is an expected norm, it is reported. In 1969 New Zealand's Race Relations Act further protected this right and New Zealand reports its policy of deliberately perserving its heritage of mixed European, Polynesian and Asian origins. In Norway this human right is similarly adhered to and an Act of 18 June 1971 provides for the promotion of cultural activities by means of a National Library System. State funds are also allocated for library facilities for the blind. Thailand reports the "Announcement of the National Executive Council of 1972" which sought to prevent unlawful excavations as destructive to the national heritage. A similar Announcement No.308 of 1972 amends some sections of the Ancient Places, Antiques, Artistic Materials and National Museums Act of 1961 with the purpose of providing further protection for the national culture and heritage. In Ghana, since 1972, regional and national art festivals are reported to have been organized and local language teaching in schools has also been promoted by the Ministry of Education. Italy reports as an important development, the institution of Ordinary Statute Regions which were given responsibilities in regard to museums and libraries. There is no restriction, Italy further reports, on the rights of Italian citizens to participate freely in cultural life (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 25, 23, 17 and 24).

(2) Right to the protection of the moral and material interests arising out of scientific, literary or artistic work

38. In Denmark Acts No.174 and 175, both of 21 March 1973, amending the Copyright Act and the Copyright of Photographs Act, respectively, lay down provisions with respect to ratification of the Berne Convention, revised in Paris on 24 July 1971, on the safeguarding of literary and artistic works. It is reported by Norway that its Right to Inventions Made by Employees Act of 17 April 1970, protects those persons who have made certain inventions in the service of their employers. The Act nevertheless imposes certain limitations on this principle. For example, the employee will be bound, in certain cases, to place his invention at the disposal of his employer in return for remuneration. New Zealand reports that legislative measures in force ensure the protection of the rights arising out of the creation of scientific, literary or artistic works (E/CN.4/1155/Add.21, 20 and 25).

IV. Action with a view to ensure that the rights referred to under III above are enjoyed by increasing numbers of the population and without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status

39. Guatemala reports as relevant its regulations concerning the application of International Labour Conventions Nos.58, 79, 81, 90 and 112. In New Zealand the relevant legislative measures are the Status of Children Act of 1969 and the Race Relations Act of 1971. The former Act removed the term "illegitimate" from New Zealand legislation, while the latter Act continued to ensure equal opportunities for all without regard to discrimination. The position of Race Relations Conciliator was also created in New Zealand with the purpose of investigating possible discriminatory

practices. Thailand reports in this regard that economic, social and cultural rights are especially taught in schools and colleges, as well as through the media (E/CN.4/1155/Add.22, 25 and 23).

V. Difficulties experienced in ensuring the enjoyment of the rights referred to under III above, and methods and measures applied to overcome such difficulties

40. New Zealand reports as relevant the adoption in 1973 of the Domestic Purposes Act. In 1969 the Royal Commission on Social Security had examined the position of small groups of socially or economically disadvantaged people. The Act grew out of their findings. New Zealand also reports, for instance, that Maori women tend to have their children at a younger age than their European counterparts. This tendency, combined with the stresses of urbanization, gave cause for concern on the grounds of physical or emotional immaturity. New Zealand therefore emphasizes the need for child-care facilities in order to better facilitate women's choice of roles within society. In addition, New Zealand reports that the difficulty most frequently encountered is not how to prevent abuses of human rights in New Zealand but how to make citizens more aware of their rights and more aware of the many avenues that lie open in New Zealand for the implementation of these human rights.

41. The difficulties reported by Thailand, in this context, mainly concern the threat of political terrorism. Such terrorism has involved government spending in combating social disruption. The resources thus reflected would otherwise have been spent in economic, social and cultural development (E/CN.4/1155/Add.25 and 23).

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