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ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

I. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF UNITED NATIONS BODIES
ADOPTED DURING 1974 AND AFFECTING THE ADVISORY SERVICES
PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Commission on Human Rights (thirtieth session) and Sub-Commission on
Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities
(twenty-seventh session)

1. The Commission on Human Rights, at its 1287th meeting, on 7 March 1974, had decided to postpone to its thirty-first session the consideration of item 23 on Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights. 1/ The report of the Secretary-General concerning this item, which was issued as document E/CN.4/1136, is still before the Commission.

2. At its twenty-seventh session the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted resolution 5 (XXVII) of 19 August 1974 entitled "Exploitation of Labour through Illicit and Clandestine Trafficking." The resolution in its operative paragraph 5 requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of holding a seminar under United Nations auspices, as part of the programme of advisory services, with the participation of specialized agencies in the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to study the question on a systematic and multidisciplinary basis.

B. General Assembly (twenty-eighth session)

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 3195 A (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, appropriated funds for the biennium 1974-1975 for technical assistance programmes, including funds for the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights.

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5464)

II. SEMINARS

A. Programme of seminars for the biennium 1974-1975

4. An international seminar on "The promotion and protection of the human rights of national, ethnic and other minorities" was held in Ohrid, Yugoslavia, from 25 June to 8 July 1974. This was the second seminar to be held on this topic, the first being the seminar on the subject of the multinational society on a world-wide basis in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, from 8 to 21 June 1965. The seminar adopted a substantial report containing a number of conclusions. 2/

5. The programme for 1975 provides for three seminars. The Secretary-General has accepted an invitation from the Government of Ecuador to act as host to a seminar in 1975. The topic of this seminar will be racial discrimination, and the seminar agenda and other organizational matters are now under discussion. Other governments have expressed interest in acting as hosts to seminars to be organized in 1975. The Commission will be informed of further developments regarding the programme of seminars for 1975.

B. Programme of seminars for 1976 and thereafter

6. At the invitation of the Government of Lesotho, an international seminar on migrant workers is scheduled to be held in October 1976 in Lesotho. Other governments expressed interest to act as hosts to future seminars, and consultations are taking place with some of those governments in this regard.

C. The Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

7. The programme for the Decade provided for the organization, at both the international and regional levels, of seminars on special aspects of combating racism and racial discrimination and promoting racial harmony. In this connexion, the Secretary-General intends to plan the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights for this year and thereafter, in such a way that several seminars could be held on those subjects.

III. FELLOWSHIPS

A. Extent of participation in the 1974 programme, nature of awards, fields of study and programme for 1975

8. Human rights fellowships are available, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 926 (X), to qualified candidates nominated by Member States who are planning to study any subject in the field of human rights of concern to the United Nations (as defined in United Nations covenants, declarations and resolutions with regard to universal respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms) provided, however, that the subject is not one that falls within the scope of other existing technical assistance programmes or one for which adequate advisory assistance is available through a specialized agency.

2/ For the report of the seminar, see ST/TAO/HR.49.

9. In the selection of candidates, preference is given to persons having direct responsibilities in the field of implementation of human rights in their respective countries.

10. In 1974, the Secretary-General received 105 governmental nominations for individual human rights fellowships. The Secretary-General has attempted, so far as it was possible, to ensure broad distribution of fellowships among nationalities. Within the financial resources available to him in 1974, 24 awards for individual fellowships were recommended to candidates from 23 countries. Awards have been made to candidates nominated by four Governments participating in the programme for the first time.

11. It should be noted that unlike previous years the above figure does not include the number of human rights fellowships awarded to persons for the study of subjects strictly related to the field of status of women and which fall within the activities of the Branch for the promotion of Equality of Men and Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

12. 1974 human rights fellows were selected from the following countries (an asterisk indicates participation in the programme for the first time): Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Burma*, Chile, Ecuador, France, Ghana, India, Iraq, Israel, Khmer, Kuwait*, Liberia, Mali*, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka and Zaire*.

13. Candidates nominated by Governments in 1974 continued to be of a high level as far as their qualifications were concerned. The recipients of fellowship awards in 1974 included, in particular, government officials with responsibility for the administration of justice and for drafting legislation as well as officials of ministries of education, justice, interior and of police departments.

14. A selected list of the fields of study in which human rights fellowships have been awarded is set forth in the annex to the document.

15. The Secretary-General will continue to provide in 1975, as appropriate, human rights fellowships within the available financial resources.

16. The Secretary-General is also exploring with interested governments the possibility of organizing further regional training courses on human rights in future years in accordance with resolution 17 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights. It may be recalled that the last such course was held at the National Center for Social and Criminological Research in Cairo, Egypt, from 18 June to 7 July 1973 on the subject "Human Rights in the Administration of Criminal Justice." The report on the course appeared in a special issue of the National Review of Social Sciences published by the Center and is now available to members of the Commission.

Partial list of areas of study
for recent human rights fellowship awards

Protection of human rights in a multinational society

Measures to safeguard the human rights of refugees

Measures designed to advance the observance of the human rights of the indigenous population, with particular reference to matters concerning the sedentarization of nomads

Protection of the human rights of immigrants and resident aliens

Advancement of human rights in the formulation and implementation of economic and social legislation

Implementation of the economic and social rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Protection of human rights in the drafting and implementation of legislation, with special reference to methods of implementation at the national level of international conventions on human rights with regard to both law and practice

Judicial organization and administration in relation to the protection of human rights

Protection of human rights in the administration of justice

Protection of human rights in the administration of justice, with special reference to periods of emergency

Role of the police in the protection of human rights, with particular reference to the special needs of new immigrants and of groups of varying ethnic origins

Legal aid and legal advice provisions in civil and criminal courts

Protection of human rights in preliminary investigations and pre-trial proceedings, with special emphasis on legal representation

Right of the accused to a speedy trial

Protection of the human rights of convicted and released offenders and of their families

The use of the writ of habeas corpus in the protection of human rights

Judicial and other remedies against the abuse of administrative authority

Role of the ombudsman and related institutions in relation to the protection of the rights of the citizen

Protection of human rights in criminal procedure

Protection of human rights in criminal procedure, with particular emphasis on the treatment and rehabilitation of criminal offenders in need of psychiatric care

The role of the public prosecutor in the protection of human rights with reference to the protection of human rights in criminal procedure

Human environment and human rights

Protection of human rights in armed conflicts

Human rights and scientific and technological developments

Protection of human rights in the administration of justice with special reference to civil law and procedure

The protection of human rights in developing countries

Education of youth in the respect for human rights

Protection of rights relating to individual ownership or property

The role of the police in the protection of human rights

Participation in local administration as a means of promoting human rights

Human rights and the promotion of freedom of information

Protection of human rights in the solution of labour disputes

The use of the write of certiorari as a means of protecting human rights

Protection of human rights of the disabled through rehabilitation and legislation

Methods of taking due account of the requirements in respect of human rights in the formulation of legislation and government decrees and regulations