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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Working Group on Slavery
Forth session

THE SALE OF CHILDREN

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 5 (XXIX) of 31 August 1976, the Sub-Commission requested the Working Group "to continue its study of the problems of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including ... such manifestations as the sale of children ...".

2. It may be recalled that in the discussion of the question at the twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the Sub-Commission, various slavery-like practices relating to children were mentioned, including the sale of children for adoption and other purposes. Since the issuance of document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/11, two replies received from governments pursuant to Sub-Commission resolutions 11 (XXVII) of 21 August 1974 and 5 (XXIX) of 31 August 1976 were relevant to this question. The full texts of these replies were reproduced in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/16.

3. The Government of Iran communicated on 7 April 1978 that article 202 of the Penal Code punishes the stealing of children for the purpose of selling them or for any other illegal purpose.

4. In its reply of 20 February 1978, the Government of New Zealand stated that Section 98 of the Crimes Act of 1961 punishes the parent or guardian of any child who delivers that child to another person with the intent that the child or his labour shall be exploited.