



Twelfth session

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The consideration of the draft International Covenants on Human Rights, which was begun at the ninth session of the General Assembly, was continued at the tenth and eleventh sessions. At the tenth session, the Third Committee adopted the texts of the preamble and of article 1 for both the draft Covenant on Economic and Social Rights and the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.^{1/}
2. At the eleventh session, the Third Committee agreed to begin discussion of the substantive articles of the former Covenant and continue with the substantive articles of the latter. It decided further that, upon the adoption of the substantive articles of both Covenants, it would take up the general provisions in part II of each Covenant. The Third Committee was able to adopt, at that session, the texts of articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13 and a combined text of articles 11 and 12 of the draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The proceedings of the Third Committee are reported in document A/3525.^{2/}
3. At its 656th plenary meeting on 20 February 1957, the General Assembly decided that the consideration of the draft Covenants should be continued at the twelfth session. It may be noted that, in connexion with the item on the agenda of its eleventh session entitled "Interim measures, pending entry into

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 28, part I, document A/3077.

^{2/} Ibid., Eleventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 31.

force of the Covenants on human rights, to be taken with respect to violations of human rights set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", the Assembly adopted resolution 1041 (XI), by which, inter alia, it decided that: (1) the Third Committee should devote enough time to its discussion of the draft Covenants to be able to complete their consideration, if possible, by the end of the thirteenth session, for adoption by the Assembly at that session; and (2) the Committee should discuss, at the beginning of the twelfth session, how many meetings should be devoted to the consideration of the draft Covenants.

4. The original text of the draft Covenants and proposals relating thereto are contained in the report of the tenth session of the Commission on Human Rights;^{3/} the changes introduced in article 1 of both Covenants in the report of the Third Committee at the tenth session of the General Assembly (A/3077); and the texts of articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, the combined articles 11 and 12, and 13 of the draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the report of the Third Committee at the eleventh session of the Assembly (A/3525). The observations of Governments and of specialized agencies on the draft Covenants submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 833 (IX) are contained in documents A/2910 and Add.1-6, and A/2907 and Add.1-2.^{4/} An annotation of the text of the draft Covenants prepared by the Secretary-General, pursuant to the same resolution of the General Assembly, was distributed as document A/2929,^{5/} and a compilation of amendments and proposed new articles will be found in document A/C.3/L.460.^{4/}

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- ^{3/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/2573), annexes I, II and III.
- ^{4/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 28, part I.
- ^{5/} Ibid., part II.