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NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORDER

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly at its forty-third session adopted two resolutions on 8 December 1988 dealing with humanitarian matters: resolution 43/129 entitled "New international humanitarian order" and resolution 43/130 entitled "Promotion of international co-operation in the humanitarian field".
2. In resolution 43/129, the General Assembly encouraged Governments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations that had not yet done so to provide their comments and expertise to the Secretary-General regarding the humanitarian order and the report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues. It also invited the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and further strengthen its essential role in following up its work.
3. Further, in that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations and the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the progress made by them.
4. In resolution 43/130, the General Assembly encouraged the international community to contribute substantially and regularly to international humanitarian activities, called upon Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations further to develop international co-operation in the humanitarian field and invited all non-governmental organizations concerned with the humanitarian issues examined by the Independent Commission and working with strictly humanitarian motives to bear in mind the recommendations and suggestions made in the report of the Independent Commission in the context of their policies and actions in the field.
5. In that resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue his contacts with Governments, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as with the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues and, taking into account information received, to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session a report on possible ways and means of strengthening international co-operation in the humanitarian field.
6. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 43/129 and 43/130.
7. In preparation of the present report, the Secretary-General, on 13 February 1989, sent notes verbales to Governments to inquire whether they wished to contribute views or information to the report. Appropriate inquiries were also sent, on the same date, to United Nations organs and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations in consultative status and to the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues. On 22 March 1990, the Secretary-General reiterated his requests to them.

8. As at 1 September 1990, substantive comments on the topic were received from the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Holy See, Mongolia, Panama and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Department of Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Trusteeship and Decolonization of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also sent relevant communications. Information was also received from the following non-governmental organizations: International Federation of Resistance Movements, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, International League for the Rights and the Liberation of Peoples, Inter-Parliamentary Union and World Muslim Congress.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

[Original: Russian]

[20 July 1989]

1. The Byelorussian SSR considers that the establishment of a new international humanitarian order is an essential prerequisite for creating an international climate that would help strengthen peace and comprehensive security.
2. Through the joint efforts of States and acting in accordance with the new political thinking, it has been possible to avert the threat of war. The consideration of diverse interests, the primacy of values common to all mankind, the pre-eminence of political means for solving international problems, the transition from confrontation to dialogue and other essential aspects of the new political thinking have led to appreciable and irreversible positive changes.
3. The Byelorussian SSR believes that, in order to establish a new international humanitarian order, it is first of all necessary to understand that, in view of the interdependent nature of the contemporary world, humanitarian problems are closely linked to problems in the political, military, economic and ecological fields. Co-operation in the humanitarian field must be based on mutual respect on the part of States and their good-neighborliness. In order to solve long-term humanitarian problems, effective measures must be taken to ensure general peace, security and true freedom.
4. In order to create a qualitatively new moral and psychological climate in international relations, the United Nations must step up its efforts to strengthen the principles and norms, in respect of which the most diverse political, philosophical and religious beliefs considering man, human life and the worth of the individual as the highest value are in agreement. The establishment of a new international humanitarian order must be based on international co-operation in the field of human rights.

5. International humanitarian problems cannot be solved without the joint efforts and sincere commitment of the entire international community. The Byelorussian SSR shares the view that human solidarity is one of the means of tackling global humanitarian problems. There must be greater international co-operation in solving such urgent problems as hunger, disease, poverty, drug addiction, illiteracy and improving the difficult situation of certain population groups and victims of accidents, natural disasters, local conflicts and environmental degradation.

6. Universal accession to the international legal documents in the field of human rights would be an important step. In order to achieve this, the States that have not yet done so should, as speedily as possible, become parties to the covenants and other documents and should bring their domestic legislation into line with international norms and standards. This would be a real contribution to both the immediate protection of human rights and the strengthening of international co-operation in the field. Concerted action by national bodies and international and national non-governmental organizations is also an essential element of such co-operation.

7. The humanitarian sphere of relations is very delicate and readily influenced by the state of relations between States. It is a sphere in which not only such basic principles of international law as respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, but also the traditions and customs of peoples and the fate of peoples and individuals come into contact with one another and become interwoven. Successful humanitarian co-operation, therefore, is incompatible with the spirit of confrontation, the launching of slander campaigns and other manifestations of enmity.

8. A joint search for the best solutions to the urgent problems confronting mankind is the practical expression of international co-operation in the humanitarian field. Work on defining the concept itself of international co-operation in this field must be continued. That concept as well as the norms and principles governing such co-operation must be defined more carefully and made more precise.

9. The Byelorussian SSR has always participated actively in broadening international co-operation in the humanitarian field. Its representatives took part in drawing up the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international covenants on human rights, and other important documents on these questions. The Byelorussian SSR is a party to all basic international human rights agreements concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and conscientiously fulfils the obligations that it has undertaken in this regard.

Czechoslovakia

[Original: English]

[17 July 1990]

1. The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic expressed its support to General Assembly resolutions 43/129 and 43/130 entitled "New international humanitarian order" and "Promotion of international co-operation in the humanitarian field". It regards those resolutions of the international community adopted by consensus as the expression of a justified search for new methods and forms of co-operation in the humanitarian sphere corresponding to the call of the time. It understands these efforts also as part of the building of a new international order which would be in harmony with the principles of respect, law and ethics, one, that should become the basis for the development of truly democratic, humanistic international relations worthy of the coming twenty-first century. Czechoslovakia will support each and every initiative aimed at the advancement of humanitarian protection and of human rights, including the development of the relevant international mechanisms.

2. As a prerequisite of effective humanitarian co-operation Czechoslovakia regards first and foremost an all-round protection and exercise of human rights and civil freedoms. This requires that all countries consequently abide in their domestic policies and foreign relations by the provisions of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international covenants on human rights and the appropriate conventions on genocide, apartheid, racism and racial discrimination, torture, discrimination against women, the rights of the child, the rights of migrant workers and their families, and of other relevant international documents. Such co-operation can be substantially facilitated by an active and constructive approach to the crucial challenges of the present interdependent world where humanitarian questions are mutually linked with global problems in the political, military, economic, social and environmental spheres. A primary attention must be paid in this context to such problems as the use and threat of force, poverty, illness, natural catastrophes, major transport and technological accidents, homelessness, re-unification of families, illiteracy and others. Concrete steps by individual countries in this field will strengthen confidence needed for joint action by the United Nations Member States. Against this background, Czechoslovakia appreciates the conclusions, proposals and suggestions of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues contained in its report submitted to the General Assembly two years ago.

3. The United Nations has an indispensable role to play in the harmonization of these efforts. It is up to this Organization to work out as soon as possible, through the engagement of its specialized agencies working in the humanitarian sphere, the concept, functional framework, criteria, rules of procedure, co-ordinating mechanism and flexible practical applications of humanitarian assistance acceptable to all United Nations Member States. The drafting by a mandated commission of experts of humanitarian principles which would be discussed in the respective committees of the General Assembly, including the Sixth Committee wherever legal principles are concerned, should be the first step on the path of building a new humanitarian order.

4. Czechoslovakia suggests for consideration the setting up of a commission of specialists in international (humanitarian) law to address all questions connected with the international humanitarian order. Account should be taken also of the opinions of such organs and institutions as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, etc. States should be given the opportunity again to submit their views in the form of a special questionnaire drawn up by such a commission.
5. It would be useful to establish in future a permanent technical and material United Nations reserve fund for immediate humanitarian assistance in cases of emergency in various parts of the world. This approach also presupposes the strengthening of the role of the relevant United Nations bodies, especially of the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Office at Geneva and of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna, as well as that of the important and well-proved instruments of providing assistance and services in this sphere.
6. For its part, Czechoslovakia is ready to participate in the preparation of a concept of providing humanitarian assistance through United Nations channels. For the purpose of a practical implementation of such a concept in future it will consider, according to the specific needs and requirements, material assistance as well as the possibility to delegate a team of Czechoslovak specialists in the field of health care and, possibly, also in other fields.

Germany, Federal Republic of

[Original: English]

[27 June 1990]

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany continues to attach great importance to international co-operation in the humanitarian field and refers in this context to its note of 9 August 1988 (see A/43/734, sect. II).
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany considers that developments in the past few years have shown that the exchange of experience and international co-operation in the humanitarian field have not yet reached the desirable and necessary level. This affects spheres such as "early warning", "disaster preparedness", "pre-disaster planning", "emergency assistance", "disaster relief" and "rehabilitation". Improvements could be achieved by expanding the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. In this context, the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction can provide a framework for progress. The organs of the Decade and the numerous humanitarian-oriented organizations within and outside the United Nations system should create, together with governmental and non-governmental organizations, a flexible world-wide information and communication network aimed at reducing vulnerability in emergencies and increase the efficiency of international aid.

3. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is convinced that humanitarian problems can be effectively countered only if all parties concerned are prepared to co-operate efficiently and if the cost and burdens of aid are assumed by a larger group of donors than heretofore.

Holy See

[Original: French]

[11 July 1989]

In response to the information requested for the drafting of the report to be presented on this twofold and significant question, the Permanent Mission of the Holy See, on behalf of the Secretariat of State of His Holiness, has the honour to inform you that the official position of the Church concerning social affairs and human rights is fully set forth in the encyclical Sollicitudo Rei Socialis (issues 39 to 43, pp. 77-86) of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

Mongolia

[Original: Russian]

[September 1989]

1. The development and strengthening of international co-operation in the humanitarian field is a determining factor in strengthening mutual trust among States and bringing about truly proper and civilized norms of international intercourse and co-operation, which in turn will promote the establishment of a new international humanitarian order.

2. In order to bring about in international relations a new constructive approach to the question of humanitarian co-operation it is necessary to eliminate confrontation and interference in internal affairs from that sphere and reject the stereotypes of the past with regard to other countries and peoples. One must be guided by the values common to all mankind, search for new, creative criteria and forms of co-operation between States, find areas where interests and positions coincide, and exchange positive experience in solving urgent current problems.

3. The creation of just, truly humane conditions for ensuring the pre-eminent human right to life in peace and freedom must be the fundamental goal of international co-operation in this field. The efforts of States must focus on the paramount goal of the survival of mankind. For this, it is first and foremost necessary to step up joint efforts to disseminate the ideas of peace and security and inculcate in peoples a spirit of peace and respect for the way of life, values and traditions of others.

4. Mongolia believes that international co-operation in the humanitarian field, including efforts to encourage and increase a respect for human rights, can be raised to a qualitatively higher level, if all States observe the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations and strictly fulfil the obligations that they have assumed under the corresponding international legal documents. This first of all entails the accession by all States to the basic international human rights documents, particularly the international covenants on human rights, as well as the conventions against genocide, apartheid, racism and racial discrimination, discrimination against women and others. In other words, they must become truly universal in nature.

5. The further codification of the "third generation of human rights", such as the right to peace, the right to development, the right to a better and safe environment and so forth, would be an important step in this direction.

6. Co-operation in the humanitarian field must be oriented towards carrying out the most pressing tasks in the field of human rights. They include, in our view, the elimination of all forms of mass violations of human rights, particularly, the eradication of the policy and practice of racism, apartheid, zionism, and also excluding the use of force from international relations.

7. Co-operation in implementing economic, social, cultural, and civil and political rights is also important. Here, States must co-operate in order to ensure that every individual is able to implement effectively and really his basic rights - the right to work, education, health care and social security, to make use of the achievements of culture and to the development of democracy and social justice.

8. The strengthening of international co-operation in the humanitarian field should be given careful consideration in the corresponding social and humanitarian bodies of the United Nations. It is necessary, in particular, to improve the work and enhance the effectiveness of the system of international bodies and specialized agencies in the field, and, especially, to expand the role of UNESCO in that work. Developing and further defining the concept of international co-operation in the humanitarian field, once its principles and priorities have been established, is an important task.

9. Further joint efforts within the framework of the United Nations are necessary in order to improve the situation of various vulnerable population groups - women, the elderly, the disabled, young people and children - and also to find new, effective ways and means to carry out international programmes and plans in this regard, including the sharing of experience and information.

10. The practical content and ultimate objective of international co-operation in the humanitarian field must also include the joint search for optimum solutions to the urgent problems facing mankind, including those of a legal, social and ecological nature, such as hunger, disease, extreme poverty, environmental degradation, natural disasters, unemployment, homelessness, illiteracy and others.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]

[4 July 1990]

1. The Government of the Republic of Panama welcomes all measures to protect human rights and to improve the human rights situation in general.
2. Therefore, in view of the growing number of conflicts, which are daily becoming more deadly and more persistent in view of the inhuman treatment engendered by ideological, religious or racial extremism, and in view of the loss of respect for the law, only a mobilization of Governments and peoples can restore an acceptable level of human behaviour in armed conflicts, even if solutions cannot be found. We hope that most of the conflicts can be resolved through the peaceful means of dialogue and negotiation, which appears to be the trend in today's world and represents the ideal to be achieved.
3. Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Panama believes that the new international humanitarian order should be based on efforts to achieve a lasting peace. Such a peace should involve not only the absence of war but also co-operation between all peoples. It should be based on freedom, independence, national sovereignty, equality and respect for human rights. While there have been some significant gains in what we term international humanitarian law, in our opinion, a satisfactory level of implementation has not yet been achieved, owing to discrepancies in the application of that law.
4. Consequently, an extensive review of international humanitarian norms and laws should be undertaken. This would reveal the gaps which need to be filled, the duplications which should be eliminated and the institutions which must be restructured in order to achieve a genuine new international order in the field of human rights.
5. Thus, the Government of the Republic of Panama is committed, together with its people and the international community, to defending the humanitarian principles which underlie human rights and fundamental freedoms (enshrined in our Constitution) and is striving to improve living conditions in general, as a means of achieving international humanitarian co-operation.
6. Nevertheless, in the search for concrete ways to develop international humanitarian law, special attention should be paid to the promotion, exercise and widespread acceptance of the right to peace, which is a fundamental individual and collective right of persons and nations. To achieve such a goal, the countries of the world must accept all the existing instruments and of all those which might be proposed; these instruments must also be generally applied as a preliminary step towards the establishment of a new international humanitarian order.
7. We believe that the main objective of international humanitarian co-operation should be to create decent conditions of material and spiritual life for all peoples and for each individual human being.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

[Original: Russian]

[12 July 1990]

1. The Soviet Union is deeply convinced of the need to give further impetus to international co-operation in the humanitarian field. The many very urgent humanitarian problems facing mankind require adequate solutions. Although the contribution by the United Nations to the search for ways to bring about such solutions has been considerable, it could, in our view, be further expanded. This idea has been confirmed by the adoption at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the resolution on enhancing peace, security and international co-operation in all its aspects in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 44/21).
2. As the positive global trend towards the humanization and democratization of relations between States gathers momentum today, man, with his various needs and concerns and the individual dignity that is inherent in him alone, must, we are convinced, increasingly become the focal point of the combined efforts of the world organization.
3. The ideas set forth in all three resolutions adopted at the forty-third session of the General Assembly on the question of a new international humanitarian order (resolutions 43/129, 43/130 and 43/131), in our view, really promote progress towards achieving this goal. Each of them is original and reflect the views and approaches of specific and extensive regions of the world and groups of States. At the same time, the ideas expressed in all three resolutions are closely linked and compliment one another. The Soviet Union is grateful to the sponsors of its draft resolution, who helped bring about its adoption without a vote, and will be prepared to continue constructive co-operation with all parties who so desire in order to elaborate further the valuable content of this resolution. We are also prepared to continue the exchange of views and co-operation with regard to the two other resolutions (General Assembly resolutions 43/129 and 43/131).
4. If the idea of a new international humanitarian order seems important to us because of the obvious acute nature of the urgent humanitarian problems in the world, the proposal by France concerning international co-operation in providing humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations is attractive to us because of its practical orientation. The ideas set forth in this proposal were given concrete expression in the tragic circumstances for our country, caused by the destructive earthquake in Armenia.
5. In the view of the Soviet Union, it would be useful in this area for Member States to continue within the United Nations the productive exchange of views supporting and developing the initiative of France. In this connection, it might perhaps be worthwhile to consider also the elaboration in future of some generally acceptable criteria for providing international humanitarian assistance in natural disasters with account taken of the wealth of experience of UNDR0, UNHCR, all other United Nations specialized agencies concerned, and also the major international non-governmental organizations active in the humanitarian field.

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III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

A. United Nations

DEPARTMENT FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS, REGIONAL
CO-OPERATION, DECOLONIZATION AND TRUSTEESHIP

[Original: English]

[3 August 1989]

1. The Department of Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship is involved in humanitarian assistance through its Unit on Special Emergency Programmes, which facilitates the initial response of the Secretary-General to all requests on an ad hoc basis for assistance in complex emergencies in African countries.
2. During the period under review, the Unit's activities have centred primarily on the complex emergencies in Mozambique, the Sudan and Somalia.

Mozambique

3. The Government of Mozambique, in order to cope with the devastating effect of the country-wide emergency brought about by the war of destabilization being waged by RENAMO with the assistance of South Africa, undertook to seek increased international assistance under the aegis of the United Nations. In 1987 and 1988, the Secretary-General convened donors conferences in Geneva and Maputo respectively. In 1987, pledges amounting to \$209 million were announced against requirements estimated at \$255 million and contributions were subsequently made to cover all estimated needs through the end of 1987. Similarly, at the 1988 Maputo Conference, pledges totalling \$270 million were announced toward the \$300 million 1988 emergency assistance and rehabilitation programme.
4. In April 1989, on the basis of the report of an inter-agency mission led by the Director of Special Emergency Programmes, the Secretary-General launched a third appeal for emergency and rehabilitation aid for 4.5 million affected and displaced people at a cost of \$380 million for 1989-1990. While the appeal focused principally on food needs, it also called for assistance in logistics, road maintenance, agriculture, health, drinking water, primary education and shelter. However, since that meeting, only \$252 million has been pledged and only \$119 million was allocated by the donors to specific activities. The resulting slowdown could have a grave impact on the emergency programme and on the welfare of the most vulnerable among displaced and affected Mozambicans.

Sudan

5. In June 1988, the Prime Minister of the Sudan requested the Secretary-General to appeal for emergency assistance to help the Sudan cope with the humanitarian problems resulting from years of drought and famine compounded by an ongoing war in

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the south. The Secretary-General was also requested to help the Sudan undertake a comprehensive review of the situation and update existing data on the number, condition and background of the affected population.

6. In August 1988, the Secretary-General sent to the Sudan a high-level mission led by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department. The mission reviewed the situation with high-level government officials and representatives of the donor, United Nations and non-governmental organizations communities and set up detailed criteria for an assessment team. Beginning in late September, a follow-up inter-agency mission composed of representatives from UNDP, UNDR0, UNICEF, FAO, WHO and WFP and headed by the Director for Special Emergency Programmes, spent over three weeks in the Sudan holding further discussions with all parties concerned and visiting the principal locations in the north and central parts of the country where large numbers of the displaced were congregated.

7. Following a request from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations for inclusion in the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Emergency assistance to the Sudan" (A/43/244), the Assembly, on 18 October 1988, adopted resolution 43/8 in which it called upon all States to contribute generously to the needs of relief operations, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the Sudan and requested the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Government of the Sudan, to co-ordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to mobilize resources for that purpose.

8. In pursuance of that resolution, on 27 October, the Secretary-General appealed to donors (A/43/755) to provide immediate financial and material support amounting to \$73 million for urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected populations of the Sudan, including support for food, transport of relief items and assistance for health, water, and other non-food requirements. The Secretary-General also stated that, having examined the report of the needs assessment mission, he considered that the situation in the Sudan constituted a complex emergency and had decided, among other steps, to appoint a Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations and to reactivate the United Nations Emergency Operations Group. The Secretary-General subsequently nominated the UNDP Representative and United Nations Resident Co-ordinator in the Sudan, as Special Co-ordinator.

9. A comprehensive document on urgent humanitarian requirements for the Sudan prepared by the Government of the Sudan in collaboration with the United Nations was issued in November 1988. As regards the overall emergency strategy, the document stated that the first objective was to reduce the incidence of famine, starvation and disease in the transitional zone and in the south by increasing the delivery of food using all transport means available, including road, rail, river and air.

10. Although a delivery programme was instituted, owing to a complex of factors, including disruptions resulting from war strife, the movement of food and other relief supplies into the south was inadequate.

11. In order to avoid a repetition of the mass starvation which had occurred in southern Sudan during the rainy season in 1988, the Government and the United

Nations held a high-level meeting in March 1989 to launch a programme to pre-position massive quantities of food and relief supplies in the affected areas, including those not controlled by the Government, prior to the onset of the rainy season in July. The operation subsequently became known as "Operation Lifeline Sudan".

12. The United Nations Special Co-ordinator was made responsible at the country level for the co-ordination of the United Nations system activities and for liaison with the Government and donors. The Executive Director of UNICEF was appointed the Secretary-General's Personal Representative, with a mandate to contact Governments and international organizations at the highest level to mobilize support for "Operation Lifeline Sudan". He also serves as a point of contact with the Sudan authorities and insurgent forces in matters relating to the safe passage of convoys through "corridors of tranquillity". By the end of July, a total of 85,000 metric tons of supplies, out of a targeted figure of 120,000 metric tons, was pre-positioned at various points in southern Sudan, ready for distribution.

13. At the Khartoum meeting, the cost of the total operation was estimated at some \$133 million, out of which some \$77 million were available. By the end of May, the balance of \$55 million had been raised in cash. However, as the operation progressed, additional financial needs were identified, principally as a result of the recognition that the operation, which had originally been scheduled to terminate on 30 June, would be required to continue until the end of 1989. As of July, it was estimated that \$50 million was still required, principally for programmes of WFP, UNICEF, FAO and ICRC.

Somalia

14. The Secretary-General was requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/206 of 20 December 1988 to continue his efforts to mobilize international assistance and to co-ordinate efforts of the appropriate agencies of the United Nations system in order to respond in a concerted and effective manner to the request of the Government of Somalia for humanitarian assistance.

15. Pursuant to that resolution, an inter-agency mission was dispatched to Somalia in February 1989. In its report, the mission recommended an interim programme of assistance to meet the urgent requirement of approximately 67,500 persons who had been specifically identified by the Somali authorities as having been displaced by the conflict in northern Somalia. The assistance programme would include an initial one-time food aid contribution covering requirements for a three-month period, to be followed by a special ration of food to be given for a period of six months to those who returned to their place of origin. It also included rehabilitation of water systems, assistance in basic health care, hospital rehabilitation and the re-establishment of basic services.

16. The mission noted that when other displaced groups were identified, a more substantial programme of assistance, involving not only humanitarian help, but also assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction, would be required.

17. To deal with the situation, additional staff has been posted to the office of the Resident Co-ordinator who also serves as Special Co-ordinator for emergency relief operations. Also the Director for Special Emergency Programmes visited Somalia in June 1989 to assess the situation and consult with Somali authorities on ways and means of improving the organization and distribution of humanitarian relief supplies.

18. Both the General Assembly as well as the Economic and Social Council have already called upon all States and pertinent international and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously to meet the urgent needs identified by the United Nations inter-agency mission.

19. Unfortunately, the political situation in the north-west continues to impede the activities of the United Nations system in the area, and has made difficult the delivery of emergency relief supplies to the affected population.

20. Close contact is being maintained with the Somali authorities so that as the situation improves in the affected provinces, it will be possible to expand humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of those who are currently inaccessible.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

[Original: English]

[25 September 1989]

1. It is the firm belief of UNHCR that the principles of human solidarity as expressed in General Assembly resolutions 43/129 and 43/130 of 8 December 1988 are both fundamental and indispensable to the search for solutions to global refugee problems. As the High Commissioner declared, inter alia, in the course of a speech delivered in Geneva in December 1988 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, "what distinguishes the many millions of refugees in the world today from other victimized groups is their inability, be it temporary or otherwise, to return to their countries in security and their resulting dependence on international protection. The provision of this protection requires a co-operative effort by States, carried out through the agency of UNHCR and within the framework of agreed international responsibilities. Beyond these responsibilities, however, there is a moral dimension to refugee protection which States have explicitly recognized. Ultimately the protection of refugees is not so much dependent on international conventions as it is on the collective conscience of nations."

2. It has long been recognized by the international community, and reflected in resolutions of the General Assembly, that refugee problems are international in character and scope. In the same spirit, it is broadly accepted that international solidarity is the main guiding principle determining international resolution of refugee problems. Through international solidarity States are assisted in meeting their protection responsibilities, including those relating to provisions of asylum, while with their assistance and co-operation, the fulfilment by the High Commissioner of his humanitarian functions is facilitated.

3. The UNHCR intergovernmental Executive Committee had cause to consider the relationship between international solidarity and refugee protection at its thirty-ninth session in 1988. It adopted a set of conclusions. Through these conclusions the Committee, *inter alia*, expressed its deep concern about the gravity and complexity of refugee problems throughout the world, the serious violations of human rights which accompany them and the dislocation and distress they cause for the millions of individuals involved; reaffirmed that resolution of refugee problems is dependent on the will and capacity of States to respond in concern and whole-heartedly, in a spirit of true humanitarianism and international solidarity.

4. With these considerations in mind, UNHCR actively promotes international co-operation on humanitarian issues in the sphere of refugee protection. During 1989 it played a key role in the organization of two international conferences designed to heighten awareness of and find solutions to the plight of millions of refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees or displaced persons respectively in Central America and South East Asia. The first was the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held in Guatemala from 29-31 May 1989 in collaboration with UNDP and on the initiative of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. Its purpose was to propose new solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons in the region's affected countries. Such solutions will be formulated within a development framework that will also address the needs of the host communities including their displaced persons.

5. The second was the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, held in Geneva from 13-14 June 1989. UNHCR acted as secretariat to this Conference and chaired numerous preparatory meetings needed for its preparation. The Conference adopted a Comprehensive Plan of Action outlining the elements of a possible solution to the problem posed by the continued outflow of Indo-Chinese asylum-seekers. The Plan of Action underscored the spirit of mutual co-operation that should prevail among the countries concerned and the need for them to consult regularly to ensure effective implementation and co-ordination of the measures adopted.

6. UNHCR has also been active in encouraging States to accede to the regional and international instruments relating to refugees, notably the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol. There are now 106 States parties to one or both of these instruments. Hungary is the most recent contracting State and Bangladesh has declared its intention to accede in the near future.

7. The establishment of a new international humanitarian order founded on international solidarity and agreed humanitarian principles and practices is only to be welcomed. It holds out the prospect of meaningful co-operation between all members of the international community in the common pursuit of solutions to the humanitarian problems of our times. These include the plight of the some 14 million refugees world wide. In this regard UNHCR is a sympathetic and committed supporter of this initiative on behalf of millions of refugees world wide.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

[Original: English]

[11 July 1989]

1. General Assembly resolution 43/131 is specifically concerned with the work of UNDRO in bringing humanitarian assistance to the victims of disasters, and calls for a report to be made by the Secretary-General to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.
2. As a first step, an informal inter-agency working group was convened in Geneva on 8 and 9 March 1989 to establish precisely where and in what form obstacles occurred that prevented international organizations from being as effective as they would wish in emergency relief operations, and how these difficulties could be overcome with a view to increasing the speed of delivery of humanitarian assistance.
3. The Office will be responsible for preparing the Secretary-General's report called for by paragraph 8 of resolution 43/131. The Secretary-General's report will, of course, include the results of the recent inter-agency meeting.

B. Specialized agencies

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

[Original: English]

[5 May 1989]

1. FAO shares the concern expressed by the General Assembly about the growing humanitarian challenges and the need to respond to them with properly co-ordinated international action aimed at promoting a new international humanitarian order. It therefore fully subscribes to the substance and approach of General Assembly resolutions 43/129 and 43/130.
2. At this stage, however, FAO is not in a position to indicate what type of action would be more appropriate for strengthening international co-operation in the humanitarian field. Should the General Assembly resolutions entail follow-up action at the international level in favour of specific categories of disadvantaged rural people such as landless workers, rural migrants, nomadic pastoralists, or rural women, FAO would stand ready to provide the necessary technical support and assistance as well as to collaborate with other United Nations agencies towards promoting development and equity in favour of the vulnerable rural groups.
3. Within its mandate in agricultural and rural development, FAO continues to give priority attention to programmes and activities designed to promote the right of disadvantaged rural groups to food, means of production, health, education and employment. The right to food can be conceived as the right of people to food self-sufficiency and food security. The development of a world food security

system has been one of the major themes pursued by FAO in recent years. The main objective of the system is to ensure both physical and economic access to available food supplies on the part of vulnerable social groups. In this context, attention is also given to the special needs of the rural disabled, with emphasis on development activities aimed at reducing the causes of their disabilities and helping handicapped people to find appropriate employment and income opportunities.

4. The right of the affected people to participate in the planning and decision-making processes is also a matter of high priority, which FAO is actively pursuing through its People's Participation Programme. This is fulfilled through its regular programme as well as through trust fund resources being provided by several donors. Special efforts are being made to help small farmers organize themselves through participatory procedures, thus contributing to their own self-reliance in development and to meeting their basic social and economic needs.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

[Original: English]

[5 October 1989]

1. At the 242nd Session of the ILO Governing Body (February-March 1989), the International Organisations Committee had before it a document (GB.241/IO/3/2) on the report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues.

2. In discussing this document, the International Organisations Committee agreed on the need for progress on humanitarian issues, and support was expressed for the work of the Commission. The relevance of ILO standards and activities to those issues was stressed. It was felt that emphasis should also be placed on the role of trade unions and on trade union rights, the economic aspects of development and the role of private enterprise. Reference was also made to the need for further work for the protection of children and to demographic problems in respect of social and economic objectives.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[10 July 1989]

UNESCO noted with interest resolution 43/129. As for resolution 43/130, the following activities are being undertaken by UNESCO in the field of humanitarian issues:

- (a) Dissemination of international humanitarian law:
 - (i) A manual for university teaching "Les dimensions internationales du droit humanitaire" was published in co-operation with the Henry Dunant Institute (French version in 1986; English version in 1988);

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(ii) A monograph "The Treatment of Prisoners under International Law" was published in 1987 by Clarendon Press Oxford/UNESCO. The Spanish version will be published this year;

(b) An emergency relief fund was created by the Executive Board at its 129th session. The Government of Cameroon has so far provided funds;

(c) Under the regular programme, assistance has been given for rebuilding school projects after emergency situations in the following countries: Afghanistan (\$160,000), Bangladesh (\$100,000), Mozambique (\$142,250), Nepal (\$100,000), Sudan (\$100,000), Nicaragua (\$167,000), Costa Rica (\$35,000), and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (\$33,000).

IV. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS

[Original: French]

[11 October 1989]

1. The International Federation of Resistance Movements has always been committed to strengthening the defence of human rights. In taking such a stand, the Federation is acting in accordance with article IV (2) of its statutes, which specifies the goals of the Federation in these terms: "To fight actively, in order to defend and guarantee freedom and human dignity, against all racial, political, philosophical or religious discrimination and against neofascism and neonazism in any form".

2. As a consequence of its moral commitment, the Federation participates fully in the activities of the Special Committee of International NGOs on Human Rights in Geneva and of the Working Group on Human Rights of the NGO Standing Committee of UNESCO in Paris. It regularly attends the meetings of those bodies.

3. Furthermore, at their meetings, the governing bodies of the Federation give extensive consideration to human rights problems; the ways in which human rights can be defended; and the achievement of the widest possible international co-operation. Their concerns in this area are reflected in the documents which are adopted (resolutions, motions, etc.).

4. Thus, for example, meeting in September 1988 in Mariánské Lázně (the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic), the Bureau of the Federation emphasized in an "Address to the 35 States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe" the need to "develop human, civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights and to ensure the respect for and observance of these rights through the adoption of laws and regulations ...". Similarly, the Federation's Executive Committee, which met in Warsaw on 4 September 1989, reaffirmed unanimously that special attention has been accorded

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to the "human dimension" of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and noted that this "human dimension" is considered to be one of the basic elements of the process, a viewpoint which "former members of the Resistance could not fail to welcome". The Address was distributed widely and was sent to the heads of delegations of the 35 States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe at Vienna.

5. Elsewhere, the Federation made a special contribution to the development of international human rights co-operation by sending a delegation to Israel in November 1988; its mandate was to "inform the authorities and the public of the positions of the International Federation with respect to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to study the general situation". During its visit to Israel, the Federation delegation was able to meet not only State officials, Parliamentary deputies and representatives of Jewish organizations but also key Palestinian figures and organizations from the occupied territories. In the course of these interviews, the representatives of the Palestinian people urged the Federation delegation to promote respect for the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions, relating to international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts. The Federation responded to that request by issuing a full report on the delegation's visit to Israel. The report, published in the form of a brochure with a printing of 1,000 copies, was sent to all the national and international agencies, Governments, and specialized agencies concerned. The Federation's Department of Information also gave extensive coverage to the visit.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

[Original: English]

[29 September 1989]

1. The International Institute of Humanitarian Law would like to congratulate the excellent work done by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues which adopted and published very good conclusions and recommendations on different humanitarian issues and to express the hope that competent international and national organizations will follow these recommendations which certainly demand a systematic and organized work.

2. The work of the Institute, which is a private, independent and non-profit organization, created in 1970 and whose primary and fundamental objective is to promote the application, development and dissemination of international humanitarian law in all its dimensions and to contribute to the safeguard and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world, is completely in the line of the recommendations made by the Independent Commission.

3. The programme of activities of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law for 1989 has been already completed with very good results.

4. The military courses organized regularly each year are intended for operational military people in order to strengthen the application and dissemination of international humanitarian law and human rights in armed conflict situations.
5. The refugee law courses regularly organized every year are intended for governmental people responsible at national level for the protection of refugees. These courses give excellent results because governmental officials attending workshops can examine difficult refugee situations and find sometimes, through a direct dialogue, appropriate solutions.
6. Two years ago, in co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, the Institute started to organize human rights courses, also intended for governmental people. The main goal of these courses is to establish a dialogue among governmental officials who are in charge of implementing human rights at national level and to report to competent United Nations bodies on the respect and implementation of human rights at national level.
7. The Institute established a very good dialogue with experts of different groups of countries. The experts discussed current problems in the field of international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law. This kind of dialogue, in particular gave very good results with Arab experts and experts of socialist countries in Europe.
8. Besides the above-mentioned meetings, the Institute organizes working sessions for small groups of experts to deal with specific humanitarian issues; for instance we organized this year a meeting of experts to discuss the problems of the use of chemical weapons. Another meeting was organized to discuss the question on the solutions of refugees.
9. Finally the Institute organizes every year its traditional round table on current problems of international humanitarian law. In September of 1989, more than 160 experts from all over the world discussed the problem of non-international armed conflicts. After a very constructive debate regarding the protection of refugees, the participants adopted a Declaration on the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons. With this Declaration, the round table wants to reinforce the general protection of refugees and encourage the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to develop further refugee law. The round table also dealt with the problem of the conduct of hostilities and the use of certain weapons, in particular chemical weapons in non-international conflicts. The Red Cross and Red Crescent people discussed the problem of the role of national societies in non-international conflicts. The Institute will publish the complete documentation on this round table in its 1989 Yearbook.
10. The work of the Independent Commission encourages a great number of international non-governmental organizations which are preoccupied by the protection and assistance to victims in different distressed situations.

11. The Institute will continue its efforts to strongly reinforce the humanitarian dialogue within different tendencies in the field of human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law. The 1990 programme of activities will be published very soon.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS AND THE LIBERATION OF PEOPLES

[Original: French]

[28 May 1990]

1. The International League for the Rights and the Liberation of Peoples wishes to make the following comments on humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts. These comments relate to three points: (a) the status of the ratifications of the additional Protocols of 1977; (b) the obligations of the signatory States of the Geneva Conventions of 1949; (c) the responsibilities of non-governmental organizations.

Status of the ratifications of the additional Protocols of 1977

2. The two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 represent indisputable progress in humanitarian law. They broadened substantially the scope of application of the Geneva Conventions, with respect to the situations concerned as well as the persons protected.

3. Protocol I, relating to international conflicts, recognized as such "armed conflicts in which peoples are fighting against colonial domination and alien occupation and against racist régimes in the exercise of their right of self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations ...".

4. Protocol II relates to conflicts "which take place in the territory of a High Contracting Party between its armed forces and dissident armed forces or armed groups which, under responsible command, exercise such control over a part of its territory ...".

5. It is deplorable that the number of States which have ratified these additional Protocols is nowhere near the large number of States which have acceded to the Geneva Conventions, thus giving those instruments a universal character.

6. In fact, in 1988, out of the 171 known States in the world (159 of them Members of the United Nations), 165 States were Parties to the Geneva Conventions, 71 were Parties to Protocol I and 64 were Parties to Protocol II. It should be noted that very few States have ratified both Protocols.

7. Such a situation cannot fail to be of concern, just as it was to the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues which, in 1985, sent out a memorandum to more than 100 Governments, followed by a reminder in 1987, inviting them to ratify the 1977 Protocols. Thus far, the Commission has had very little response.

8. The League hopes that the Commission will continue its efforts in this direction and make even more urgent appeals to States to ratify the two Protocols.

Obligations of the signatory States of the Geneva Conventions of 1949

9. Irrespective of when and if more States accede to the 1977 Protocols, it is essential that the Geneva Conventions, the universal nature of which is incontestable, be respected by everyone throughout the world. Unfortunately, this is very far from being the case.

10. It should be recalled in this connection that article 1 of the four Conventions provides: "The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect (our emphasis) for the present Convention in all circumstances".

11. This provision, which is unusual in treaty law in that it obliges the signatory Parties not only to respect the obligations laid down in the Conventions but also to ensure respect for them, should motivate all Governments to apply the necessary pressures to the parties in a conflict without being subject to the objections of interference or the absence of reciprocity.

12. In addition to the action which each State can take in order to ensure respect for the humanitarian norms set forth in the Geneva Conventions, there are actions which can be undertaken jointly with other States or in collaboration with the United Nations, in the event of serious violations.

13. If effectively carried out, this permanent monitoring of the application of humanitarian law in armed conflicts could help to lessen the suffering resulting from war or occupations.

14. It is unfortunate that most Governments attach so little importance to their obligation to ensure respect at all times and in all places for the provisions by which they are bound by virtue of their accession to the Geneva Conventions.

15. Such respect appears to be as necessary in international armed conflicts as in armed conflicts which are not international in scope, since, in the latter case, the minimal protection of the rights of the individual, as recognized in article 3 of all four Conventions, is very rarely guaranteed in practice.

16. The League hopes that the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues will transmit to all States an urgent and solemn reminder of their obligation to ensure respect for the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Responsibilities of non-governmental organizations

17. It is also highly unfortunate that most of the non-governmental organizations involved in the defence of human rights pay very little attention to the humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts.

18. Yet, it is in situations of armed conflict or military occupation that human rights are most often ignored. It is particularly in such situations that public

opinion should be alerted so that a minimum of human rights are recognized for combatants and civilian populations and so that, in spite of all the obstacles, these rights are respected.

19. In recent years, there has been an increase in international and internal conflicts throughout the world, while the victims of these conflicts have failed to benefit from the minimum protection accorded them by humanitarian law. Millions of human beings are suffering tragically because of this lack of protection.

20. It would be desirable if those non-governmental organizations concerned with the defence of human rights used all their influence with the public, Governments, various armed groups, and international forums to which they have access, in order to promote respect for the application of humanitarian law in armed conflicts.

21. It is vital that the non-governmental organizations support the appeals by the International Committee of the Red Cross for all the signatory States of the Geneva Conventions to respect and to ensure respect for the Conventions. By 1987, 74 public appeals had been made over the 40 previous years; since that time, further appeals have been launched.

22. The League hopes that the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues will call upon the non-governmental organizations involved in the defence of human rights to mobilize in support of the application of humanitarian law in armed conflicts.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

[Original: English]

[4 July 1989]

The Inter-Parliamentary Union enclosed the texts of relevant resolutions and decisions. (For the text of the resolutions submitted, see A/43/759, annex, pp. 7-13, and A/44/240/Corr.1.)

1986 October session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 6-11 October 1986

THE CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS TO THE APPLICATION AND PROGRESS
OF HUMANITARIAN INTERNATIONAL LAW APPLICABLE IN CASES OF ARMED
CONFLICTS

(Resolution adopted without a vote)

The 76th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Mindful of the need to eradicate the scourge of war and armed conflicts of all kinds which threaten human dignity and inflict unspeakable sufferings on mankind, and underlining in particular the importance of preventing nuclear war, which endangers human existence,

Deploring the grave humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts, such as loss of human lives, prolonged detention of persons involved in hostilities as well as others, torture or other forms of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, separation of families, forced displacement of persons, mass refugee movements and destruction of property,

Stressing the absolute need to protect and assist victims of armed conflicts, whatever the nature and form of those conflicts or the origin of the victims,

Recalling the international conventions of a humanitarian nature, in particular the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts and their two additional Protocols of 8 June 1977,

Reaffirming the right afforded to freedom-fighters and other combatants such as defined under additional Protocol I of 1977 to enjoy the status of prisoners of war,

Recalling the Convention adopted on 10 October 1980 on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments, the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons,

Noting that in times of armed conflicts, the most basic humanitarian rules which protect persons who are hors de combat and the civilian population are frequently violated,

Recalling that by virtue of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 States have the duty not only to respect international humanitarian law but also to ensure that it is respected,

Paying tribute to the governmental and non-governmental international organizations whose activities help to alleviate the sufferings of persons affected by armed conflicts,

Stressing above all the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in case of armed conflict which, by virtue of its mandate laid down in the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols, protects and assists victims of armed conflicts, in conformity with its principles which are, among others, humanity, neutrality and impartiality,

Recalling that the independence of the ICRC in relation to influences which may be exerted by Governments, parties to a conflict, military commands and other authorities is one of the prerequisites for the execution of its duties,

Noting the broadening of the ICRC's protection and assistance activities the world over, which implies significantly higher expenditure levels,

Regretting that nearly a decade after their adoption, the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, one of which concerns international armed conflicts and the other non-international armed conflicts, adopted on 8 June 1977 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts, have only been ratified by a small number of States,

Stressing the importance of those Protocols, which contain new rules for new types of armed conflicts and which considerably strengthen the protection of the civilian population against the effects of hostilities,

Underlining the need to reaffirm and develop provisions protecting the victims of armed conflicts and to supplement measures intended to reinforce their application and to that end to continue the codification and progressive development of the rules of law applicable in armed conflicts,

Recalling the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross (23-31 October 1986), the highest deliberating body of the International Red Cross which will also be called upon to study humanitarian problems caused by armed conflicts and to propose solutions, in the presence of representatives of States parties to the Geneva Conventions,

Emphasizing the role of Parliaments in contributing to the application and progress of international humanitarian law applicable in cases of armed conflicts,

1. Solemnly appeals that the rules of international humanitarian law and universally recognized humanitarian principles be respected at all times and under all circumstances;

2. Calls on Parliaments and Governments:

(a) To give priority to humanitarian problems arising from all kinds of armed conflicts and to work actively to solve them;

(b) To commit themselves at national and international levels to ensuring that international humanitarian law is accepted and respected by all and under all circumstances;

(c) To support efforts aimed at increasing public awareness of the whole range of activities carried out by the International Red Cross, especially those of their own National Society;

(d) To devote all their attention to the duty incumbent on them, by virtue of the Geneva Conventions, to disseminate the principles of international humanitarian law, especially in the armed forces;

(e) To provide the ICRC with any kind of support it may need to fulfil its humanitarian mission;

(f) To hasten the procedure of ratification of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, one of which relates to the protection of the victims of international armed conflicts and the other to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts, both adopted on 6 June 1977, or the procedure of accession to those instruments;

(g) To take all measures in the field of national legislation which are necessary to ensure respect for international humanitarian law;

3. Urges all States that have not done so to become parties to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects and its Protocols I and II;

4. Notes that under Article 8 of that 1980 Convention, conferences may be convened to review or amend the annexed Protocols, or to adopt additional Protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons;

5. Praises the humanitarian activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ICRC and other international relief agencies, and calls on all nations to contribute more generously to the budgets of those institutions;

6. Stresses that respect for the decisions of the International Court of Justice and other jurisdictions can strengthen humanitarian law;

7. Calls on Governments to participate actively in the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross, which will be held from 23 to 31 October 1986 in Geneva, in a spirit of constructive dialogue so as to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law and alleviate the condition of victims of armed conflicts.

WORLD MUSLIM CONGRESS

[Original: English]

[23 September 1989]

I. ISLAM AND THE UNITED NATIONS

1. The World Muslim Congress confirms the principles of the Islamic mission and its universal human values, the need to set up a new international humanitarian order based on the unity of the human family and human interest without any discrimination, the necessity for all nations and groups to honour and appreciate one another and for all their international and regional organizations to co-operate in order to protect the dignity of man and his basic rights, and the importance of emphasizing the right of all to enjoy life in dignity, freedom and justice.
2. The World Muslim Congress declares the necessity for all nations and peoples to co-operate in efforts for the good of mankind and in the prevention of injustice and violation of the basic human rights, for the support of all the basic principles on which the United Nations has been established for the benefit of human society and permanent peace, and for welcoming United Nations endeavours towards the protection of the freedom and security of man and his rights to self-determination, especially the United Nations unanimous declaration of the elimination of all forms of neo-colonialism, racism and religious intolerance, and also its recognition of the inherent right of all nations to full sovereignty and self-determination according to the wishes of their peoples.

II. THE POLITICAL QUESTION

3. Whereas the World Muslim Congress reconfirms its belief in the Islamic universal values and decidedly calls for their respect in the best interest of the human family and its common security, and whereas it also supports the principles of the United Nations, the Congress condemns repeated Israeli violation of international law and United Nations resolutions, Israel's aggression against her Arab neighbours, especially Israel's continuous aggression against Lebanon over the last few years.
4. The World Muslim Congress firmly and strongly demands the immediate recognition of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and their rights of establishing their own government in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and Motamar.
5. The World Muslim Congress strongly condemns the Israeli violation and desecration of the sacred shrines in Palestine, particularly of the Aqsa and Ibrahimī mosques and the Israeli declaration of the sacred city of Al-Quds as her capital in violation of the United Nations and UNESCO resolutions, ignoring international law and all the legitimate rights of the Muslim population.

6. The World Muslim Congress also demands recognition of the same rights due to all peoples who are struggling for reacquisition of their freedom and of their sovereignty over their fatherlands, in accordance with the free wishes of the peoples and their individual right to self-determination.
7. The World Muslim Congress strongly condemns the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, a sovereign Member State of the United Nations.
8. The World Muslim Congress condemns the Philippines Government for the recent atrocities against the Muslims and demands cessation of such aggression. It demands a positive response to the aspirations of the Filipino Muslims and to the honour of the terms agreed to in Tripoli by the granting of a meaningful autonomy for ending violence and starting a new era of friendship, freedom and human dignity for all Filipino citizens.
9. The World Muslim Congress calls upon the Government of Ethiopia to respond to the people of Eritrea in their national struggle and to acknowledge their legitimate right to self-determination.
10. The World Muslim Congress fully supports all just demands of the right of self-determination, be it in Kashmir, South Africa, etc.
11. In the historic Tokyo Seminar of 1981, the World Muslim Congress had commended the Makkah Declaration of the Muslim Summit Conference held in January 1981, especially its call to hold fast to the principles of the Islamic mission and its values for the common good of the Muslim world and indeed the entire world. In this connection, the Congress hopes that all authorities in all Muslim countries shall examine their governmental structures with a view to refining them to conform with objectives of the Makkah Declaration; with particular reference to the respect of the "shura" (consultation) principles, as well as the will of Muslim peoples.
12. The World Muslim Congress calls upon all peoples of India, Muslims and non-Muslims to seek to build bridges of peace and co-operation between themselves to endeavour to solve their own differences among themselves on the basis of justice, freedom and peaceful co-existence.
13. The World Muslim Congress notes with deep concern the unspeakable condition of Muslims in Eastern Europe, particularly in Bulgaria where there is a complete denial of basic human rights to all citizens and recommends that these violations be examined by the Commission on Human Rights.
14. The World Muslim Congress, while noting the conditions of Muslim immigrants in the West, especially in Europe, hopes that the Governments of these countries will grant similar benefits and facilities, especially religious and educational to the immigrants as are provided for their own citizens.
15. The World Muslim Congress fully supports Turkish Cyprus (Kibris) in her just aspirations and constant efforts towards a peaceful solution of the Cyprus question.

16. The World Muslim Congress condemns apartheid in South Africa and fully supports the independence of Namibia in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

17. The World Muslim Congress expresses the hope for closer co-operation between the Organization of Islamic Conference, an organization representing the Muslim countries, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Organization.

III. THE ECONOMIC QUESTION

18. The World Muslim Congress acknowledges with thanks that the United Nations has expressed its deep concern at the lopsided and unbalanced economic situation of the world. It expressed no hope for a correct solution being reached by the conflicting systems prevalent in the world today, namely the one system laying all its emphasis on more and more production and creation of cartels and monopolies, and the other laying all its emphasis solely on distribution, when the world needs a harmonious blend of the two systems with necessary checks and balances on both sides.

19. The World Muslim Congress commends that the Islamic economic system is unique in its character and approach. It stresses moderation and avoids excess; it has no place either for niggardliness or extravagance. It condemns with equal emphasis both wastefulness and parsimony; it opposes extremism in all forms or shapes. It allows the holding of private property but reminds man that such holdings should be considered as "trust for God". Islam's moral restraints act as deterrents to likely social evils induced by overwhelming wealth. The Western socio-economic order strives to maximize the rate of growth in savings, in investments, etc., through which the optimization of socio-economic welfare is sought. The Islamic socio-economic system, however, aims at evolving a just society through the channels of a profit and loss system, through welfare institutions such as "zakat" (alms giving) and by providing opportunities for more services all aiming at building a welfare society based on justice. One of the distinctive features of the Islamic socio-economic order is the institutionalization of the concept of States becoming welfare States through practical integration of religious, ethnical, social, political, economic and cultural values, all blended to produce an inimitable society. The essential elements of the Islamic economic order, zakat, prohibition of "riba" (usury) and ordinance of inheritance, aim at correcting the social malaise of unequal relationship and aim for the enhancement of human brotherhood, social security and individual responsibility.

20. The "Makkah Declaration" adopted at the Third Islamic Summit in Taif, Saudi Arabia (January 1981), briefly reiterates the fundamental values of Islam that can greatly alleviate the present economic, political, cultural and other ills of the world, and that can redress the imbalances between developing and developed countries. The countries of the Islamic world stand ready to participate fully and effectively on an equal basis with all other countries in solving world economic problems and in strengthening the role of the United Nations in the implementation of the new international economic order.

IV. THE SECURITY QUESTION

21. The World Muslim Congress believes that Islam provided an in-built system of peace and security and that in an Islamic order, internal and external peace and security receive as much emphasis as other essential needs of society such as food, clothing, housing, education, medical care, religious needs, etc. The World Muslim Congress, therefore, agrees that peace and security are necessary both within and without the State, and that for their protection no State should hesitate in entering regional and international arrangements with others.

22. The World Muslim Congress notes with concern and anxiety the growing trend towards international terrorism and hijacking threatening the lives of innocent persons and urges the world Powers to eradicate these threats to international peace and security.

23. Islam's emphasis is on equity and justice for all and in all branches of life, be it social, economic, political or any other aspect of national or international life. A nation should not only ask for the safety of her rights but should also safeguard the just rights of other nations. The World Muslim Congress therefore, rightly reiterates the fundamental values as detailed by Islam and whose framework so clearly spells out the most effective bases from which to build better co-operation and co-ordination for greater human solidarity.

V. EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

24. The World Muslim Congress epitomizes the hopes and aspirations of the fifteenth century of the Islamic calendar: the century of peace, progress and just rights for all mankind, and the century of Islamic reawakening and resurgence boosting the basic Islamic values which are equated with basic human values.

25. All countries are not enjoying the high percentage of literacy as in the North and therefore the first focus the World Muslim Congress believes should be on the popularization of universal primary education, followed by higher education at all levels both in the humanities and the sciences and with the universal human aspect emphasized at every stage. "Each one teach one" should be popularized as a slogan to kill the "demon of ignorance" the world over, especially among Muslims.

26. With the aim of giving new dimensions to education, the World Muslim Congress urges that the education system must not only be concentrated on language, arts and science but must also emphasize the ethical and moral values of religion for peace and co-operation.

27. The World Muslim Congress also emphasizes that on the eve of the twenty-first century, the United Nations and other international organizations should jointly concentrate on giving the message of peace and co-operation through the development process and through different aspects of social welfare and medicare work.

28. The World Muslim Congress notes that for the work of moral re-armament and spiritual ethics, all branches of the mass media must be fully used. This should

not be limited to preaching by word of mouth or by publishing books, booklets and brochures, but by correct projection on radio and on television in order to reach a wider audience with the message of peace and spiritual ethics.

29. The World Muslim Congress agrees that through the three-pronged approach of spreading education, of popularizing welfare services and of using the mass media, the United Nations work can be much more useful and effective in the popularization of the idea of global human solidarity based upon fraternal love and understanding; in the paving of the way for establishing an equitable and just world order; in saving the world from the scourge of destructive wars (especially a nuclear holocaust) and unnecessary class conflicts; and in the promotion of peace among all men, which is the message of Islam.

VI. CONCLUSION

30. The World Muslim Congress believes that for the greater good of the world, all smaller States should refrain from involvement in the conflicting ideologies and approaches of the super-Powers, and that United Nations with her combination of a universal cultural heritage and modernism, can serve as a beacon of light and hope for the future good of mankind.

31. The World Muslim Congress expresses the hope that the Muslim community of the world, living as majority in 50 Muslim countries and as minorities the world over, believing in Islam, the code of life for peace, justice, dignity, equal opportunities and harmonious living for all living beings, sincerely welcomes United Nations endeavours and on behalf of the Muslim people offers our firm support to the United Nations in creating a new peaceful and meaningful international humanitarian order, which is also the goal of Islam.
