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COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
21 January-1 February 1991
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Quadrennial reports, 1986-1989

Report submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant
to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV)
of 23 May 1968

* E/C.2/1991/1.

Note

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) on arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, organizations in consultative status in categories I and II shall submit to the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, through the Secretary-General, every fourth year a brief report of their activities, specifically as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations. Based on findings of the Committee's examination of the report and other relevant information, the Committee may recommend to the Council any reclassification in status of the organization concerned as it deems appropriate.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, at its session in 1981, decided that "quadrennial reports to be submitted by non-governmental organizations for its session should be limited to no more than two pages single-spaced". Furthermore, the Committee, at its session in 1989, stressed the need for non-governmental organizations required to submit quadrennial reports to provide the Secretariat with clear and timely information, including, inter alia, a brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization.

Pursuant to the above decisions, the Secretariat, in January 1990, communicated to all relevant organizations guidelines for the completion of the quadrennial report.

The material issued in this series of documents is reproduced, as submitted, by the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, categories I and II, and therefore reflects their policies and terminology and not necessarily those of the United Nations.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Supplementary material, such as annual reports and samples of publications, is available in the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations have been used in this document:

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| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| GATT | General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| UNCHS | United Nations Centre for Human Settlements |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |

1. ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY

for the Protection of Human Rights

(Category II)

The Anti-Slavery Society is a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Its aims are:

- (a) The elimination of all forms of slavery, including forced labour;
- (b) The defence of the interests of both oppressed and threatened indigenous peoples;
- (c) The promotion of human rights in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.

In 1986, the Director attended the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights and spoke on the question of religious freedom of belief in Pakistan, on the work of non-governmental organizations in consultative status, and on the problems faced by indigenous peoples in different parts of the world as refugees.

The Society was represented at the following international meetings:

- (a) A seminar organized by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The seminar's report and recommendations were submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General. The Society also sponsored an informal workshop on indigenous populations in collaboration with the World Council of Churches (Geneva, September 1986);
- (b) A meeting of experts to consider the revision of the International Labour Organisation's indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107) and its corresponding Recommendation (No. 104) (Geneva, September 1986);
- (c) The Anti-Slavery Society was elected to the Board of CONGO (Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council). The Director attended the meetings of the Board in New York and Geneva.

In 1987, the Director attended the forty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights. Statements were made on the Karen of Burma, the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, and on the situation of human rights generally. The Director attended the thirty-ninth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and made statements on Kurds in Turkey; Mauritania; the Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan; Somali minorities in Kenya; and on South Africa. Reports were submitted to the twelfth session of the Working Group on Slavery on child labour in the Ashanti gold mines of Ghana; child labour in the carpet industry in India; and on debt bondage in India. Statements were made to the fifth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on Australian aborigines and on the continuing need for a human rights fund until the United Nations Voluntary Fund becomes operative.

The Director attended the following international meetings:

- (a) UNICEF NGO Forum (New York, April 1987);
- (b) First Nations Indigenous Peoples Conference, Musqueam, Indian Reserve (Vancouver, October 1987);
- (c) Conference of the International Abolitionist Federation (Brussels, November 1987);
- (d) Meeting of non-governmental organizations (Maastricht, December 1987).

The Anti-Slavery Society reaffirmed its position on apartheid and issued the following statement at its annual general meeting on 2 November:

"...

"Condemns the policy of apartheid as a gross denial of opportunity for human development and individual human dignity, deliberately and consciously pursued on the basis of colour discrimination, and

"Affirms its conviction that apartheid violates the human rights obligations of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

In 1988, the Director attended the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights and made a general statement on the work of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and its Working Groups on Slavery and Indigenous Populations. The Society supported the proposal to change the name of the Working Group on Slavery to that proposed by the Sub-Commission - namely, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

The Director also attended the fortieth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and submitted the statement made at the Society's annual general meeting in 1987 condemning the policy of apartheid.

Reports were submitted and statements made to the thirteenth session of the Working Group on Slavery on bonded labour in India; Indian carpet boys; child labour in the Ashanti gold fields; the Dumagat tribes people of the Philippines; slavery in Sudan; and the baby trade in Thailand. Statements were made to the sixth Working Group on Indigenous Populations on the Karen and Kachin peoples of Burma; Australian aborigines - deaths in custody; and on the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

The Director visited New York and Boston, and made visits to Kenya, Sudan and Egypt during 1988. His visit to Sudan included talks with the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as discussions with interested human rights organizations.

/...

In 1989, the Director represented the Society at the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights. He attended the forty-first session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, submitted reports to the fourteenth session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on child debt bondage, Mauritania, Sudan, Portuguese child labour, domestic workers, and forced labour of Haitian cane cutters in the Dominican Republic; and made a report on the response of the Legal Committee of the Ghana National Commission to child labour in the Ashanti gold fields.

The Society's representative attended the seventh session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Reports were submitted on Australian aborigines - deaths in custody; Burma; the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh; and West Papua. The Society also issued a statement congratulating the Chairman and members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations for their work on the draft Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Society was instrumental in organizing a seminar in Delhi (30 June-4 July) under the auspices of the Bonded Liberation Front,* on child servitude, to publicize the problem in south Asia.

* The Bonded Liberation Front of India was set up in 1980 to highlight the exploitation of some 10,000 bonded labourers working in the stone quarries of Faridabad district. Their work has expanded to virtually all regions of India and to other sectors of the economy, including the carpet industry, agriculture, brick kilns, construction, etc. It puts pressure on local and national governments, the judicial process and international lobbyists in its campaign for abolition of this slavery-like practice. The National President of the Bonded Liberation Front is a member of the General Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society.

2. ARAB LAWYERS UNION

(Category II)

The Arab Lawyers' Union (UAA) has continued to develop through the admission of the Bar of the Yemen Arab Republic and the re-admission of the Libyan Bar after the General Secretariat had negotiated successfully with the Libyan authorities for recognition of the independence of the Libyan legal profession. This achievement was ratified by the meeting of UAA's Permanent Bureau at Tripoli (Libya), in November 1987. During the meeting, the Libyan authorities announced that the human rights situation in their country would shortly be improved.

The sixteenth Congress of the UAA was held in Kuwait in April 1987 on the theme: "Self-determination, human rights, international peace". The coincidence of the Year of Palestine (1987), the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the two International Covenants on Human Rights and the proximity of the Iraq-Iran conflict justified the theme. At that time, UAA set up a permanent commission on racism in addition to its permanent commissions on human rights and the status of women.

The UNESCO International Congress on Human Rights Teaching, Information and Documentation (Malta, September 1987) was preceded by a regional preparatory conference for the Arab world organized jointly by UAA, the Arab Organization for Human Rights and UNESCO (Cairo, April).

In November 1987, UAA took part, with other legal and trade union organizations, in setting up an international centre on trade union rights based in Prague.

UAA participated in the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (Vienna, June 1987). It has begun a campaign for ratification of the 1988 Convention, using the occasion of the "International Day against Drug Abuse", 26 June.

On 3 March 1988 UAA participated in the International Assembly of the International Association against Torture (SOS Torture), of which it is one of the founder members. It delivered a report on the campaign against torture in the Arab world and proposed that UAA should translate into Arabic and publish the "Guide to international procedures".

UAA organized a seminar in Cairo (18-20 March 1988), in co-operation with the African Association of Political Science, the Arab Association for Political Science and the Palestinian Centre for Planning, on racist practices in southern Africa and the occupied territories.

The UAA Permanent Commission against Racism organized a campaign for the freeing of Nelson Mandela. At the 40th meeting of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (August 1988), UAA proposed that the case of Nelson Mandela should be included in the agenda.

In October 1988, UAA participated in the global consultation on racial discrimination (Geneva) and in the international NGO action conference on racism

and racial discrimination in the second decade. The conference emphasized the fate of indigenous populations and migrant workers.

During the above-mentioned meeting of the Sub-Commission, the UAA delegation expressed concern about the draft criminal code put forward some weeks earlier by the new Minister of Justice of the Sadek El Mahdi Government. The Sudanese Bar had previously organized two seminars on the subject. On that occasion, the UAA Secretary-General drew attention to the incompatibility of the draft provisions with the international standards for human rights ratified by the Sudanese Government.

UAA attaches particular importance to the question of the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession. It therefore seeks to disseminate the basic principles on the independence of the judiciary adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations (1985). UAA participated in the United Nations seminar on the administration of justice held at Tunis from 27 September to 1 October 1988. At the meeting of the Permanent Bureau at Marrakesh (November 1988), UAA organized a seminar on the theme "independence of the judiciary, basic guarantee of human rights". At the Permanent Bureau meeting at Sana'a (Yemen, December 1989) the functions of the Public Prosecutor and the role of lawyers were studied as part of a seminar.

The UAA delegation participates virtually on a regular basis in the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and in the periodic consultations of UNHCR with concerned NGOs. It took part in the regional seminar organized by UNHCR at Tunis in February 1988 and presented a paper there on human rights and the rights of refugees.

UAA co-operates with the regional intergovernmental organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights (Permanent Arab Commission on Human Rights and Arab Commission on the Status of Women). At the international meeting organized by UNESCO at Paris on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UAA presented a paper on the achievements of the two commissions. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which met at Cairo in October 1988, granted the UAA observer status.

UAA participated in the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the first conference of Arab national and international non-governmental organizations, held in Cairo (October 1989). UAA presented several papers and was elected a member of the Follow-up Committee.

Since January 1989, UAA and the Arab Organization for Human Rights have been waging a joint campaign for the liberation of prisoners of conscience in the Arab world. The main joint achievement, carried out in co-operation with the Tunisian League for Human Rights, was the establishment at Tunis in March 1989 of the Arab Institute for Human Rights.

UAA, which has been a member of the International Co-ordination Committee on the question of Palestine since 1984, participates in the preparation and holding of regional and international meetings of NGOs organized under the auspices of the United Nations. It has also been since 1988 a member of the Bureau of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council.

3. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR WATER LAW

(Category II)

The main purposes of the International Association for Water Law, created on 30 May 1967, are to carry out studies and to foster publications for the exchange and diffusion of opinions and information tending to advance the science of water law and develop national water legislation and the legal aspects of national water administrations and institutions.

The Association's membership includes "regular" members - i.e., lawyers with a specialization in water law - and "associate" members - i.e., non-lawyers (engineers, geologists, agronomists, hydrologists, meteorologists or others) who are directly or indirectly involved with the legal and institutional aspects of water resources management - and "institutional" members - i.e., organizations or institutions. Admission to membership is granted by the Executive Council of the Association and at present totals about 450 from about 70 different countries. National branches have been established in Argentina, Colombia, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Spain and Venezuela.

The major substantive contribution made by the Association to the United Nations system during this period was the organization of the Third International Conference of the International Association for Water Law, held at Alicante and Valencia, Spain, from 11 to 15 December, 1989 (AIDA III).

The Conference was organized by the Government of Valencia and the University of Alicante together with the International Association for Water, in co-operation with FAO, UNESCO, UNEP and the Spanish Ministry of Works and Planning. The Argentine Foundation for Environment and Natural Resources also co-operated.

The Agenda included the following seven topics:

- (a) Developments in the law and administration of water resources;
- (b) New Spanish water legislation: development and application;
- (c) Water rights modification and change of legal régimes;
- (d) Problems of traditional water rights and their modernization;
- (e) Economic and financial aspects of water resources management;
- (f) Environmental aspects.

The Conference was attended by 250 water law and management specialists from 45 countries, representatives of 10 international intergovernmental organizations (United Nations, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, OFA, EEC, UNEP, UNDP, CEPAL, ECE) and seven international non-governmental organizations (IJO, ICEL, ILA, AIOCE, CELA, IRYDA, FARN).

The proceedings, papers and recommendations presented at the Conference will be printed as "Annales Juris Aquarum III".

Other meetings and conferences

The Association was invited and sent representatives to the following meetings and conferences:

- (a) ECLAC, twenty-first session, held in Mexico, from 17 to 27 April 1986;
- (b) Consultation on the NGO consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, organized by the United Nations, in Geneva on 2 and 3 October 1986;
- (c) FAO Council, 17-28 November 1986;
- (d) Inter-regional Symposium on Improved Efficiency in the Management of Water Resources, organized by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (United Nations Secretariat), 5-9 January 1987;
- (e) Third UNESCO/WHO International Conference on Hydrology and Scientific Basis of Water Resources Management, organized by UNESCO, held in Geneva, 16-21 March, 1987;
- (f) FAO Council, 15-26 June 1987;
- (g) FAO Council, 3-5 November 1987;
- (h) FAO Conference, Rome, 7-26 November 1987;
- (i) FAO Regional Conference for Europe, Cracow, 23-26 August, 1988;
- (j) Interregional Symposium on River and Lake Basin Development, organized by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, Water Resources Branch, held at Addis Ababa, 10-15 October 1988.
- (k) FAO Conference, 11-30 November 1989;
- (l) FAO Council, 6-10 November, 1989;
- (m) Preparatory Committee of UNCED, Brazil, 13 March 1990.

Other relevant activities

Contacts were maintained with the Non-Governmental Organization Unit (DIESA) in New York. An answer to a questionnaire on Evaluation of United Nations planning procedures in development, requested by the Under-Secretary-General for Planning, Budget and Finances, (24 September 1987), was provided. A questionnaire on communication services from the Under-Secretary-General of Public Information (1 March 1988) was studied and answered. Other questionnaires were also answered.

Co-operation included contacts and attendance at meetings or conference of the following organizations:

(a) International Water Resources Association, World Congress (Montréal): a special section was organized by our Association;

(b) International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL): contacts were maintained;

(c) European Council of Environmental Law;

(d) Société française pour le droit de l'environnement.

Sponsorship was given by the International Association for Water Law to other meetings, as follows:

(a) River Basin Administration Centre, created in 1988 in Delft, the Netherlands;

(b) First course on international water law and management, held at Delft, the Netherlands, December 1988.

4. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PENAL LAW

(Category II)

The Association is a scholarly not-for-profit, non-political organization dedicated to the study, improvement and humanization of criminal justice in the national, regional, and international contexts. Since its inception in 1889 (Vienna) as the Union internationale de droit penal and its reorganization in 1924 (Paris) as the Association internationale de droit penal, it has been a major intellectual force in the advancement of criminal sciences and particularly in the field of international criminal law. Over the years, it has been a bridge between West and East and an inspiration for criminal law reform almost everywhere in the world.

The Association is always increasing its geographical membership and has over 3,000 members and affiliates in 68 countries, with 37 active national sections. Its longstanding and continuous contacts with Eastern European legal institutions and colleagues has significantly influenced contemporary changes in criminal law, criminal procedure, and penology in those countries, particularly since 1989.

The Association publishes the Revue Internationale de Droit Penale in French/English, which is now in its 69th year of publication. The Association also publishes Nouvelles Etudes Penales, whose eight volumes so far have been in English, French, and Arabic. Both journals have a distribution of over 1,500 subscribers, mostly law libraries. The influence of the Revue is evident in at least 50 countries.

In 1989, the Association held its fifteenth International Penal Law Congress in Vienna to celebrate the centennial of the (Union) Association. The Congress was the culmination of three years of research into four major topics of significant contemporary relevance:

- (a) The legal and practical problems posed by the difference between criminal law and administrative penal law;
- (b) Criminal law and modern bio-medical techniques;
- (c) Relations between the organization of the judiciary on criminal procedure;
- (d) International crime and domestic national criminal law.

Four volumes of the Revue, containing cumulatively more than 120 national reports on these questions, were published and widely distributed.

During the Association's fourteenth International Congress in Vienna, at which United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Margaret Anstee made an opening speech, a committee of experts advising the Crime Prevention Branch met to finalize the model draft treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance, which were to be submitted to the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Havana, August/September 1990.

The Association was represented at the Alliance of NGO's for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in New York, Vienna, and Geneva, and its representative chaired the Vienna NGO Alliance.

It participated at all relevant United Nations meetings in Vienna and Geneva and actively contributed to the preparation of the Eighth Congress. In that respect, it joined its sister organizations in two meetings co-sponsored by the United Nations on agenda item 3 and prepared a written report which will be submitted to the Congress. The President of the Association was also a member of two interregional committees of experts organized by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Secretariat.

The President of the Association contributed to several documents prepared by the Crime Prevention Branch for submission to the Eighth Congress: A model treaty on mutual legal assistance. Both of these world treaties were discussed by experts at the Association's Congress in Vienna in October 1989.

The Association will have a delegation at the Eighth Congress in Havana and will participate in two ancillary meetings at the Congress.

The President of the Association served as a Consultant to the Crime Prevention Branch in connection with the Congress.

5. INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND AID FUND FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Category II)

The work of the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa is to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims and opponents of apartheid and racism in South Africa, and to keep the conscience of the world alive to the issues at stake. Thus, our contacts are primarily with those United Nations bodies that are either directly concerned with South Africa and - until March this year - Namibia, or that deal with them from time to time.

Grants from the United Nations Trust Fund

| | | | |
|------|----------------|------|----------------|
| 1986 | \$US 1,900,000 | 1988 | \$US 2,200,000 |
| 1987 | \$US 2,200,000 | 1989 | \$US 3,000,000 |

The above grants, given for legal assistance to persons persecuted under the repressive and discriminatory legislation of southern Africa; relief to such persons and their dependants; education of such persons and their dependants and relief for refugees from southern Africa, were received during the period under review. Annual reports on the allocation of these grants are submitted to the Trust Fund. Supplementary reports are supplied on request from time to time. Our Chairman and Director have met with the present Chairman of the Trustees of the Fund for consultations on a number of occasions during this period. The Chairman also addressed our Annual Conference in Stockholm in 1989.

Conference and seminars attended or for which papers were prepared

(a) 1985/86: Evidence was submitted to the Commission on Human Rights on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances; evidence was submitted to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights.

(b) 1986/87: International Seminar on the United Nations Arms Embargo against South Africa, London, 28-30 May 1986; UNESCO International Meeting of University Researchers to Elaborate a Five-Year Research Plan on Apartheid, Beijing, 1-5 September 1986.

(c) 1987/88: "Restrictions imposed on the media in South Africa under the Public Safety Act since 21 July 1985" for a seminar on the role of the media, Lima, August 1987; "Political prisoners in South Africa", in Notes and Documents, No. 13/87.

(d) 1988/89: Evidence was submitted to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on political death sentences in South Africa and Namibia; summary execution in South Africa and Namibia; and police and military violence in Namibia.

Joint publications with United Nations bodies

(a) 1985/86: Multilanguage editions of Walvis Bay, Namibia the Facts, and Namibia in Struggle. This is Namibia and A Nation in Peril were being considered for translation by the Commissioner's office; the IDAF Research Department contributed to portable exhibitions on workers, youth and resistance in co-operation with the Centre.

(b) 1986/87: The portable exhibition Namibia in Struggle was updated and replicated in picture-book format; Centre Against Apartheid - the portable exhibitions Nelson Mandela: His Life in the Struggle and Women in South Africa were revised and updated, also with replications in picture-book format, and translated into French, German and Spanish; political prisoners list.

(c) 1987/88: Translations of IDAF's Namibian publications into German, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic were undertaken; Fighting Apartheid: A Cartoon History was published in co-operation with UNESCO. Also available in French.

(d) 1988/89: IDAF commissioned a report on developments in the past two years in South Africa in the fields of education, science and culture. Produced as a fact paper under the title "Subverting apartheid" in 1990; a second commission was to gather information on religion and apartheid, to be used in a book of that name in co-operation with UNESCO. "Religion and Apartheid" is also due for publication in 1990. All documents collected for UNESCO on this topic will be microfilmed.

Agencies to which information was submitted

(a) 1985/86: United Nations Centre Against Apartheid; United Nations Institute for Namibia; Ad Hoc Working Group of the United Nations; Commission on Human Rights; Working Party on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights; UNICEF; United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Topics included foreign relations, labour, repression and women.

(b) 1986/87: United Nations Committee on Decolonization; UNESCO; ILO.

Topics included: International collaboration with the apartheid régime; repression, with particular reference to deaths, detentions and children; South Africa's destabilization of Front-line States.

(c) 1987/88: United Nations Association; United Nations Branch for Advancement of Women (Austria); UNESCO Project on Women; UNICEF.

Topics particularly focused on women and children under the State of Emergency. Work continued on UNESCO's Index of Research on Apartheid for which IDAF was invited to participate in both establishing contact with research projects and in advice on questions relating to documentation.

(d) 1988/89: United Nations Centre for Human Rights; United Nations Centre Against Apartheid; Department of Public Information.

Topics included children's testimonies from Harare conference, executions after political trials, an overview of race discrimination of oppression, a briefing paper on repression, and South African expenditure on "security forces" in Namibia.

6. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS

(Category II)

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is a non-governmental organization with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the European Communities. It co-operates closely with the International Labour Office, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross. IFJ was formed in 1952 to bring together national trade unions of journalists committed to the principles of free and independent trade union organization and to principles of freedom of expression and freedom of the press. IFJ represents more than 175,000 journalists in membership of 51 unions in 43 countries.

Press and trade union freedom

Since journalists are one of the targets that have been identified for activities of the United Nations Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, IFJ has had contacts with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights to seek support and assistance to focus international attention on the alarming safety problems of journalists. IFJ has decided to develop a comprehensive programme for the safety of journalists. It has published a safety manual in English, French and Spanish; Arabic and Russian translations are being made. It has also introduced safety issues in current trade union training programmes the IFJ is organizing in various parts of the world and assisted journalists' unions which are based in areas of risk to acquire communication facilities to link up with the Federation and other human rights organizations active in the field of the protection of journalists.

On 27 July 1988, 14 August 1989 and 21 August 1990, IFJ gave evidence to the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa, on violence against journalists, censorship of the media and harassment and intimidations of all kinds to prevent press freedom in South Africa.

On several occasions, the UNESCO Director-General has associated himself with the IFJ campaign to free the journalists held hostage in Lebanon. At a rally on 29 May 1988, attended by 200 journalists, he joined French ex-hostage Jean-Paul Kauffmann to call for the release of two other journalists, still held hostage in Lebanon.

An IFJ delegation also had contacts with the United Nations Secretary-General at United Nations headquarters in March 1988.

UNESCO

IFJ maintains regular and useful contact with UNESCO, particularly concerning communications and the free flow of information and through contacts with member unions that participate actively in national UNESCO work. IFJ takes part in the consultative meetings of international and regional journalists' organizations,

which take place under UNESCO auspices and which provide evidence for UNESCO's wish to listen to the voice of journalists in the general debate on world communication issues.

IFJ participated in UNESCO General Conferences in November 1987 and 1989 and welcomed the new mass media strategy, agreed by the 1989 General Conference, which signalled an end to the ill-tempered ideological and theoretical exchanges that had characterized the media debate within UNESCO during the previous 10 years.

The Regional Adviser for Communication in Asia and the Pacific represented UNESCO at an IFJ conference on media concentration in Sydney (Australia) in February 1989.

ILO

IFJ has pressed in recent years for the ILO to organize a tripartite meeting of workers, employers and Governments to discuss the working conditions of journalists. Finally, the ILO agreed to include such a meeting in its programme of activity for 1990-1991. It will take place in November 1990. IFJ unions participated in an extensive survey commissioned by the ILO in preparation for the meeting, and IFJ itself submitted an extensive report. The IFJ General Secretary attended the 1989 ILO Conference and in his address he welcomed the initiative taken to hold the journalists' conference, seeing in it recognition that the working conditions of journalists were a matter of prime importance in guaranteeing freedom of expression and maintaining free and independent media systems.

WIPO

IFJ was represented at all activities of WIPO dealing with journalists' copyright and secondary rights.

The United Nations offices in Geneva and New York are on the IFJ mailing list and receive the Federation's newsletter and special reports - e.g., "The protection of sources", a study sponsored by UNESCO and published in 1988; "An Irish solution to an Irish problem", a report of a fact-finding mission to Ireland, published in 1987; "Press freedom under attack in Great Britain", report of a fact-finding mission to the United Kingdom, published in 1989; "Press under pressure, 1987-1990", on press freedom in Fiji; "Pacific eyes", papers presented at a conference of South Pacific journalists, September 1989; "Journalism in the Valley of Death", a study of journalists killed in Peru and El Salvador, published in 1989.

7. INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION

(Category II)

The International Law Association, originally named the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations, was founded in Brussels in 1873. Its aims, as stated in its Constitution, are the study, elucidation and advancement of international law, public and private, the study of comparative law, the making of proposals for the solution of conflicts of law and for the unification of law, and the furthering of international understanding and goodwill.

Since the last report to the Economic and Social Council, additional branches of the Association have been established or re-established in Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Hong Kong and Ireland. There are at present 41 branches, and individual membership now extends to members from 16 additional countries.

The primary means whereby the Association pursues its objectives are the international committees (at present, 18), which are active in various fields of international law, public and private, and which prepare reports on the topics under consideration; and the conferences, held every two years in different parts of the world, at which the general membership has an opportunity to debate the Committee reports and, where appropriate, to adopt resolutions, many of which are of interest to - and, accordingly, submitted to - United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other organizations. Sixty-three Conferences have taken place; the last two were in Seoul (1986) and Warsaw (1988).

Following the Conferences, ILA submitted the following:

(a) Fourth Report of the International Committee on the Legal Aspects of a New International Economic Order, together with the adopted Declaration on the Progressive Development of Principles of Public International Law relating to a new International Economic Order (addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations);

(b) Report of the Committee on the Legal Status of Refugees, together with Declaration of Principles of International Law on Mass Expulsion (addressed to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities);

(c) Interim reports and resolutions of the International Committee on the Enforcement of Human Rights Law on "International monitoring of human rights practices under States of Emergency" (addressed to the Human Rights Committee, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the UNESCO Executive Board and Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, and the relevant organs of the International Labour Organisation);

(d) Report and resolution of the Committee on International Water Resources Law, with Rules on International Groundwaters and Complementary Rules Applicable to International Water Resources (addressed to the International Law Commission);

(e) Reports of the Committee on International Criminal Law with Protocols II and III to the Statutes for an International Criminal Court and for an International Commission of Criminal Inquiry, and the draft convention relating to the criminal responsibility of persons enjoying international immunity (addressed to the Economic and Social Council);

(f) Reports and resolutions of the Committee on the Exclusive Economic Zone (addressed to the International Law Commission and the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea);

(g) Report of the Committee on Transnational Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Public Laws (addressed to the International Law Commission);

(h) Report and resolution of the Committee on International Medical and Humanitarian Law, with principles for the protection of human genetic material (addressed to the World Health Organization).

At the Warsaw Conference, the International Committee on Space Law recommended that steps be taken to propose inclusion of the issue of debris and pollution from activities in outer space on the agenda of the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; and the Committee on International Recognition of the Adoption of Children was requested to take special account of the United Nations Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption, Nationally and Internationally.

The Warsaw Conference was privileged to receive a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in which he described the Association as highly esteemed by all United Nations bodies that dealt with the progressive development and codification of international law, and expressed appreciation of the many dissertations and studies prepared under the aegis of the Association. He noted the subject of human rights at the top of the Conference agenda, a choice especially appropriate in the year of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Many of the other items on the agenda were also concerned with fields where the United Nations had helped to expand the body of existing law.

With reference to General Assembly resolutions 43/163 of 9 December 1988 and 37/10 of 15 November 1982), workshops on different aspects of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States were held both at the Seoul Conference and at the Warsaw Conference. In collaboration with European Study Conferences, The Association arranged a conference in London in October 1987 on the subject "Financial services and securities markets: deregulation and internationalization". Also in 1987, the Association published a Liber Amicorum in honour of its former Chairman, containing contributions on topics of international

law by a number of eminent judges, scholars and practitioners, including articles on topics related to United Nations activities - for example, "The General Assembly and the problems of enhancing the effectiveness of the non-use of force in international relations", "Legal issues involved in the potential military uses of space stations", "Universal international law in a multicultural world", "Diversion of waters and the principles of equitable utilization", "Global satellite telecommunications" and "State corporations in international relations".

Regular contact was maintained with the International Social Science Council regarding co-operation by the Association's Committees on Space Law and Long-Distance Air Pollution, in the programme on Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change.

Application was made for the Association, through its Committee on Space Law to be accorded Observer Status with the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including in particular the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee.

Members and bodies of the Association have engaged in various other activities in co-operation with and support of the United Nations, including participation at meetings and events sponsored by the United Nations and its agencies and subsidiary bodies.

8. INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS

(Category I)

During the past four years, IUFO has remained faithful to its main vocation - that of promoting the well-being of families throughout the world. Likewise, it has done its utmost to fulfil its role as an international non-governmental organization having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. During each annual International Family Conference and in all its other various activities, IUFO has always tried to bring together its concerns and those of the United Nations. In the period in question, IUFO obtained consultative status, Category I, with the Council.

IUFO has actively taken part in the following years proclaimed by the United Nations:

International Year of Peace

Upon invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, IUFO convened an international conference entitled "Family - Liberty - Peace" in September 1986, held in Bonn. Following the Conference, IUFO adopted a solemn declaration that requests that the resources made available by the reduction of armaments be allocated to the struggle against hunger, illness, poverty and illiteracy from which more than three quarters of the world's families cruelly suffer; appeals to the United Nations and States to develop co-operation between peoples, to do away with injustice and inequality, and to respect human and family rights everywhere and under all circumstances; appeals to families to bear witness of their understanding of and respect for pluralism by participating in the building of a world based on freedom, justice and solidarity - factors which must be taken into account if peace is to be lived actively.

In recognition of its action in favour of peace, the United Nations Secretary-General conferred on IUFO the diploma of Peace Messenger.

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

IUFO took part in the international conference held in Ottawa in September 1987 on the occasion of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two reports were presented by delegates of IUFO.

In January 1988 the Commission on Family Housing of IUFO held an international colloquy "Homeless and family housing" in Cape Vert. The problem of homeless families was brought up by experts according to the particularity of each continent. Participants from 32 countries led the discussions. The first day of the symposium was devoted to the general theme; the second day was given over to problems specific to African countries. Proposals relative to the policy to be adopted were formulated.

In order to extend, in a concrete way, actions taken during this International Year, the Commission on Family Housing of IUFO held a seminar "Financing of social lodgings: assisted autoconstruction" in Casablanca, Morocco, in October 1989; a Commission on Family Housing in Africa was created as part of the regional structure of IUFO, Organisation of Pan African Families.

Preparation for the International Year of Literacy

Since 1988, IUFO has been busy with its participation in the International Year of Literacy. The Commission on Education of IUFO, in close liaison with UNESCO, has held a number of preparatory meetings.

An IUFO Conference, held in Lisbon, upon invitation of the Portuguese Government, adopted a declaration suggesting the following measures: the development of pre-school teaching; making adequate arrangements for the pupils' working time; teaching adapted to the individual's needs; suitable school and professional guidance; professional teaching integrated into the local economy.

In 1989, IUFO and its Commission on Education carried on with their preparatory studies for the International Year of Literacy. A project for a Declaration was adopted which underlines the necessity of introducing a family dimension to the action plans that will be adopted during the International Year.

In collaboration with the Government of Angola and UNESCO, IUFO prepared a seminar to be held in Luanda in 1990 on "Literacy, a new apprenticeship of development".

Health for All by the Year 2000

IUFO participates in the efforts of UNICEF, the United Nations and OMS in emphasizing the role of families in the promotion of health. Upon invitation of the Government of Greece, IUFO held an International Conference in Athens in June 1988. The synthesis report drew attention to the four following factors:

- (a) Family as the context. The family is the environment for the development and well-being of its members;
- (b) Environment of the family. Family environments include physical, social, cultural, biological and economic elements;
- (c) Family health care responsibilities. These responsibilities include caring and curing functions for family members and kinship networks;
- (d) Family supports. The fourth essential factor, interlocking with all others, is the roles of non-governmental and governmental organizations in supporting families and communities in their health promotion efforts.

9. INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LAWYERS

(Category II)

The Union internationale des avocats (UIA) is a world-wide organization of lawyers and bar associations. It has approximately 3,500 individual members and bar association members in 65 countries. It is the oldest such organization, having been founded in 1927, and is one of the two leading international organizations of lawyers which have a global dimension.

There are five official languages of the organization: French, English, Spanish, German and Italian. UIA makes a particular point of being multilingual and multicultural. It works habitually in French, English and Spanish. At its 34th Congress, to be held in Strasbourg in September 1990, the detailed programme of events has been produced in French, English, Spanish and German. Simultaneous translation is being provided for the three principal themes.

UIA is the only world-wide organization of lawyers which has a specific policy of being multilingual. The cost of regularly working in several languages is very considerable and for an organization that is wholly funded from private sources, the cost represents a substantial burden on its financial resources. But UIA is convinced that real progress in producing greater understanding between international lawyers representing the great juridical cultures of the world can only be achieved when those lawyers are able to work in their own languages and communicate with their colleagues from other countries.

UIA was founded in France and maintains its headquarters in Paris. Although the organization has always had a wide international membership, until the early 1980s it could fairly be described as largely francophone. Since that time a policy of multilingualism and multiculturalism has been implemented. It is clear that the policy is in accord with the wishes of its members, because its membership, both individual and bar association, has grown rapidly. At present, applications for membership from the Bulgarian Bar Association, the All China Lawyers Association, the Bar Association of India, the Union of Soviet Advocates, the Faculty of Advocates of Scotland and the Scottish Law Society are under consideration.

UIA has long-standing relations with lawyers and bar associations in Eastern Europe. Those relations have been strengthened in the past four to five years, and the tempo of contacts with Eastern Europe increased considerably in the period 1988-1989. The organization is strongly represented in Latin America. An official UIA visit to several countries in the region, including Brazil, Argentina and Chile, was made in the summer of 1987. Membership of UIA is expanding rapidly in the English-speaking countries, as the Anglo-Saxon legal world comes increasingly to recognize the need for close professional contacts with lawyers in various parts of the world, particularly those practising under civil law systems.

UIA has a number of basic aims, all of which are pursued without political or racial bias. The aims include promoting the development of all fields of legal science and studying the problems arising from professional status and

organization, particularly at the international level. A specific objective is to contribute towards the establishment of an international legal order based on the principle of justice between nations through the law and in the interests of peace in the world. In pursuance of its aims UIA has a stated objective of co-operating with all national and international organizations which have similar aims.

Its aims are implemented by regular congresses and seminars. A major Congress is held each year usually in August or September. In 1986 the annual Congress was held in The Hague, in 1987 in Montreal, in 1988 in Barcelona and in 1989 in Interlaken. The 1990 Congress will be held shortly in Strasbourg, and the 1991 will take place in Mexico City. The principal items at the most recent Congress, attended by 950 delegates, were new trends in tort, recent developments in transnational banking and securities laws, legal protection of the right to be different.

UIA currently has 30 commissions and working groups. They are standing committees concerned with such diverse matters as foreign investments, international arbitration, international sale of goods, human rights and justice for all. Each committee meets at the annual Congress.

UIA seminars are held in various parts of the world on a variety of topics, both business- and non-business-related. So many seminars took place in the period 1986-1989 that it would be impossible to attempt to list them in a report of this nature. To take two examples: the EEC Law Section held a seminar in Copenhagen in November 1989 on the European Court of First Instance; a seminar took place in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in June 1989 on the international status of Antarctica.

A good deal of the work of UIA is of direct relevance to the work of the United Nations. The Human Rights Commission is one of the most important of the UIA's standing committees and is concerned with protecting lawyers who are the subject of intimidation or other pressure as a result of the proper exercise of their profession. The recent work of the Commission on Asylum and Extradition is also of considerable international importance.

10. ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

(Category II)

The Organization for International Economic Relations (IER) was founded in 1947. The goal of IER is to foster international economic relations and other international contacts.

From 1986 to 1989 IER organized 51 events in 10 countries. All the events contributed to a better mutual international understanding and to the development of international economic co-operation. Especially in Europe, IER's activities contributed to overcoming the gap between countries of different economic and social systems.

IER publishes a bimonthly internationally distributed economic journal West-Ost-Journal. It is read in more than 80 countries by economic and political decision makers. IER uses the journal to inform the readership about the opinions of leading personalities of the United Nations and other important international organizations, such as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Vice-President for Economics Research, World Bank, the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Director-General of FAO, the Executive-Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Director-General of GATT, and the Director-General of UNIDO.

The Executive-Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe took part in and delivered a speech at an international economic symposium in Budapest in 1987 on the occasion of IER's fortieth anniversary.

The monthly information bulletin of IER, Donaueuropäischer Informationsdienst published several reports about activities of various special organizations of the United Nations.

Representatives of IER took part at several events of United Nations-related organizations and were in contact with the Vienna-based United Nations institutions.

The annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe underlined the important role of the International Council for New Initiatives in East-West Co-operation (Vienna Council), whose co-founder is president of IER, and a member of the Austrian National Committee.

The same member of IER participated in the ad hoc group of experts at the thirty-third session of UNCTAD in Geneva on 23 March 1987.

Two representatives of IER took part in the briefing by the Branch for the Advancement of Women for non-governmental organizations representatives on 21 January 1988 in Vienna.

One representative was present at the UNIDO/NGO meeting on women and human resource development for industry, 22-23 March 1988 in Vienna.

One member of the board took part in the NGO meeting on disability, 8 December 1988 in Vienna.

Five members of the board took part, together with the Executive-Secretary of ECE, in the CMEA/EEC Conference on Economic Co-operation (Moscow, October 1989).

11. UNITED TOWNS ORGANIZATION

(Category I)

The themes of peace, democracy and human rights are at the very heart of the United Towns Organization (UTA). Our interest in these themes, however, is clearly not limited to selected acts. Rather, they permeate the whole of our activities. Thus, town twinning through the opportunities it creates for getting to know people and recognizing their values, is first and foremost a contribution to peace and concord. Our economic interventions are oriented towards development, in the sense of improved living conditions, which is also a necessary preliminary for peace as well as democracy. Thus, all our activities, even the most technical, are based on the desire to bring people closer together and build relationships of solidarity.

At the same time, we have a vital interest in activities aimed directly at promoting peace since towns are affected by the events that move the world. Hence the specific interventions listed below:

(a) The "Towns and Peace" conferences: United Towns has embarked on a series of conferences on the role of the town in peace. The conference in Sheffield (United Kingdom) in 1986 was followed by one in Rome (Italy) in 1988 and preparations are now under way for the next, to be held in Hospitalet de Llobregat (Spain). Topics discussed have included: peace through education and culture in towns; immigrants in towns; town twinning as a way of promoting co-operation between peoples; disarmament, development, solidarity; the contribution of local communities.

(b) In the field of human rights, United Towns has taken a number of important initiatives as well as engaging in other more specific activities. These include:

A major Euro-African meeting on the Ile de Gorée (Senegal), the starting point for exile for generations of slaves. More than 6,000 people took part. The World Peace Games, at Echirolles (France), at which towns assembled to challenge each other at the cultural level and to join in many cultural activities. Participation in the campaign for twinning with Romanian villages threatened with destruction.

United Towns has also engaged in far-reaching activities in Chile, encouraging further encounters between mayors from many European countries and those in Chile who are fighting for democracy.

Since November 1989, United Towns has stressed its solidarity with the countries of Eastern Europe by co-operating with the new local authorities that have emerged from the political upheavals which have taken place in that region.

(c) The North-South activities of United Towns have developed on the following lines: promotion of twinning and co-operation with towns in black Africa, priority being given to economic interventions and co-operation in the areas of health and basic education.

In addition to these individual activities, a North-South Forum was held at the Council of Europe (January 1989). It brought together towns from 26 countries in an initiative centring on such concrete problems as how to finance co-operation among towns and how to enable towns to develop their international contacts practically and effectively.

In November 1989, UTA held a meeting at Lille (France) on the topic "The Town: Motor of Development", to demonstrate that urbanization was not a threat in itself but could, on the contrary, be a factor for development. Fifteen Governments, 10 international organizations and a large number of towns responded to our invitation.

United Towns contributes to North-South co-operation by encouraging its members to participate in town-to-town activities in three major sectors: urban management (planning, infrastructure management and urban services), municipal management and local economic development. Means of action include: expert services and support for urban programmes of works. The organization currently sponsors a little over 40 agreements relating to towns in Latin America and Africa. In Latin America it has created Cuidagua, a network grouping some 220 towns interested in the topic of sanitation and water supply which offers an opportunity for exchanges of experience and the implementation of a fully worked out programme of co-operation.

(d) In the industrialized countries, apart from town twinning (the content of which it works constantly to enrich, as regards not only the traditional but all aspects of community life), United Towns activities give priority to the following fields:

Integration of the handicapped: as a follow-up to the conference at Helsinki (Finland) in May 1988 on the topic "Towns and the Handicapped" the organization has set up a pilot group to promote the exchange of European experience and offer solutions for the problems encountered by towns.

Integration of immigrants. United Towns has been working on this for several years. The aim of the conference held in Lisbon (Portugal) in 1987 was to seek a basis for joint action in towns by all the actors involved. The topic will be on the agenda of the United Towns Congress to be held in Cordoba (Argentina) in October 1990.

Social and economic integration of young people, particularly as regards vocational training and initial qualifications, areas in which towns in many countries have an important part to play.

Prevention of delinquency, in association with other international organizations.

These different themes express one of the organization's main concerns: to reaffirm the role of the towns in the struggle against segregation of all kinds, as a means of strengthening democracy and contributing to inter-group harmony and, thus, of sharing in the work for peace.

12. WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

(Category II)

The World Federation of the Deaf is an international non-governmental organization of national deaf associations. During the period under review, the number of its ordinary members (the national associations of the deaf) had reached 74, representing all five continents. The WFD objectives are: to promote the human and social rights of deaf persons, their full participation in society and equalization of opportunities; to strengthen the status of sign languages and to increase educational opportunities for deaf persons as well as to promote their access to information; to encourage and support national associations of the deaf to work for a better overall situation for the deaf community in each country. In its capacity as a non-governmental organization in the United Nations system, the WFD renders its expertise in deafness and advocates the rights of deaf persons globally. An important field in WFD activities is to give its members, partners in co-operation, and authorities concerned information about WFD resolutions and recommendations but also general information about deafness. In the work programmes during the period under review, priority has been given to deaf persons and their organizations in developing countries.

The Twelfth WFD General Assembly, held during the Tenth World Congress of the Deaf, held in Espoo, Finland, in July 1987, appointed Mrs. Liisa Kauppinen General Secretary of WFD and subsequently decided to transfer its General Secretariat office from Rome to Helsinki. Funds provided by the government-controlled Finnish Slot Machine Association made it possible to appoint a staff of four persons to work at the General Secretary's office for the period 1987-1991. Rome continues to be the legal seat of WFD.

Co-operation with the United Nations

During the period under review, the WFD enhanced co-operation with the United Nations and established new contacts with United Nations agencies. It used its consultative role on several occasions by sending representatives to United Nations meetings, by inviting United Nations officials to the Tenth World Congress, and exchanging documents and other information. In 1988, WFD started to co-operate intensively with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the Special Representative for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, both based at the United Nations Office at Vienna. A result of this co-operation was that more attention in the United Nations World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons is paid to the cause of deaf people and their organizations. In 1989, WFD advised the Centre on the preparation of an organizational manual concerning organizations of disabled persons.

The President of WFD and the Swedish WFD Bureau (or executive board) members and three deaf leaders from national associations of the deaf participated in the Global Meeting of Experts to Review the Implementation of the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons at the Mid-Point of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. The meeting, which was held in Stockholm, 17-22 August 1987, approved the WFD representatives' proposal that that sign language interpretation

should be available at all meetings arranged by the United Nations system. They point out that deaf and severely hearing-impaired people should be recognized as a linguistic minority, with the specific right to have their native and indigenous sign languages accepted as their first and official languages and as the medium of communication and instruction, and to have sign language interpretation services.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons invited the WFD General Secretary to consult with him and the CDSHA officers in Vienna, 8-9 June 1989. Matters discussed ranged from strategies on how better to involve deaf persons and their organizations in the United Nations World Programme of Action to how to co-operate for a better situation for deaf persons in the developing countries by promoting the establishment of deaf organizations and supporting existing deaf organizations in the third world.

During the period under review, the WFD had consultative talks with UNESCO on possible future collaboration and on deaf education - i.e., the creation of more educational opportunities for deaf persons and raising the quality of deaf education. At the same time, the General Secretary of WFD participated in the UNESCO Consultation on Further Education, 2-6 May 1988. At this meeting, the General Secretary stressed that an improvement in deaf persons' access to education was urgently required and the inclusion of sign language in deaf school curricula and its use as a means of communication were of vital importance to deaf communities world wide.

The French member of the WFD Bureau participated at the WHO International Conference for the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases held in Geneva, 26 September - 2 October 1989. Moreover, the WFD Scientific Commissions and Non-Scientific Sections exchanged information with the United Nations system and provided it with documents via the WFD General Secretariat.

During the period under review, preparations were initiated to formulate a declaration of the rights of deaf persons, with the purpose to submit it to the United Nations General Assembly for approval.

WFD disseminated information to the United Nations system by sending its official magazine, resolutions and recommendations, and other documents to the United Nations offices, specialized agencies and regional economic commissions.

WFD survey on deaf people in the developing countries

During the period under review, the WFD launched a data-gathering project on the human rights educational opportunities and advocacy work of deaf people in the developing world. The survey questionnaire was mailed to 200 national associations of the deaf, administrators, and professionals in the field of deafness in 100 developing countries. The response rate was 46 per cent. The outcome of the data was computerized and used for setting-up a WFD Developing World Database and to produce a report in writing later on.

During the survey process, several United Nations specialized agencies, such as WHO and UNESCO, and CDSHA in Vienna were contacted in order to find reference to the data gathered by the WFD. A most useful source of reference was the United Nations Disability Statistics Data Base (1988), provided by DIESA.

13. WORLD SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

(Category II)

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) was founded in 1981 as a result of the merger between the International Society for the Protection of Animals (ISPA) and the World Federation for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). These two organizations had enjoyed a long-standing relationship and consultative status at the United Nations, had initiated materials that were published by United Nations-related organs and had multiple contacts with and did consultative work with several of its specialized agencies, including FAO and WHO. Traditionally, one of the main focuses of WSPA and its predecessor organizations has been the creation and encouragement of animal protection and welfare measures in the lesser developed areas of the world.

There have been no substantial changes in WSPA's sources of funding over the past four years, but there has been a material geographical expansion by the creation of new offices in Nairobi, Kenya, and Auckland, New Zealand, and the opening of additional offices in Latin America.

Contacts and co-operation with United Nations bodies

During the review period a number of contacts were undertaken by the WSPA Secretary and all of the WSPA Regional Directors in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. In October of 1989 the newly appointed Director General of WSPA met in New York with the Chief of the NGO Unit (DIESA).

Some of the WSPA activities for animal welfare and protection which are carried on globally and on a daily basis are summarized below:

(a) Where standards of transport for animals are improved, and where replacement of long-distance transport of live animals by a trade in carcasses is feasible, there is a tremendous reduction in waste of this highly prized and valuable food commodity. Better quality, more hygienic meat and less waste also results from the wider use of modern humane scientific methods of animal slaughtering;

(b) Stricter and more humane regulation of surplus dog populations invariably results in improved rabies control and other disease control, with enhanced standards of public hygiene and safety;

(c) Educational programmes at the primary-school level on the needs and requirements of domestic animals inescapably result in better animal production and improved public hygiene, and the promotion through such programmes of greater respect for the needs of wild animals and explanations of their importance in a balanced eco-system result in enhanced public support for the protection of the biosphere during a nation's development.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals, in conjunction with the World Health Organization, recently published a detailed book entitled Guidelines for Dog Population Management. This project was initiated by the Chief, Veterinary Public Health, Division of Communicable Diseases in the World Health Organization, and relied heavily upon data and experience and guidance from WSPA.

WSPA's Western Regional Director has worked with the Director of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) in New York, and WSPA's European Regional Director has worked with the Geneva UNDRO office. For 30 years WSPA and its corporate predecessors have been active in providing disaster relief for animals following both natural and man-made disasters. The liaison with UNDRO has usually been through the various ministries of agriculture via UNDRO.

In 1986 WSPA, through its Austrian member society, became involved in the threat to livestock arising from the Chernobyl nuclear contamination problem, and again in 1986, as a result of the military conflict in Nicaragua, WSPA had to intervene in attempting to deal with the horses, cattle and other livestock that were abandoned by refugees at the border. In 1988, droughts in India and floods in Thailand; Hurricane Gilbert in Mexico, Jamaica and Puerto Rico; Hurricane Joan in Costa Rica; and the Machu Picchu sanctuary fire in Peru resulted in WSPA disaster relief activities taken in conjunction with UNDRO. In 1989, WSPA dispatched personnel to rescue wildlife in Alaska as a result of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and the disaster in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico caused by Hurricane Hugo resulted in the provision of veterinary supplies, food, equipment and financial assistance to the islands.

Educational pilot and model humane education programme

It has been proven conclusively that the relationship between cruelty towards animals and violence towards people is very clear. Cruelty towards animals has a profoundly desensitizing effect on children and is likely to develop into a disregard for human suffering. Accordingly, fostering an ethic in children which promotes a regard for all life - beginning with animals and extending to people - is our best hope for the future. Compassion and concern for animals and the transference of these principles to compassion and concern for other people is most effectively presented through humane education. While programmes of humane education have developed in Great Britain, the United States, and Western Europe, little has been done to make such programmes available internationally, and WSPA is in a unique position to accomplish this goal.

As a result, WSPA is in the process of developing an educational pilot programme for Latin America through its activities in Costa Rica, including teacher-training workshops and the creation and utilization of effective classroom materials. Once the pilot humane education programme has been evaluated, it will be made available to the appropriate United Nations-related organizations for further dissemination and implementation.

In addition to the above United Nations-related contacts, WSPA is actively involved with the Environmental Liaison Centre in Nairobi, the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species, and the International Whaling Commission.

WSPA continues to provide a platform for world-wide animal protection. WSPA Biennial World Congresses (conferences) were held in May 1986 in Luxembourg and in May 1988 in Toronto, Canada.

14. WORLD WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

(Category II)

The World Women's Christian Temperance Union (WWCTU) is a non-profit, non-partisan, interdenominational organization, dedicated to the education of our nation's citizens, especially our youth, on the harmful effects of alcoholic beverages, other narcotic drugs, and tobacco, on the human body and the society in which we live. We work with the issues and legislation that affect women's rights, home protection, Christian outreach, public relations, social service and citizenship. Our membership numbers 500,000. Funding is from private donations or bequests and annual dues.

We members of WWCTU were particularly interested in the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, since our organization was represented at the signing of the United Nations Charter, in San Francisco in 1945, by Dr. Ella Boole, Dr. Mamie Calvin, Elizabeth Smart from Washington, Mrs. Ida B. Wise Smith, Helen G. H. Estelle and Elizabeth Mary Chesterton-Mangle. They not only were there, but they made a significant contribution, establishing the system of non-governmental organizations.

The item that we were very much excited about in 1985 was the end of the United Nations Decade for Women. It had started back in 1975 in Mexico City where the Decade's inaugural meeting took place.

Then, in 1980, while we of WWCTU were meeting in Sheffield, England, the mid-Decade meeting was held in Copenhagen, where we had working representatives from Africa (Nigeria) and the Caribbean (St. Kitts). Finally, in 1985, we had the famous meeting at Nairobi.

The Decade for Women told our organization that there was growing recognition that full and equal participation of women was essential to world development and peace.

The Decades that our organization has worked with in their local union organizations throughout the world since 1985 were:

(a) International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, which is still being worked with. Our members in the European countries are among the peace corps working on this very issue. They lobby in the different areas that are needed;

(b) United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. Our members are working with legislation in the different American states, Canadian provinces and European areas for the local United Nations groups to lobby for this and make the public aware of what is going on throughout the world;

(c) International Plan on Aging has also been questioned amongst our members, and we are now just beginning to get involved in this area.

The organization is having to get reoriented to the United Nations, with our representative giving her first talk on 14 August 1990 in Beckley, West Virginia, at the National Women's Christian Temperance Union Annual Convention. The World Women's Christian Temperance Union Convention will be in Sweden in 1992, where our representative will co-address with our representative from Switzerland.

We are in 72 countries throughout the world and have helped organize many small chapters of United Nations representatives.
