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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Second periodic reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by articles 10 to 12, in accordance with the second stage of the programme established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988 (LX)

Addendum

AUSTRIA*

[5 February 1986]

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I. ARTICLE 10: PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY, MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

A. Protection of the family

1. Article 8, paragraph 1 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which has the status of a constitutional law in Austria, guarantees to everyone the right to respect for his private and family life.

2. As regards protection of the family under civil law, reference is made to the provision of section 137a of the General Civil Code, which states that third parties may interfere with parental rights only to the extent that they are permitted to do so by the parents themselves, directly by virtue of a law or by virtue of an order from a public authority. An existing marriage is protected under civil law by the rule that it can only be dissolved or there can only be a divorce by judicial decision (sections 34 and 36 of the Marriage Act). By virtue of section 27 of the Marriage Act, no one can plead nullity of a marriage until the marriage has been annulled by the judgement of a court.

3. Article 12 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which also has constitutional status, provides that:

"Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right."

Under section 17 of the Marriage Act, a marriage takes place only when the engaged couple appear simultaneously before the registrar and declare personally that they want to contract marriage to one another. A pre-condition is that the spouses are majors in terms of marriage law and that they have the capacity to contract. The only prohibitions refer to bigamy, kinship and an adoptive relationship.

4. Other provisions protecting the family include section 192 of the Penal Code, banning bigamy, and section 193, which makes it an offence to force a person into contracting marriage.

5. Among fiscal measures to help people found families, family subsidies and birth subsidies are particularly important; they are regulated by the Act on Alleviating Family Burdens. Persons having their domicile or regular residence in Austria are eligible for the family subsidy, and they are entitled to receive the subsidy:

(a) For children who are minors;

(b) For children who are of age but are under 27 and who are undergoing basic vocational training or further training in their vocation in a specialized school, provided school attendance prevents them from exercising their vocation;

(c) For children who are of age and who will probably be permanently incapable of earning their living because of a physical or mental handicap which they suffered before their twenty-first year or during subsequent vocational training but not later than their twenty-seventh year.

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It is primarily the person in whose household the child lives that is entitled to the family subsidy.

6. As from 1 January 1985, the basic amount of the family subsidy is 1,100 Austrian schillings per month for each child. The age supplement paid for every child from the beginning of the calendar year in which the child turns 10 is AS 200 per month. The supplement to the family subsidy allotted to every child suffering from a considerable handicap is AS 1,300 per month.

7. Families are also assisted by the travel allowance they receive for schoolchildren and by the fact that regular pupils of public or quasi-public primary, intermediate or higher secondary schools are given the necessary textbooks free of charge.

8. Another public measure to protect the family is the provision for assistance to families in cases of hardship; this was introduced when the new Federal Ministry for the Family, Young People and Consumer Protection was established on 1 January 1984.

9. A birth subsidy is provided when a body is born. Its present total is AS 13,000, to be disbursed in three instalments.

10. In order to make it easier for young people to start a family, the Federal Act to Improve Housing Conditions for Young Families was adopted. The aim of the Act is to offer low-priced housing to young people wishing to start a family, who often lack the necessary funds to finance a home. These persons are given financial help by the Government. Where housing expenses constitute an unreasonable burden for a young family, they are given financial subsidies to enable them to pay for their home.

11. In terms of taxation, families are assisted by the provision that where there is only one earner in a family, that person is given special tax allowances. Under income tax law, the number of children a taxpayer has is also taken into account in assessing his tax.

B. Protection of mothers

12. Central to the protection of mothers in legislative terms is the Protection of Mothers Act, 1979. In particular it prohibits the employment of expectant mothers and mothers after the birth of a child. Expectant mothers may not be employed during the last two months of their pregnancy. This prohibition may take effect earlier where required for medical reasons. In addition, the general principle applies that expectant mothers may not be employed to do hard physical work or types of work detrimental to their health or that of the unborn child because of the work process, substances or equipment used. This also applies to work which involves special accident hazards.

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13. Employment is not permitted until eight weeks after childbirth. In cases of difficult deliveries this period may be extended. Expectant and nursing mothers may not work during the night, that is, between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., nor may they be employed on Sundays or public holidays.

14. The Protection of Mothers Act also provides for protection against dismissal. Women cannot be given legally effective notice during pregnancy or until four months after childbirth.

15. The Act also states that payment of wages must be continued during the period when the protective provisions described above for expectant mothers and women after childbirth apply. Even after the end of the protected period, a woman may ask for maternity leave for up to a year after the baby's birth, but she is not entitled to wages during this time.

16. The introduction of the "Mother and child passport" placed medical care of expectant mothers and babies on a new basis. Today about 96 per cent of the women concerned participate in the programme of examinations under the "Passport". This ensures continuous monitoring of the health of the mother and the baby, a fact most clearly reflected in the drop of infant mortality as well as the mortality of mothers. These medical examinations are free of charge. Moreover, the fact that a higher birth subsidy is offered to women who undergo these examinations has led to a marked increase in the frequency of examinations during pregnancy. The higher birth subsidy is paid out in three instalments:

(a) To receive the first instalment, the pregnant women has to undergo four examinations and the baby must be examined in the first week of its life;

(b) For the second instalment, four examinations of the baby during its first year have to be documented;

(c) The third instalment is disbursed as soon as another medical examination has been made during the child's third year.

17. Each of the country's constituent States maintains a number of special services for high-risk pregnancies and high-risk babies.

18. In addition to the medical programme involving the "Mother and child passport", federal financial support is also given to a special examination programme for the early discovery of visual, auditory and language disturbances in babies and small children. These examinations are made throughout the country in maternity consultancies and kindergartens.

19. In addition, prospective parents and young parents are one of the most important target groups for health education and health counselling. Besides the publication of printed and audio-visual information materials, future parents are offered courses on baby care, preparation for birth and gymnastics during pregnancy. In these courses, future parents can be intensively counselled and advised on questions of health.

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20. The Assistants for Self-Employed Mothers Act, which came into effect on 1 July 1982, enables self-employed mothers in farming, forestry and business to employ assistants during the protected period to help them with their work, and to claim a daily financial contribution of AS 250 per day from the appropriate health insurance scheme for such work. As a result, for the first time self-employed women also enjoy maternity protection.
21. Where a woman has been employed for a certain time, she is entitled to a special benefit under unemployment insurance if she decides to apply for leave of absence after the birth of her child. This benefit is currently AS 133 per day for married mothers and about AS 200 per day for single mothers, and the amount is adjusted annually for inflation.
22. In case of a man's death, his family is protected by their entitlement to a social security pension. In special cases where a person cannot work for a living, a system of social assistance provides for him or her.
23. When payments for maternity leave cease, single mothers who can prove that they have no one to take care of their child can claim a special emergency payment out of unemployment insurance funds to enable them to take care of their child themselves until it reaches the age of 3. Unlike maternity leave pay, this benefit depends on the mother's most recent salary and is provided by the employment service.
24. The Maintenance Advances Act was an important step to ensure maintenance payments for children under the age of majority. It reduces the responsibility of the Federal Government to pay advances on the statutory maintenance of minors. The prerequisites are that the child must live in Austria and must be either of Austrian nationality or stateless. Furthermore, attempts to obtain payment from the person liable to pay maintenance must have been unsuccessful. The wardship court decides on the granting of such advances under non-litigious proceedings. In these proceedings, the child is represented by the person entitled to bring a maintenance claim, that is, normally the mother or the district administrative authority in its capacity as maintenance curator or guardian.

C. Protection of children

25. Minors are protected under civil law against conduct by their parents endangering their welfare; under section 176 (a) of the General Civil Code, the court, where required, issues the necessary orders to ensure the child's welfare. Anyone can ask the court to do this.
26. Under the provisions of the Young People's Welfare Act, the court may act against the parents' wishes and may order judicial educational assistance, supervision of a young person's education or education in an institution, where this is necessary because those entitled to educate a young person are misusing their authority or are not fulfilling the obligations resulting therefrom, or where this is required to relieve physical, intellectual, mental or moral neglect of a minor.

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27. Special measures to care for and educate juvenile offenders are provided for not only in the Young People's Welfare Act but also in the provisions of the Juvenile Courts Act. When a child or an adolescent commits a criminal offence, and where defective education was at least one of the causes, the Juvenile Courts Act provides that, whether he is punished or not, appropriate remedial steps are taken (especially educational action in accordance with the general provisions of civil law or with the provisions of the Young People's Welfare Act).

28. Under certain conditions, a probation officer may be assigned to a juvenile offender to supervise and help him in his daily life. In urgent cases a probation officer may be appointed for a young suspect with his own and his legal representative's agreement even before the criminal proceedings against him have been completed.

29. Special attention is paid in prisons to social and psychological care, education and vocational training of young offenders, and to ensure the necessary help after their release.

30. Under civil law, minors are protected against exploitation by the provisions on contractual capacity (of section 151 of the General Civil Code, and, in the present context, in particular section 152 of the Code). Under section 151 of the Code, a legitimate child who is under age cannot enter into legal transactions or assume obligations without the explicit or tacit approval of his legal representative, that is, his parents. Under section 152 of the Code, only a legitimate child over 14 years of age can obligate himself on his own by contract to provide a service, except services performed under an apprenticeship or other vocational training contract. On important grounds, the child's legal representative may dissolve the legal relationship based on the contract before it is due to end. Under section 244 of the Code, this also applies to illegitimate minors.

31. The following provisions serve to protect children and young persons against exploitation, neglect, cruelty and trade in human beings:

(a) In addition to the general penal provisions against physical injury, section 92 of the Penal Code provides for specific penalties in cases where physical or mental pain is caused to a child or adolescent or where a person grossly neglects his obligation to provide care or protection so that the child's or adolescent's health or physical or mental development is considerably damaged. Any person who overworks a child or adolescent maliciously or out of lack of concern and thereby causes the risk of a considerable physical injury or damage to the victim's health is punished under section 93 of the Penal Code;

(b) Section 101 of the Penal Code makes it a criminal offence to abduct a person under 14 years of age for the purpose of sexual abuse, and section 103 refers to conveying a person (including children or adolescents) to a foreign country by means of violence, threats or deception;

(c) Abandoning a child with respect to whom one has an obligation of care is punishable under section 198 of the Penal Code; gross breaches of one's liability

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for maintenance vis-à-vis a child or adolescent are a criminal offence under section 198. A person who grossly violates his statutory duty to provide education or supervision to a minor and who thus causes the minor's neglect is punished under section 199.

32. As regards the protection of children and adolescents at work, reference is made to the Federal Act on the Employment of Children and Adolescents. Children are persons younger than 14 years of age and adolescents are persons between 14 and 18. The Act is based on the principle that child labour means all kinds of work and that children may not be employed for any kind of work.

33. It is, however, permissible to ask children over 12 years of age to perform certain kinds of light work, such as delivering messages or running errands for their parents or doing light work in their parents' own business. But this must not impair their physical or mental health and development or their school attendance. Even such light work is prohibited for children on Sundays and public holidays and between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. Observance of these provisions is monitored by the Work Inspectorate as well as by the appropriate municipal and educational authorities.

34. Persons between 14 and 18 years of age may in principle be employed, but not for more than 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week. They must be allowed time off to attend obligatory vocational school.

35. In some sectors, adolescents may not be employed, for example, in mines and for blasting work in quarries. The Act specifies 52 prohibited types of work. Moreover, certain establishments may not employ adolescents for moral reasons, for example, dancing clubs, night bars or cabarets.

36. Employers violating the provisions of the Act commit a criminal offence. They may also be banned from employing children or adolescents either for a certain period or forever.

II. ARTICLE 11: THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

A. Right to adequate food

37. Sufficient supplies of food for the population are ensured by the Market Regulation Act for milk, dairy products and grain by the Animal Husbandry Act for meat and meat products, by the Agriculture Act for generally securing supplies for the population, especially through specific aids and incentives, and by the Food Control Act, which was adopted to safeguard the provision of food based on agricultural produce.

38. The main object of the Government's food policy continues to be the secure supply to the population of a wide range of high-quality foodstuffs and raw materials of uniform quality at affordable prices. As the quantitative aim has long been achieved, priority is accorded to measures likely to improve and to ensure quality.

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39. Austria has attained a high level of self-sufficiency in food with a nearly constant population. In most major types of agricultural produce, production exceeds domestic requirements to varying degrees. However, only a small part of the demand for vegetable oils is produced in the country. In 1982/83, consumption of food in joules was 35,585 billion, which was virtually unchanged from 1981/82. For domestic production, excluding animal products produced on the basis of imported animal feed, the level of self-sufficiency is 102 per cent.

40. The daily joule rate per capita was 12,832 joules. Of the raw materials and staple foods produced in this country, the following quantities were consumed for nutritional purposes in Austria: 611,000 tons of bread grain, 436,000 tons of potatoes, 288,500 tons of sugar and sugar products, 634,000 tons of meat, 93,000 tons of animal fat, 90,500 tons of eggs, 913,000 tons of whole milk, 39,000 tons of cheese, 40,500 tons of butter, 276,500 tons of fresh fruit and 565,000 tons of vegetables.

41. For a number of foods the self-sufficiency rates of domestic production in percentage of consumption have been well above 100 per cent. The production of grain products by far exceeds domestic requirements, as does the production of sugar and sugar products. The production of various animal products exceeds domestic needs in varying degrees.

42. The provisions regulating trade in food are directed to protecting people against health hazards, ensuring that buyers are well informed and preventing deception of consumers (for example, by requiring proper labelling). Controls of food are carried out under the Food Act, 1975, which deals with the distribution of food. Foodstuffs may not be distributed if they are dangerous to health, spoiled or unripe or misleadingly labelled, or if they do not meet the minimum quality standards set by administrative regulation.

43. Any distributor of food must ensure that it is not exposed to external factors detrimental to human health. The distribution of products coming under the Food Act is the responsibility of state governors, who must use the services of trained officers to discharge this responsibility. These officers have wide-ranging powers. In particular, they are authorized to make inspections wherever products coming under the Food Act are distributed. Their powers also extend to premises and areas where animals are kept or where plants are grown. Owners of businesses and farms must allow the officers to make their inspections. They must also provide the officers with the necessary information on substances used for production, their origin and the buyers of their products. Moreover, producers and importers have to inform the appropriate research institutes, if the latter so demand, of the composition of and production processes used for certain foods and other products coming under the Food Act, if the institutes need such information in a specific case to protect health, to ensure the quality of food or to prevent deception.

44. The officers are also authorized to draw samples of products. Inspections are made continuously in accordance with a predetermined plan. Samples drawn by officers on suspicion or at random are sent for tests to the appropriate government research institute. Moreover, the officers must impound products where there is reason to suspect that they are hazardous to health or spoiled, or that there is a

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breach of statutory prohibitions or some other serious violation of legal provisions. When there are reasons to suspect that products do not meet the requirements of the Food Act, the authorities must so inform the person entitled to dispose of them. If the products are not modified to suit the law or are not withdrawn, the authorities may impound them, if this is necessary to ensure the quality of food or to protect consumers from deception.

45. To examine such products, the Federal Food Research Institute at Vienna, the federal institutes at Linz, Graz, Innsbruck and Salzburg and three regional institutes at Bregenz, Klagenfurt and Vienna are available, as well as the services of private experts authorized by the Federal Ministry of Health and Environmental Protection. The federal institutes are under the direct authority of the Federal Minister of Health and Environmental Protection. The staff of the institutes consist of scientists qualified in a wide range of relevant disciplines.

B. Right to adequate clothing

46. There are no legal provisions to guarantee a right to adequate clothing. The production and distribution of clothing in Austria is not under the regulatory control of the Government, but is the function of a free market organized along the lines of private enterprise. There is no need for rationing of clothing.

C. Right to housing

47. According to the Austrian Federal Constitution, promotion of residential construction, improvement of dwellings, urban renewal, legislation is a federal matter, whereas implementation of all relevant laws is the responsibility of the Länder governments. Laws enacted to promote housing include the following:

(a) Housing Promotion Act of 1968 (Wohnbauförderungsgesetz 1968), in force until 31 December 1984;

(b) Housing Improvement Act of 1969 (Wohnungsverbesserungsgesetz), in force until 31 December 1984;

(c) Housing Promotion Act of 1984 (Wohnbauförderungsgesetz 1984) (came into force 1 January 1985);

(d) Housing Renewal Act (Wohnhaussanierungsgesetz) (came into force 1 January 1985);

(e) Federal Act on the 1982 Special Housing Scheme (Bundes-Sonderwohnbaugesetz 1982);

(f) Federal Act on the 1983 Special Housing Scheme (Bundes-Sonderwohnbaugesetz 1983);

(g) Federal Act on the Improvement of the Housing Situation of Young Families (Startwohnungsgesetz).

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Tax incentives

48. All persons who are subject to income tax and to a tax on their salary are entitled to the following tax reductions in the field of housing:

(a) Promotion of building and loan associations according to the Income-Tax Act:

- (i) In 1981 there was an increase in the premium for building savings from 10 per cent to 13 per cent, an increase in the sum for tax reduction from AS 7,000 to AS 8,000, as well as the possibility of changing contracts (six-year contracts with a premium of 13 per cent instead of five-year contracts with a premium of 10 per cent);
- (ii) In the summer of 1983, a premium for extended contracts of building and loan associations was introduced, to bring about a reduction in the disbursement of contracts due during the years 1984 and 1985. All investors in a building and loan association who had signed contracts between 1 October 1977 and 6 September 1979 and had declared their intention to extend their contract for two years could benefit from the 18 per cent premium for longer contracts rather than the original 22 per cent;

(b) As from 1982, every taxpayer may reduce his annual income by the following amounts: AS 10,000 for the taxpayer, AS 10,000 for the spouse and AS 5,000 for each child. Those amounts have to be bound by contract for eight years and have to serve for the construction of dwellings built by non-profit building associations. If those amounts are not bound for that period, they are subject to full taxation.

Low-income families

49. Applicants for "substitution loans" for owner-occupied houses, owner-occupied dwellings or rented flats must be "favoured persons". This means that there must be no other solution to an urgent housing need and that the annual income of the family does not exceed the following amounts:

<u>Number of persons living in the same household</u>	<u>Family income (Schillings)</u>
1	273 000
2	409 500
3	464 100
4	518 700
More than 4	546 000

These annual amounts are linked to the consumer price index.

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Substitution loans (Eigenmitteleratzdarlehen)

50. These loans will be granted by the Länder to replace the borrower's own funds. The loans can be granted up to the full amount the borrower is required to provide, if that amount cannot be expected from the applicant in view of his financial capacity, which depends not only on the family income, but also on the number of persons living in the same household and on the usable floor area.

Annuity subsidies and interest subsidies

51. The Länder can grant annuity subsidies or interest subsidies for the repayment of mortgage loans. The subsidies, their level, their maturity and an agreement concerning a later repayment can depend on the type of tenure (owner-occupied or rented dwellings), the family income, the number of persons living in the same household and the usable floor area. Details will be fixed by the by-laws of the Länder.

Housing subsidies (Wohnbeihilfe)

52. Housing subsidies can be granted only to Austrian private persons. With regard to rented dwellings, the Länder are entitled, in cases of social need, to grant such subsidies annually, on application from tenants. Concerning owner-occupied dwellings and owner-occupied houses, the Länder may grant a housing subsidy on application.

Measures taken or envisaged to solve the special problems of housing, water supply and sanitary conditions in rural areas

53. With a view to safeguarding a housing promotion programme which is in line with population and economic policies, the Housing Promotion Act, 1984 stipulates that the Länder have to draw up five-year residential construction schemes, broken down according to periods and areas. Those schemes must be elaborated with due regard for a concentration of effort in zones of industrial agglomeration and areas under development. Moreover, housing demand, regional, economic and labour market needs, as well as economic development, must be taken into consideration in preparing these schemes. Financing plans must also be included.

Measures taken for the protection of tenants, such as rent control and legal guarantees

54. The existing system of protecting tenants against unreasonable increases in rents has been further extended by the Rent Act (Mietrechtsgesetz). As provisions of this type are also contained in the Non-Profit Housing Act (Wohnungsgemeinnützigkeitsgesetz) and the Housing Promotion Act, it may be taken for granted that almost all tenants and users are sufficiently protected against unjustified rent increases.

55. In general, lease contracts are concluded for an indefinite period of time. However, lessors have the right to terminate the lease for important reasons, such as the following:

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(a) If the tenant defaults in payment of the rent in spite of a reminder received after the due date;

(b) If the tenant fails to maintain the property in a proper state of repair or if he is inconsiderate of other people living in the same building;

(c) If the tenant has transferred the property, with or without furniture, and obviously does not require it urgently for his own purposes in the near future;

(d) If, after the death of the previous tenant, the rented premises are no longer urgently needed by other persons entitled to use them;

(e) If the rented property is not regularly used to meet the urgent housing need of the tenant;

(f) If the lessor urgently requires the rented premises for his own use or for use by relatives;

(g) If the rented property, already intended as accommodation for employees of the lessor's enterprise before termination of the lease, is urgently required by the lessor for this purpose;

(h) If an event occurs which is defined in the lease as a reason for termination and which the lessor considers to be of sufficient importance to terminate the lease;

(i) If the rents received, including rent rises permitted to cover increased maintenance expenses, are not sufficient to ensure the proper maintenance, on a short-term or a long-term basis, of the tenement building in which the property is located, or if official permission to demolish the tenement building has been given and a substitute dwelling for the tenant has been found;

(j) If a tenement building is to be demolished or rebuilt and new housing built in the same place;

(k) If the tenant of a dwelling of equipment category D refuses to have his sub-standard dwelling improved by the lessor or to carry out such an improvement himself.

56. According to the Rent Act, which stipulates the procedure to be followed in the case of termination, lease contracts require termination by court action. If the tenant objects to the termination, the lessor has to produce evidence of his reasons for termination. The tenant also has the right to terminate the lease contract and to vacate the dwelling after termination.

Statistical data

57. The following tables give details of the housing situation in Austria:

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Housing stock in Austria (dwellings)

1961	2 249 678
1971	2 665 942 + 18.5%
1981	3 052 037 + 14.5%

Housing completed with substitution loans

<u>Dwellings completed</u>	<u>Dwellings completed with substitution loans</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1978 51 525	34 944	67.8
1979 52 972	34 958	66.0
1980 78 457	27 318	34.8
1981 51 038	35 724	70.0
1982 43 872	32 381	73.8
1983 39 055	32 197	82.4

III. ARTICLE 12: THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

58. There are many statutory regulations to protect and maintain the health of the population. In addition to regulations governing technical matters, such as those on the organization of public health care or hospitals, there are statutory regulations aimed at preventing the spread of infectious diseases. The regulations relevant to the preventive health care of the population are part of the comprehensive system of social security, which provides insurance coverage for more than 98 per cent of the population. The two largest branches are health and accident insurance.

59. Health insurance serves both the prevention and the cure of health disorders. Health insurance benefits relate first of all to the treatment of illnesses, which includes both medical assistance and the provision of medicaments and medical aids. The kind of benefit the individual may claim in case of illness is determined by the kind of disease contracted, the aim of the treatment being the positive effect on health, working ability and the capacity to provide for one's vital needs. Illness treatment is granted for an unlimited period of time.

60. Health insurance also includes institutional treatment, if required, and for the length of time required by the special type of disease. The insured person is entitled to the treatment required in one of the public health institutions without time limit, the costs being paid by the health insurance company. Public hospitals are under the obligation to accept all patients who are committed to them.

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61. Another task of the health insurance system is the prevention and early recognition of health risks. Such preventive services are rendered by the health insurance system, particularly within the framework of medical check-ups. While the insured person has no claim to such check-ups, the health insurance company is obligated to offer an adequate number of check-ups. Young people between 15 and 18 years of age, are examined annually. The medical examinations are free for everyone, that is, also for persons who are not insured. The prime target of the examinations is the early recognition of common diseases, such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

62. The health insurance system also offers rehabilitation facilities, which are among the measures aimed at strengthening health and preventing disease.

63. In addition to health insurance, there is accident insurance, the primary aim of which is to prevent ill-health caused by accidents and occupational diseases, to rehabilitate invalids and to provide compensation to victims and their dependants for long-term loss of income. The benefits are strictly limited to personal injuries due to work accidents and occupational diseases. The services offered are designed to restore health and facilitate professional reintegration.

64. With regard to infant mortality, it should be pointed out that it is dependent on various factors. Measures in this field must therefore include both better medical care for pregnant mothers and an intensification of pre-natal and post-natal care, and must take into account the influence of psycho-social factors during pregnancy and the first few years of life.

65. The introduction in 1974 of the check-up system under the "Mother and child passport" was a considerable improvement in medical care. During the last decade the rate of infant mortality was lowered by 50 per cent, not least owing to a nation-wide programme for equipping obstetric departments with the latest state-of-the-art technology and improving general living conditions. In 1984, infant mortality was 11.5 per cent. In addition to intensifying high-risk pregnancy care and the accompanying measures of the "Mother and child passport" programme, baby and infant care was extended in the field of pregnant women's assistance. Today young would-be parents have a closely-knit network of family and mother consultancies at their disposal, which provide not only help in medical questions but also primary assistance in the event of psycho-social problems. In all cases, this assistance is rendered free of charge.

66. In particular, the "Mother and child passport" programme comprises measures benefiting the healthy development of children, that is, a check-up programme up to the age of 6, which is the year of school admission. To enhance the utilization of the check-ups, they have been linked to an increased birth subsidy which applies until the child is 3 years old. As from the beginning of school, the health of a child is continuously monitored by means of periodic medical check-ups. Comprehensive inoculation programmes protect the health of a child against infectious diseases. Today, the "Mother and child passport" programme includes an inoculation schedule containing all inoculations received, as well as other important medical data.

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67. To combat and control endemic and epidemic infectious diseases, the following new inoculation plan was drawn up early in 1984:

First week after birth	BCG
Fourth and fifth months	diphtheria, tetanus
From the fourth month onward	Polio (oral)
Fourteenth month	measles-mumps
Eighteenth month	diphtheria-tetanus re-inoculation
Seventh year (school beginners)	polio oral re-inoculation, diphtheria-tetanus re-inoculation
Between the seventh and fifteenth year	BCG
Thirteenth year	rubella vaccination for girls
Fourteenth to fifteenth year (school leaving)	re-inoculations

68. Within the framework of public inoculation, carried out at health offices, mothers' consultancies, kindergartens and schools, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Environment provides all vaccines free of charge. There is no law prescribing inoculation in Austria and participation in the recommended inoculations is voluntary. The public inoculation programme is considered very important for maintaining public health. The programme includes the following:

(a) BCG inoculation. Although tuberculosis has declined consistently in the last decades, BCG inoculation is continued on a large scale. In the case of prophylactic inoculation against tuberculosis, an attempt is made to inoculate all newborn infants in their first year of life, a possible protective effect of this immunization being that against leukemia;

(b) Diphtheria-tetanus and pertussis inoculation. Thanks to consistent inoculation, diphtheria, formerly much feared, has practically disappeared and tetanus can hardly be found among children and young people. In 1950, there were 8,942 cases of diphtheria and 235 deaths in Austria. In 1960, the figure declined to not more than 831 cases and 10 deaths and in 1970 the number of diphtheria cases was only 24. The last case of diphtheria in Austria was recorded in 1981. A drastic reduction of cases has also been registered with pertussis. While the number of cases was 4,635 in 1950, it dropped to 2,761 in 1960 and 1,438 in 1970. In 1983, only 181 cases of pertussis were recorded;

(c) Polio oral inoculation was introduced in Austria during the winter of 1961/62. While there were 292 cases of polio with 27 deaths in 1961, only 8 cases and 2 deaths were recorded in 1962. Since then, the incidence of poliomyelitis has

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steadily decreased and has not acquired endemic dimensions in Austria. In order to maintain full-scale inoculation, above all of adults, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Environment conducts an information campaign on and advertises for participation in the polio inoculation programme;

(d) Measles-mumps inoculation has proved highly effective in recent years. It is emphatically recommended for preventing measles encephalitis, which often leads to serious, permanent disabilities, and mumps meningitis. For this reason, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Environment provides the vaccine for public inoculations of 2-year-olds free of charge;

(e) Rubella inoculation. In 1975, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Environment made it possible to include the rubella inoculation for girls of prepubertal age in the public inoculation programme by providing the vaccine free of charge.

In addition to the inoculations recommended for children up to 15 years of age, special inoculation programmes are carried out, for example, against influenza or hepatitis B.

69. Under the Austrian epidemics law, a number of contagious diseases must be reported, and if such diseases appear, the local health authorities take appropriate countermeasures; these include quarantine of the diseased person, examination of his environment, identification of the sources of infection etc. The treatment of tuberculosis is regulated under a special law.

70. The measures to prevent or control epidemic and other diseases also include the provisions of sections 178 and 179 of the Austrian Penal Code, under which a person is punishable who commits an act that could lead to the spreading of a contagious disease among the population. The aim of health policies in Austria is to work towards the maintenance and restoration of health living conditions, as well as to ensure efficient and economical health care and medical care for all groups of the population.

71. Most of the diseases prevailing today do not have a single cause so that causal therapy and specific treatment of causes are impossible. However, the varying frequency of diseases dependent on social tiers and groups, age groups, regions, professions and habits of living point to risk factors that can be considered as a condition for these diseases to appear.

72. In addition to improving preventive medicine, the prime targets of Austrian health policy are the structural improvement of health care by means of modern planning and management methods, as well as facilitating access to all services offered by the health care system, in particular adequate distribution, use and accessibility.

73. Immediate medical aid is an essential and integral part of any efficient health system. The main problems of immediate medical aid are early diagnosis, the treatment of the most common diseases and the solution of social and psychological problems of a community.

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74. Basic medical care is the responsibility of the local doctors. To ensure that medical doctors are available to all age groups and all sectors of the population, including people in rural regions, a number of services are available, such as local doctors and specialists, an emergency radio service for doctors, home care for diseased persons, preventive medical care and social auxiliary services.

75. The medical care of the population is in principle secured by:

(a) Primary health care of out-patients within the framework of the above-mentioned facilities and outpatient departments;

(b) Hospitals for in-patient treatment which are categorized according to their tasks such as general hospitals and special hospitals (for example, children's hospitals, hospitals for pulmonary diseases etc.), as well as homes, nursing services and sanatoria.

Depending on local conditions, there usually is one standard hospital for 50,000 to 90,000 people, the departments with the majority of beds being surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, internal medicine and paediatrics.

76. Finally, mention should be made of the university clinics, which basically have all the special equipment provided by the latest medical technology.

77. As at 31 December 1983, for a population of 7,555,338, Austria had 20,390 practising doctors. The ratio of doctors to Austrian inhabitants is 1:370. Of these, 6,415 were general practitioners, 6,985 specialists, 2,206 dentists and 4,784 doctors still undergoing training. Of the practising doctors, about half (10,816) have their own practices, while the others work in hospitals.

78. In 1983, there were 317 hospitals in Austria with a planned capacity of 78,054 beds, 77,417 of which had actually been installed. In addition, the sick wards of nursery homes provided another 5,724 beds. This amounts to a total hospital bed capacity of 83,141. On average, this figure corresponds to 11.01 hospital beds per 1,000 inhabitants.

79. With regard to environmental protection it may be noted that the latest measures are aimed in particular at protecting the forests against pollution. A new programme was launched focusing on the reduction of harmful emissions and further research into the causes and effects of wood damage, as well as an examination of the actual extent of the damage. Pertinent regulations introduced upper limits for nitrogen oxides and maximum amounts for incinerating plants. Provision was made for prescribing environmental standards to companies, which preclude, as far as possible, environmental risks through air pollution, noise or vibration.

80. A graduated plan to reduce the sulphur content in heating oil has been in operation for many years. Between 1980 and 1984, the sulphur dioxide in heating oil was reduced by 40 per cent.

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81. The lead content of regular gasoline was lowered as from 1 April 1982, and of premium gasoline as from 1 June 1983. Since 1 October 1983, the benzol content of fuel has been limited to a maximum of 4 per cent by volume. The sulphur content of diesel oil was restricted to 0.3 per cent. A further reduction to 0.15 per cent will be made concurrent with lowering the sulphur content of heating oil. Since 1 April 1985, leaded regular gasoline has been replaced by unleaded higher-grade gasoline and since 1 October 1985 unleaded regular grade gasoline has been the only gasoline sold in Austria.

82. Since 1 April 1985, it has been possible to register cars equipped with catalytic converters. Special tax measures have been taken which are to promote the use of cars with catalytic converters. It is envisaged to make it mandatory to have all new cars fitted with catalytic converters.

83. In the interest of the protection of health, particular quality standards were fixed for drinking water. The Water Management Fund has been in existence for 25 years, and has provided some AS 60 billion to finance water-management measures, including in particular measures for the purification of water bodies. The Fund has, for example, spent more than AS 9 billion to purify lakes. In the coming years, the Fund's priority will be the purification of running waters, which will lead to an essential improvement of the water quality. Until 1993, a total of some AS 70 billion will be spent on measures for purifying rivers, that is, the construction of village canals, connecting sewage systems and sewage purification plants. This will result in a fundamental improvement of the quality of running waters. At present, 2,000 projects for the purification of town and company sewage are under construction.

84. If environmental policy is to be effective, we not only need appropriate statutory provisions, but also financial assistance from the public sector. For this purpose, an Environment Fund was established and became operative 1 January 1984. It provides financial assistance to commercial and industrial companies for environmental investments in the field of air pollution control, noise abatement and the collection, re-use or disposal of special wastes. In this context, the prime target is to refit old plants.

85. The Fund can also promote pilot plants which use advanced technologies and are therefore particularly suited to contribute to the protection of the environment. In 1984, the Fund had a budget of AS 500 million. In the 1985 federal budget plan, the Fund will be allocated AS 1 billion.

86. Promotion as provided by the Fund consists in interest subsidies amounting to 6 per cent for credits with a duration of 10 or 15 years at the most. In exceptional cases, where it can be proved, the Fund may also provide an investment grant or some other kind of irrevocable grant on the grounds of special environmental relevance and urgency of the measures.
