

**INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
ON THE ELIMINATION
OF ALL FORMS OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**



12 1986

CERD

Distr.
GENERAL

CERD/C/118/Add.17/Rev.1
10 January 1986

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Thirty-third session

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION

Eighth periodic reports of States parties due in 1984

Addendum

BULGARIA 1/

[7 January 1986]

This document covers the period from 1980 to 1985. In accordance with the Secretary-General's note G/SO 237/2/2 of 20 September 1983, it combines the seventh and eighth periodic reports of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The structure of the present report is as recommended in the revised general guidelines adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 16 March 1980 and supplemented on 17 March 1982, concerning the form and content of reports by States parties to the Convention. Having regard to the requests made in the guidelines, this report reproduces some data which have appeared in Bulgaria's previous reports and at the same time supplements the information requested with particulars of the most significant changes which have taken place in the national legislation and practice of the People's Republic of Bulgaria during the period 1980-1985, and particularly in 1984-1985, in the field covered by the Convention. In addition, the relevant sections of the report include further clarifications regarding matters raised during the consideration of the sixth report of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

1/ This report constitutes the seventh and eighth periodic reports of Bulgaria due on 5 January 1982 and 5 January 1984 respectively, which have been combined in one document in accordance with the request made by the Committee at its twenty-ninth session (see CERD/C/SR.674).

For previous reports submitted by the Government of Bulgaria and the summary records of the meetings of the Committee at which the reports were considered, see:

- Initial report - CERD/C/R.3/Add.7 (CERD/C/SR.33, SR.35 and SR.56);
- Second periodic report - CERD/C/R.30/Add.12 (CERD/C/SR.132-133);
- Third periodic report - CERD/C/R.70/Add.25 (CERD/C/SR.213);
- Fourth periodic report - CERD/C/R.90/Add.9 (CERD/C/SR.296 and SR.297);
- Fifth periodic report - CERD/C/20/Add.19 (CERD/C/SR.413 and SR.414);
- Sixth periodic report - CERD/C/66/Add.28 (CERD/C/SR.514 and SR.515).

GE.86-15021

I. GENERAL

(a) During the period covered by this report, the People's Republic of Bulgaria has continued the consistent implementation of the policy outlined in previous periodic reports as regards the elimination of racial discrimination. This policy, at both the domestic and the international level, is directly bound up with the character of the socialist society which has been developing in our country for four decades now, and also with the democratic traditions of our people.

Racial discrimination is incompatible with the ideology and practice of socialism, the aim of which is to ensure the true equality of all citizens in all spheres of social life and to eliminate all discrimination. In addition, in the history of the Bulgarian State over the past 13 centuries there has been no instance of the Bulgarian people falling into a frenzy against other nationalities or ethnic groups, despite the fact that during periods of foreign slavery and occupation the Bulgarian people themselves were repeatedly subjected to cruel discrimination and attempts at forced assimilation. A vivid expression of these democratic traditions was the violent protest of all strata of Bulgarian society against the attempts of the fascist authorities to hand over Bulgarian Jews to the hitlerite occupiers during the Second World War. This wave of nation-wide indignation saved the lives of tens of thousands of people and prevented them from sharing the terrible fate of other Jews in the hitlerite-occupied territories.

The Constitution and laws of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the socialist structure of society and the policy of the Bulgarian Government guarantee every citizen a wide range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in keeping with the international obligations of our State.

In this spirit, the necessary pre-conditions have been created for the genuine realization of the principle of full equality of all citizens, who enjoy the same rights and have the same obligations. The Constitution and laws, on the one hand, proclaim and guarantee identical rights for all citizens of the People's Republic of Bulgaria without any distinction, exclusion, limitation or privilege and, on the other hand, prohibit and punish any manifestation of discrimination, including discrimination based on racial, national or ethnic origin.

For example, article 35 of the Bulgarian Constitution of 1971 provides as follows:

"(1) All citizens of the Bulgarian People's Republic are equal before the law.

(2) No privileges or restrictions of rights based on nationality, origin, religion, sex, race, education, social status or material situation are recognized.

(3) The State shall ensure citizens equality by creating conditions and opportunities conducive to the exercise of their rights and the performance of their duties.

(4) Any incitement to hatred and humiliation of human beings on account of racial, national or religious affinity is prohibited and shall be punished."

One of the main tasks of the socialist State, as laid down in article 3 of the Constitution, is to serve the people by "ensuring the free development of the individual, guaranteeing his rights and protecting his dignity".

The principle of equal rights and prohibition of all forms of discrimination proclaimed in article 35 of the Constitution has found expression in a number of other constitutional norms and in all branches of the national system of law - State, administrative, civil, family, labour, criminal and other law. They contain norms which develop and give concrete form to this principle by proclaiming and guaranteeing the equal rights of citizens and banning discrimination from the various spheres of social life governed by those norms; they prescribe penalties for violation of the principle of equal rights and measures to ensure observance of that principle; they extend to citizens the possibility of, and establish procedures for, the lodging of complaints about acts of discrimination, restoration of violated rights and compensation for injuries suffered.

The specific legal norms and measures aimed at prohibiting discrimination and securing for the individual the recognition of, and the opportunity to enjoy, on the basis of equality, all fundamental rights and freedoms in the various spheres of social life are dealt with in part II of this report, in connection with the relevant articles of the Convention.

In order to trace the general legal framework within which the Bulgarian Government's policy of affirming equal rights and prohibiting any form of racial discrimination is implemented, it seems appropriate to describe the development of Bulgarian legislation over the past five years, which are covered in some detail in this report. The following laws and other normative measures adopted during the period in question have a definite bearing on the problems involved in the prohibition of racial discrimination: the Proposals, Submissions, Complaints and Petitions by Citizens Act of 1980; the Consultation of Public Opinion Act and the Decree implementing it of 1983; the Family Code of 1985; and the 1982 amendments to the Administration of Justice Act and the Electoral Act. In part II of this report, mention is made of a number of amendments to these normative measures.

So far as the development and improvement of Bulgarian legislation is concerned, of particular significance is the Decision of the National Assembly of 31 March 1982 concerning the complete reform of Bulgarian legislation. In implementation of this Decision, in May 1984 the Council of State discussed the basic orientations for the development of the legislation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and a programme for the complete reform of socialist legislation. It was planned to draw up and to submit to the National Assembly for consideration legislation of such fundamental importance for the development of a socialist society as a Labour Code, an Economic Code, a Family Code (which has now been adopted), a Civil

Code, etc. The implementation of this programme will foster improvement of the legal super-structure, the broadening of socialist democracy, and the strengthening of legality and law and order in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The drafting of some of these legislative acts has already begun and it shows that attention is being paid to the need for consistent implementation, in all these acts, of the principle of equal rights for all citizens and non-discrimination. In this connection, the preparation of the new Labour Code is highly significant. The report on the basic principles of design of the new Labour Code, presented by Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria, at the November 1982 Plenum of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and subsequently thrown open for nation-wide discussion, prescribes as one of the basic principles of the new Code its conformity with Bulgaria's international obligations. The draft Code which has now been prepared contains norms proclaiming and guaranteeing equal rights and non-discrimination in the fulfilment of labour rights and obligations.

The impending process of renewal of Bulgarian legislation over the next few years offers opportunities to improve the legal guarantees that phenomena of racial discrimination will not be permitted.

(b) In principle, the implementation of international treaties in the internal legal system of the People's Republic of Bulgaria requires the adoption of appropriate laws or other normative acts. This question is not specifically addressed in the Constitution. Article 23 of the Decree of 1975 on the participation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in international treaties provides that "if an international treaty requires the promulgation of a normative measure, the Council of Ministers shall take a decision on matters within its competence, while on other matters it shall make a proposal for the adoption of a decree or law". This procedure is that followed by many countries and is fully consistent with the norms of international law. Like other treaties in the field of human rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is not directly applied in the Bulgarian legal system but, in those cases where the legal norms required by the Convention did not exist, the necessary normative provisions have been introduced into the system of internal law.

Bulgaria strictly adheres to conscientious compliance with international treaties, and its internal law is consistently in keeping with its international obligations, including those concerned with the protection of human rights. It should also be noted that there are exceptions to the principle that international treaties are not directly enforceable in Bulgarian law. In some cases, Bulgarian normative measures contain references to international treaties to which Bulgaria is a party, or to international law in general. For example, article 2 of the 1972 Presence of Aliens in the People's Republic of Bulgaria Act provides that aliens in its territory have rights and obligations in accordance with Bulgarian laws and international treaties to which Bulgaria is a party. In this particular

case, some provisions of the Convention which do not require to be supplemented by the inclusion of appropriate penalties, implementation measures, etc., in internal legislation, could be directly enforced by the competent State authorities. Bulgarian judicial and administrative practice does not exclude the possibility of invoking the international treaties in force in the territory of Bulgaria and of taking them into account in the interpretation of a number of provisions of domestic law.

(c) The Bulgarian society of today has long been free from conflicts or enmity based on nationality or ethnic origin. All Bulgarian citizens enjoy uniform rights and freedoms and participate actively in the construction of socialist society.

The normative Civil Status Regulations of 1975 did not include national affiliation in the list of factors determining the civil status of persons. The affiliation of an individual citizen to a particular nationality has no legal consequences whatsoever for his civil status. In keeping with this approach, based on the complete equality of rights of all citizens, no information was collected concerning the national origin of Bulgarian citizens when the population census was taken in 1975. Any citizen may, if he so wishes, declare his national affiliation.

The population and housing census taken on 4 December 1985 is the fourth to be carried out during the years of the people's rule and the fourteenth during the period since Bulgaria's liberation from the Ottoman yoke. This census, taken with the co-operation of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, has provided necessary information on the changes which have taken place in the composition of the population and the housing stock in Bulgaria during the past 10 years.

The census programme also provided for the conduct of a system of sociological researches concerning the occupational and social activity of the population; the birth rate in the Bulgarian family and its social security; housing conditions; educational and cultural activity; public health, etc. Some of these researches were carried out during the census itself, and others remain to be carried out after it. The data collected in the census are to serve as a basis for the establishment of a national system of social information. They will be used also in the preparation of important Government decisions and in charting an effective demographic and social policy.

In Bulgaria foreign nationals or stateless persons enjoy under Bulgarian law, without distinction as to racial, national or ethnic origin, the same rights and have the same obligations as citizens of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, except for those rights and obligations which are bound up with Bulgarian citizenship (the right to vote and other forms of participation in the country's administration, the right to perform military service, etc.). The principle of non-discrimination also applies to all persons, not Bulgarian citizens, who are staying in the territory of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

II. INFORMATION IN RELATION TO ARTICLES 2 TO 7 OF
THE CONVENTION

Article 2

A.(1) and (2). The social foundations and legal framework of the Bulgarian Government's policy, aimed at strengthening the equality of rights of all citizens and non-discrimination, have been outlined in very broad terms in part I of this report. They show that social, legal and other conditions have been created in Bulgaria which to a very high degree preclude the possible emergence of any form of racial discrimination. Constitutional and other normative provisions prohibiting racial discrimination are binding on all State authorities, both national and local. The conformity of the activities of the State organs of power and administration with this requirement is ensured by the hierarchical relationships established between these organs, which enable the higher organs to annul unlawful acts by their subordinate State organs. A definite role in the prohibition of acts of discrimination by State organs is played by the Office of the Procurator and the Committee of State Control, which are responsible for supervising the observance of legality by all institutions, organizations and citizens. Lastly, citizens too have at their disposal means of complaining against illegal actions by State authorities that violate the principle of equal rights and non-discrimination (see also the data below with regard to article 6 of the Convention).

A.(3). Neither before nor since Bulgaria became a party to the Convention have its policies and legislation conflicted with the requirements of the Convention, and therefore the need has not arisen to review those policies or to rescind any existing normative laws or regulations.

A.(4). The undertaking deriving from article 2, paragraph 1, subparagraph (d), of the Convention, which provides for the prohibition of racial discrimination by any persons, group or organization, has been met by the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in view of the normative provisions of article 35, paragraphs (2) and (4), of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria cited in part I of this report, and of articles 162 and 163 of the 1968 Penal Code of the Republic.

Article 3

A. Up to 1975, manifestations of racial discrimination and apartheid were subject in Bulgaria to the prohibition and penalties prescribed by articles 162 and 163 of the Penal Code for offences against national and racial equality.

As already stated in Bulgaria's fourth periodic report, after ratification of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid in 1975, additions were made to the Penal Code of the People's Republic of Bulgaria (articles 413 and 419) categorically prohibiting manifestations of racial segregation and apartheid and prescribing punishment by deprivation of liberty for 5 to 20 years, and even the death penalty for acts presenting a particularly high degree of social danger. The Penal Code declares genocide a crime punishable by heavy penalties (article 416).

Manifestations of racial segregation, apartheid and genocide are unknown to Bulgarian socialist society.

B. Faithful to its internationalist, democratic and peace-loving foreign policy, the People's Republic of Bulgaria supports the struggle of oppressed peoples against colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid. This solidarity is expressed by Bulgaria's active participation in the measures initiated by the United Nations and in other international forums aimed at eliminating all forms of racial discrimination incompatible with mutual understanding between peoples and the dignity of the human person.

Bulgaria resolutely condemns the policies of apartheid pursued by the racist régime of South Africa and supports the demands of the international community for the application of effective sanctions against the Republic of South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. This is the position adopted by Bulgaria at the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa in Paris (1981), the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence in Paris (1983) and the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1983). Bulgaria insists on the immediate withdrawal of South Africa from illegally occupied Namibia and on the settlement of the Namibian question on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council with full respect for the right to self-determination of the Namibian people, whose legitimate representative is SWAPO.

In April 1985 a Regional Symposium of the United Nations Council for Namibia on the Strengthening of International Solidarity with the Heroic Struggle of the Namibian People, led by SWAPO, for self-determination and independence was held at Sofia. The symposium was preceded by an international meeting of journalists, also organized by the United Nations Council for Namibia, for the purpose of drawing the attention of Bulgarian and foreign public opinion to the Symposium and to the questions discussed at it. The Symposium adopted an "Appeal for Action" declaring full solidarity with and support for the heroic struggle of the Namibian people.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria applies the resolutions of the Security Council demanding the complete isolation of South Africa's racist régime and maintains no political, economic, commercial or other relations with South Africa. At the same time it censures the political, economic and military support which is being extended by some Western Governments to the Pretoria régime and which it considers a major obstacle to the elimination of apartheid in South Africa and to a just solution of the Namibian problem.

Bulgarian trade unions, the Committee for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia and Africa, and other social organizations are effectively aiding the oppressed peoples of South Africa and their national liberation movements, inter alia by furnishing material assistance, sending them medicine, food and clothing, and providing grants for study at Bulgarian educational establishments. In Bulgaria there is considerable public activity in support of the South African peoples and their liberation movements, and this includes commemoration of the international days proclaimed by the United Nations (International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, Day of Solidarity with the People of Namibia, etc.). The Bulgarian mass media (press, radio and television) give wide coverage to such events, to the struggle of the South African peoples for their liberation and to United Nations activities for eliminating racism and apartheid.

Article 4

A. Bulgarian legislation satisfies the requirements of article 4 of the Convention inasmuch as the relevant section of the Penal Code of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, entitled "Offences against national and racial equality", condemns all the acts covered by this rule of the Convention and declares them offences punishable in accordance with criminal procedure. Some of these matters have already been touched on in the comment concerning article 2 of the Convention.

A.(1). The content of article 162 of the Penal Code of the People's Republic of Bulgaria coincides with the enumeration of criminal acts set forth in article 4, subparagraph (a), of the Convention, since paragraph 1 of article 162 prescribes punishment in the form of deprivation of liberty for a period of up to three years for any person who advocates or incites to racial or national enmity or hatred, or racial discrimination, while paragraph 2 prescribes the same punishment for any person who uses violence against another person or causes damage to his property because of his nationality, race, religion or political convictions. Under article 21 of the Penal Code these penalties also apply to any person who aids and abets the commission of these offences, inter alia by providing financial assistance.

A.(2). As to the criminal organizations and types of activity mentioned in article 4, subparagraph (b), of the Convention, under Bulgarian law they too are prosecuted in accordance with the criminal law. Article 162, paragraph 3, of the Penal Code prescribes punishment in the form of deprivation of liberty for a term of up to three years for persons who are members of an organization or group whose purpose is to promote or incite racial or national enmity or hatred, or racial discrimination, including the perpetration of acts of violence for racial reasons. A person who founds or leads such an organization or group is liable to an even greater penalty - deprivation of liberty for one to six years (article 162, paragraph 3, of the Penal Code). Article 163 of the Penal Code prescribes various penalties for persons who participate in a crowd which has gathered for the purpose of committing an attack on a population group, individual citizens or their property by reason of their national or racial affiliation. Heavier penalties are prescribed for the instigators and leaders of the crowd and in cases where some of the participants are armed or where an attack perpetrated has caused serious bodily injury or death.

The fact that Bulgarian legislation covers all these corpora delicti clearly demonstrates that it regards such organizations, groups or other similar activities as "illegal and prohibited", as required by article 4, subparagraph (b), of the Convention.

This conclusion as it concerns organizations is obviously borne out by article 52, paragraph (3), of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, which categorically prohibits organizations that propagate fascist or other anti-democratic ideology.

An organization which pursues the aims referred to in article 4, subparagraph (b), of the Convention cannot lawfully be created in Bulgaria since that would contravene article 52, paragraph (3), of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The People's Court must refuse to include any such grouping in the court's register (article 136 of the 1949 Persons and the Family Act). If such a grouping nevertheless exists (assuming that its illegal aims were not declared at the time of its creation but emerged subsequently), the court is required under article 146 of the Persons and the Family Act to dissolve any such grouping whose activities "are contrary to the law, the Constitution or

State and public order". The above-mentioned two articles of the Persons and the Family Act also require the Procurator in both cases to give his opinion concerning the non-acceptance of registration or the dissolution of such a grouping.

A.(3). In accordance with article 4, subparagraph (c), of the Convention, Bulgarian legislation does not permit public authorities or public institutions, national or local, to promote or incite racial discrimination. The prohibitions laid down in this regard in the Constitution, the Penal Code and certain other normative texts apply not only to individual citizens but also to officials of the State apparatus and of public organizations. The commentary below concerning implementation of article 6 of the Convention gives an idea of the means of recourse open to Bulgarian citizens for complaining about actions partaking of racial discrimination which may have been committed against them, including actions by State authorities and public organizations.

B. Bulgarian legislation, in particular the 1968 Penal Code, has paid due heed to the requirements of article 4 of the Convention and has been applied in conformity with them; consequently there has been no need to supplement it with respect to this question.

C. Texts of specific Bulgarian penal legislation (articles 162 and 163 of the Penal Code) relating to the implementation of the provisions of article 4 (a) and (b) of the Convention appear in Bulgaria's fourth periodic report.

Article 5

The general norms of the Bulgarian Constitution and of the penal legislation prohibiting racial discrimination and guaranteeing the equal rights of everyone without distinction as to race or national or ethnic origin relate to the enjoyment of all the specific human rights and freedoms enumerated in article 5 of the Convention and also guaranteed by the Bulgarian legal system. However, Bulgarian legislation also contains specific rules that ensure equal rights and non-discrimination in the enjoyment of certain specific rights. In particular cases, administrative measures have been adopted to this end. There are no legislative provisions or other measures that could serve as grounds for inequality of rights or discrimination on a racial or national basis in any sphere whatsoever.

Here the relevant information is supplied only in general terms inasmuch as more detailed data will be found in the reports submitted by the Bulgarian Government in connection with the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (document CCPR/C/1/Add.30 of 12 June 1978) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (documents E/1978/8/Add.24, E/1980/6/Add.29, E/1982/3/Add.23 and E/1984/7/Add.18).

A. The equal treatment of all before tribunals and other organs administering justice is ensured by the following rules of law:

Article 130 of the Constitution provides that "the courts shall apply the law strictly and in conformity with the principle of the equality of all citizens and individual persons" (see also article 35 of the Constitution quoted above).

Article 5 of the 1976 Administration of Justice Act also provides that "the courts shall apply the law uniformly to all", and this applies to legal proceedings in civil, criminal and administrative cases alike. In criminal proceedings, in particular, the equality of citizens is guaranteed by article 10 of the 1974 Code of Criminal Procedure, which states: "(1) All citizens

participating in criminal proceedings are equal before the law. No privileges or limitations based on nationality, origin, religion, sex, race, education or social or property status shall be permitted. (2) The court and the authorities responsible for preliminary proceedings shall apply the laws strictly and uniformly to all citizens". The Supreme Court, which exercises supreme judicial control over the activity of all judicial organs, ensures, under article 132, paragraph (1), of the Constitution, that they apply the laws strictly and equally. As to aliens staying in the territory of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, under article 23 of the 1972 Presence of Aliens in the People's Republic of Bulgaria Act, in the protection of their rights and lawful interests they enjoy the same rights as Bulgarian citizens. If the accused does not know Bulgarian, he is assigned an interpreter (article 90, paragraph (1), of the Code of Criminal Procedure and article 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure). Amendments made in 1982 to the Administration of Justice Act and to the Electoral Act provide that judges of district, regional and military courts (as well as judges of the Supreme Court shall be elected and removed from office by the National Assembly. This increases the independence of the judges from local influence. Amendments made in 1983 to the Code of Civil Procedure (establishment of the district court as the basic element of the judicial system for considering and settling civil disputes between citizens, and between citizens and socialist organizations; a considerable expansion in the number of cases in which the court of second instance decides the case independently, finally and on the substance, without referring back to the court of first instance for reconsideration; etc.) are designed to bring justice closer to the people, to render justice more quickly and more effectively and to strengthen the protection of citizens' rights.

B. Bulgarian legislation conforms to international requirements concerning the right to security of person and protection by the State, as formulated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In the enjoyment of the right there are no privileges or limitations whatsoever based on race or nationality.

The freedom and inviolability of the individual are guaranteed to all citizens by article 48, paragraph (1), of the Constitution. No person may be detained for more than 24 hours without a decision by a court or procurator (article 48 (2)). Coercive measures may not be applied to a person involved in criminal proceedings except in the cases and according to the procedure provided for by the Code of Criminal Procedure (article 15 (1)). The court and the authorities responsible for preliminary proceedings must release any person who has been illegally deprived of liberty (article 15 (3)). The Code of Criminal Procedure regulates in detail the rights of persons detained or accused. The Penal Code prescribes severe penalties for various offences against the person (murder, infliction of bodily injury, illegal deprivation of liberty, coercion, etc.). In particular, illegal deprivation of liberty applied by an official in violation of his official duties or functions renders the official not only administratively but also criminally liable (article 142 (3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure) and, in accordance with article 56 of the Constitution, may serve as a basis for the recovery of damages for the injury caused to the person subjected to illegal detention.

C. Bulgarian legislation guarantees to all Bulgarian citizens equality and non-discrimination in the enjoyment of their political rights, including the rights referred to in article 5, subparagraph (c), of the Convention.

The representative organs through which the Bulgarian people exercise power (the National Assembly and people's councils) are elected on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, by secret ballot (article 6 (1) of the

Constitution). All Bulgarian citizens who have attained the age of 18 years, without distinction as to sex, nationality, race, religion, education, occupation, service record, social status or material situation, with the exception of persons deprived of rights in the manner prescribed by law, may elect and be elected (article 6 (3) of the Constitution and article 2 of the 1973 Electoral Act).

In the same way as electoral rights, Bulgarian citizens exercise, without any limitations or privileges whatsoever on racial, national or ethnic grounds, the right to participate in the existing forms of direct democracy - referendums and nation-wide and local consultations of public opinion. In this connection, the Consultation of Public Opinion Act (1983) and the Decree regulating its implementation (1983) are of great importance for the improvement of the political system and the further development of socialist democracy. They create possibilities for expanding direct democracy and for involving citizens in the preparation of laws and other State instruments and in the administration of the State and society. Under the Act, a consultation of public opinion, which takes place in two forms - discussion and referendum - may be conducted throughout the territory of the country (nation-wide consultation) or in the territory of a region, district, locality or a part thereof (local consultation). All Bulgarian citizens having electoral rights are entitled to participate in nation-wide consultations and Bulgarian citizens having electoral rights and permanent or prolonged residence in the area concerned are entitled to participate in local consultations.

D. The principle of equal rights and non-discrimination is consistently embodied in Bulgarian legislation regarding the enjoyment of all the rights enumerated in article 5, subparagraph (d), of the Convention.

No limitations on racial or ethnic grounds are permitted with respect to the right of Bulgarian citizens to freedom of movement and residence within the country. Under article 20 of the 1975 Civil Status Regulations, every legally competent person chooses his place of residence for himself. In so far as there are certain restrictions on movement in a frontier zone (where a special permit is required), they are of a general nature and apply to all Bulgarian citizens as well as to aliens (article 16 (1)), although for purposes of ensuring security and public order the Ministry of the Interior may restrict the access of foreign citizens to certain districts or localities of the country (article 16 (2)).

Nor are there any discriminatory measures on a racial or other basis with respect to the right of Bulgarian citizens to leave and to return to the country. The cases covered by articles 7 and 8 of the 1969 Passports for Travel Abroad Act (which permit refusal to issue such a passport to, or its withdrawal from, persons who have been convicted of offences of a general character or persons whose travel abroad endangers the security of the State, etc.) apply to all Bulgarian citizens and are in conformity with the provisions of article 12, paragraph 3, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Bulgarian authorities adhere to a policy of facilitating the procedure whereby citizens obtain the documents needed for travel abroad. The number of Bulgarian citizens who visited foreign countries exceeded 550,000 in 1982 and 600,000 in 1983.

The right to Bulgarian citizenship in virtue of parentage or place of birth and the possibility of acquiring Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization are governed by the 1968 Bulgarian Citizenship Act (articles 1-15), which imposes no restrictions based on racial, national or ethnic origin. For citizens of foreign States who are of Bulgarian national origin, there is a preferential procedure for acquiring or recovering Bulgarian citizenship (article 10).

The Family Code of 1985 does not impose any restrictions of a racial or ethnic nature upon the right to marriage and choice of spouse. In view of its great social significance, the draft Family Code was given preliminary publication in the press in the spring of 1984 and by decision of the Council of State under article 90, paragraph (5), of the Constitution was thrown open to nation-wide discussion, which proved extremely vigorous. Some 3.5 million people out of a total population of some 9 million took part in the discussion. The Legal Commission of the National Assembly received a total of 39,000 proposals, of which 24,000 related directly to the draft Family Code, while the remainder were concerned with amending other laws and with other questions of social development. When the nation-wide discussion was over, the proposals submitted were sorted and summarized before being studied in detail by the Legal Commission of the National Assembly jointly with the leaders of the other standing parliamentary commissions, and with representatives of social organizations taking part. A number of proposals were placed before the National Assembly for adoption and were incorporated in the final text of the Family Code. As a result of the nation-wide discussion, amendments and additions were made to 75 out of a total of 143 articles of the draft Family Code, showing that the discussion contributed significantly to the improvement of the draft text before its adoption by the National Assembly.

The new Family Code provides better-conceived and fuller legal protection for the family and measures to strengthen it. Articles 2 to 5 of the Code state the purposes and principles on which the legal regulation, essential functions and means of legal protection of the family are based. Article 3 enumerates among the essential purposes of the Family Code: the protection and strengthening of the family; all-round development of the personality; equal rights for men and women; all-round protection for children; the development of mutual aid, affection and respect between all members of the family and the inculcation in them of a sense of responsibility towards the family and towards society; and protection of the rights and interests of persons under guardianship and trusteeship. Enlarging upon article 38, paragraph (1), of the Constitution concerning protection of the family by the State, article 5 of the Family Code deals specifically with questions relating to protection by the State and by society. The protection afforded to the family by the State and by society takes the form of creating conditions for the development of the family; of promoting the birth rate; of the protection and promotion of maternity and the provision of assistance to parents in the care and upbringing of children; and of the exercise of particular care in preparing young people for married life. Under article 6 of the Family Code only civil marriage produces the legal consequences which the law connects with marriage. Civil marriage is contracted in writing in the presence of an official of the Civil Registry Department of the municipal People's Council, publicly and with due ceremony (article 9 of the Family Code). At the desire of those entering into marriage, a religious service may be held after the civil proceedings. Such service is without legal validity (article 6, paragraph 2, of the Family Code). Marriage is contracted only after the future spouses have freely expressed their wish to found a family. The marriage is contracted not less than 30 days after the relevant declaration has been filed with the municipal People's Council. The purpose of this waiting period is to give those wishing to marry sufficient time to think about their decision even after they have filed their declaration of marriage (article 10, paragraph 1, of the Family Code). The mutual consent of the man and the woman to enter into marriage is expressed personally and simultaneously before the civil registry official. After receiving the affirmative reply of those entering into marriage, the civil registry official draws up a certificate of marriage, which is signed by both spouses, two witnesses and the official. The marriage is

deemed to be contracted as from the time of signature of the certificate. The system of conditions constituting an impediment to marriage is also distinguished by its democratic nature. The Family Code stipulates only a minimum of necessary restrictions: where a person entering into marriage is already married, has been deprived of rights in the manner prescribed by law, or is suffering from mental illness, weak-mindedness or an illness which endangers the life or health of the offspring or partner; or if the marriage is between relatives in the direct line, between brother and sister, between cousins not more than four times removed, etc. Coercion to marry renders the marriage contracted without effect and it may be annulled by the court (article 96, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2, of the Family Code). Certain phenomena which invalidate marital relations have been classified as offences defined in article 177, paragraphs I and II, and article 178, paragraphs I and II, of the Penal Code. The new Family Code specially emphasizes that the spouses have equal rights and bear equal obligations in the marriage (article 14). The relations between the spouses are built on principles of mutual respect, common concern for the family, mutual understanding and trust (article 15). The spouses, by their joint efforts and according to their possibilities and incomes, provide jointly for the well-being of the family and concern themselves with the care, upbringing and maintenance of the children (article 18).

The various normative texts which prescribe the allowances and advantages for persons entering into marriage and for the maintenance of children apply to all citizens and make no distinctions as to racial, national or ethnic origin.

With a view to meeting more fully the needs of young families for housing, article 1 of Decree No. 1342 of the Council of State dated 1979 has been amended (Durzhaven vestnik No. 63/1984). Under the amendment in question it has been laid down that in all new residential buildings erected by the people's councils and government departments not less than 25 per cent (instead of the 10 per cent prescribed up to August 1984) of the accommodation is to be set aside for young, newly married families. For the purposes of the Decree, the expression "young families" means families in which one spouse is not more than 30 years of age and the other not more than 35. This category also includes single mothers, widows and divorced women not more than 35 years of age who have dependent children (Resolution No. 40 of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria dated 27 July 1984 - Durzhaven vestnik No. 65/1984).

Significant material support for young families was provided for in Resolution No. 16 of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Council of Ministers, the Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions, the National Council of the Fatherland Front and the Central Committee of the Dimitrov Communist Youth League, dated 24 April 1984, on raising the people's level of living. Paragraph 12 of this Resolution provides that with effect from 1 July 1985 a loan of up to 15,000 leva will be granted to young families for the purpose of building or purchasing a dwelling; that a down payment is not compulsory; and that the time-limit for repayment of the loan is 30 years. If a second child is born before the first child has reached the age of four years, part of the loan, in the amount of 3,000 leva, is forgiven, and upon the birth of a third child a further 4,000 leva. In addition, to meet the needs of young families, loans of up to 5,000 leva are granted for furnishing the home, with a time-limit of up to 10 years for repayment. If a second child is born before the first child has reached the age of four years, 50 per cent of this loan is forgiven, and after the birth of a third child the remainder of the loan.

Through amendments and additions made to article 60 of the Labour Code in 1984 (Durzhaven vestnik No. 44/1984), the amount of additional leave granted for

the care of young children was increased considerably. Such leave is granted to mothers who are manual or non-manual workers after they have used up their pregnancy and maternity leave (for the first child, 120 calendar days; for the second child, 150, for the third 180 and for the fourth and every succeeding child 120 calendar days each - article 60, paragraph 1, of the Labour Code). Before article 60 of the Labour Code was amended in July 1984, the amount of leave for the care of young children was as follows: for the first child six months, for the second seven months, for the third eight months; and for the fourth and every succeeding child it remained unchanged at six months after the completion of pregnancy and maternity leave.

Having regard to the unfavourable demographic trend which has been observed in Bulgaria in recent years, providing encouragement for the birth of a second and a third child is the main purpose of State population policy. Increasing the amount of leave for the care of the first, second and third child is a substantial and significant social measure in a State population policy aimed at promoting the birth rate. In this way a substantial real increase has been achieved in leave for the care of small children: upon the birth of the first child, to 15.5 months on that of the second to 13.5 months and on that of the third to 11.5 months.

For the period during which she is on this leave, a mother draws compensation out of State social security funds at the rate of the minimum monthly wage (which is at present equal to 120 leva).

The amount of leave for the care of small children is increased until the child reaches the age of three years in cases where twins are born to a family and one of them is the family's second or third child (article 60, paragraph 5, of the Labour Code). The social justification for increasing such leave in the event of the birth of twins is that caring for twins is more difficult and entails making greater efforts at one time than caring for a second and a third child who are born consecutively.

Important changes have also been made with regard to the award of leave for the care of small children. The new text of article 60, paragraph 6, of the Labour Code provides that, with the mother's consent, permission may be given for leave for the care of small children to be taken by the child's father or by one or other relative of the child's father or mother. This widening of the circle of those who may take such leave is a socially justified measure and was prompted by practical requirements. In a number of cases, women with high professional qualifications in particular do not wish to take leave for the care of small children in order to avoid lowering their level of skills by such a long absence from work. To cover this and similar cases, a rule has been laid down in article 60, paragraph 6, of the Labour Code to the effect that such leave may be taken by relatives of the child's mother.

All prescribed leave for the care of small children is granted in identical amounts and under uniform conditions to natural mothers, who have borne their children, and to adoptive mothers among the manual and non-manual working population (article 60, paragraphs 3-5, of the Labour Code).

Leave for the care of small children is granted not only to manual and non-manual women workers but also to women who are studying at higher and semi-higher educational establishments, to full-time post-graduate students and to women who have given birth less than six months after leaving their jobs (article 36 of the Decree to Promote the Birth Rate). By amendment to the Decree to Promote the Birth Rate in 1984 (Durzhaven vestnik No. 51 of 29 July 1984), the length of such leave was increased from 10 months for the first child, 12 months for the second child and 14 months for the third child to each child's second birthday.

By the amendment to the Decree to Promote the Birth Rate, the amount of the monthly children's allowances was increased substantially. For the first child the allowance is 15 leva; it is doubled, to 30 leva, on the birth of the second child. The monthly allowance for the second child is 30 leva and that for the third child 55 leva (article 2 of the Decree to Promote the Birth Rate).

Substantial increases have been made in the monthly children's allowances for single natural and adoptive mothers: i.e., for mothers who are unmarried and are bringing up their children single-handed. They are paid monthly allowances as follows: for the first child 40 leva and, after the birth or adoption of a second child, 60 leva; for the second and third child 110 leva, and for each succeeding child 30 leva. Single natural and adoptive mothers who do not work are paid, in addition to the monthly children's allowances, a monthly allowance equal to the minimum monthly wage prescribed in Bulgaria (120 leva) until the child reaches the age of two years or, if twins are born and one of them is the second or third child, until that child reaches the age of three years (article 3 of the Decree to Promote the Birth Rate). The reason for the higher monthly allowances for single natural and adoptive mothers is that women who are bringing up children single-handed, without material support from a spouse (or from the children's father), are in greater need of assistance in looking after them, maintaining them and bringing them up.

The lump-sum allowances paid on the birth of children are as follows: for the first child 100 leva; on the birth of the second child 250 leva; and for the third child 500 leva.

The right to own property and the right to inherit proclaimed by the Constitution (articles 21 and 27), which received statutory regulation in the Citizens' Property Act of 1973 and the Inheritance Act of 1949, vest in all Bulgarian citizens without any restrictions whatsoever on grounds of race.

The freedom of conscience and worship is guaranteed to all citizens by article 53 of the Constitution, which at the same time lays down the general principles on which relations between State and church are formed (in the first place, separation of the church from the State). Under article 4 of the Religious Worship Act, no one may be subjected to persecution or restrictions on his civil and political rights or released from obligations laid upon him by the country's laws on the grounds that he belongs to a particular religious denomination or does not profess any religion. This Act guarantees the freedom to build churches and houses of prayer; to provide spiritual and religious education for the faithful; to open higher and secondary education establishments for training priests and to send young people abroad for that purpose; to publish various printed items (newspapers, periodicals, calendars and books); to receive material assistance or donations from abroad; and so on. The Penal Code of the People's Republic of Bulgaria (article 165) prescribes penalties for any person who by force or menaces prevents citizens from freely professing their religion or from conducting religious rites or services.

The Constitution guarantees to all citizens freedom of speech and of the press and also freedom of assembly, meetings and demonstrations (article 54). It also guarantees the right of citizens to form non-profit political, professional, cultural, artistic, scientific, religious, sporting and other organizations (article 52). The exercise of these rights and freedoms is based on consistent respect for the principle of equal rights and non-discrimination.

E. All the economic, social and cultural rights enumerated under article 5, subparagraph (e), of the Convention are proclaimed in Bulgarian legislation and are exercised in practice on the basis of full equality and non-discrimination.

This applies first and foremost to the right to work and to a free choice of occupation, which is proclaimed in article 40 of the Constitution and guaranteed in practice by the State through a system of political, economic and legal guarantees; it also applies to the right to safe and healthy working conditions (article 41, paragraph (2)); the right to equal pay for equal work (article 41, paragraph (1), which provides that work shall be remunerated according to its quantity and quality); the right to rest (article 42); and the right to social insurance, a pension and allowances in the event of inability to work (article 43). Under the Presence of Aliens in the People's Republic of Bulgaria Act, citizens of foreign States who have received permission to reside permanently in Bulgaria may go to work at Bulgarian institutions, enterprises and organizations (article 19) and have the same rights and obligations as Bulgarian citizens as regards legal labour relationships, the contract of employment, social security and social insurance, medical care and liability to taxation, save as otherwise provided by international treaties to which Bulgaria is a party.

As was noted earlier, the design of the new Labour Code was approved in 1982. In the new Labour Code new rights and opportunities are to be extended to the worker which will emphasize his decisive role in society and create conditions in which he can assume new responsibilities and obligations imposed by the work process. At the same time the new Labour Code will emphasize the human debt which society, the State and its authorities owe to all working people and to every Bulgarian citizen. The Code is to guarantee every citizen of the People's Republic of Bulgaria that he will have work; that for equal work he will receive equal remuneration according to the quantity and quality of the work he performs; that his contribution of work will secure him a good standard of living; that he will have a real opportunity to raise his level of education and skills; and that he will work in continuously improving conditions: in a word, his performance at work is to determine the place, position and social status of every citizen of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

It is envisaged that the rights and obligations of the individual in the labour process should be given a central place in the new Labour Code; for consistent application of the principle of the unity of rights and obligations is to be a principal new feature. In a socialist society the right to work and the obligations to work are fundamental, for they are the source of all other rights and duties in the labour process, such as: the professional development and growth of the worker, the right to safe and healthy working conditions; the right to paid leave; the right of working people to remuneration for their work; the right of working people to receive income from social consumption funds; and the right of women, minors and persons with reduced working capacity to special social protection. A role of special importance in the creation, application and monitoring of the application of labour legislation is played by the trade unions. It is accordingly necessary to clarify and to consolidate in legal form the protective functions of the trade unions in relation to the individual worker.

The underlying idea of the design for the new Labour Code which was adopted by the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party in 1982 is the creation of ever-improving conditions in which the working potential of

the nation can be used to its full value and full effect, with a view to an increase in the material and spiritual wealth of the country and a steady rise in the well-being of the Bulgarian people. The design is, in essentials, an all-embracing social and political platform for the labour constitution of Bulgaria, which is of vast social, economic, political and educational significance.

Since the Labour Code is to be the affair of the people, of the working individual, the design was thrown open to nation-wide discussion, in which the main significance attached to the proposals and recommendations of the working class, of all the working people, on the subject of improving work and labour relations, increasing the productivity of labour, improving the quality of production and strengthening working disciplines.

The results of the nation-wide discussion are being summarized and the draft of the new Labour Code and of a whole package of laws related to it are being prepared and laid before the National Assembly by a mixed Party and Government Commission presided over by Todor Zhivkov, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Chairman of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The adoption of the new Labour Code and the accompanying laws is scheduled for 1986.

The right to form trade union organizations falls within the framework of the right of association proclaimed by article 52 of the Constitution. Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Labour Code defines trade unions as mass non-party social organizations of manual and non-manual workers who associate on voluntary principles without distinction as to race, nationality, sex or religious convictions.

All citizens are guaranteed the right to housing and the right to public health and medical care without distinction as to racial or national affiliation. In accordance with the Constitution, the State devotes comprehensive care to the people's health by organizing therapeutic, preventive and other health facilities and services (article 47(1)). Every citizen is entitled to free medical care (article 47(3)).

Article 45 of the Constitution ranks the right to education among the fundamental rights of citizens. Citizens are entitled to education free of charge at all levels and in all categories of educational establishments as prescribed by law (article 45(1)). Primary education, covering an eight-year course of instruction, is compulsory (article 45(4)), and the State is creating the conditions for universal secondary education (article 45(5)) with a three- to five-year course of instruction. In practice 95 per cent of primary-school leavers go on to different types of secondary schools, where skilled workers in various fields and specialities are trained for all walks of life. Part of the constitutional right to education is the right to higher education. All the existing forms of education are available to all Bulgarian citizens under conditions determined by law and without any racial or ethnic restrictions. Nor are there any such restrictions or privileges in the various measures whereby the State promotes education, for example by granting scholarships, etc.

F. In Bulgaria there can be no talk of restricting access on racial or ethnic grounds to any place or service intended for use by the general public (transport, hotels, restaurants, theatres, parks, etc.). The introduction of such restrictions would be subject to the penalties prescribed by article 162 of the Penal Code.

Article 6

A. and B. Along with provisions to entrench equal rights and non-discrimination and provisions declaring manifestations of racial discrimination punishable offences, Bulgarian legislation provides for, and extends to victims of racial discrimination, effective legal protection with a view to the reinstatement of their violated rights and for obtaining fair compensation or satisfaction.

In this connection it should be noted that in Bulgaria there are no special procedures for legal protection against acts of racial discrimination. Since the ordinary complaint procedures enable everyone within the jurisdiction of Bulgaria fully to defend his rights and freedoms, it was not considered necessary to create any special procedures for cases of racial discrimination, which, as already underlined, are alien to Bulgarian reality. At the same time it should also be mentioned that, in the process of development of the legislation over the years since the adoption of the 1971 Constitution, considerable progress has been made in improving the legal protection of human rights and in particular the judicial and administrative remedies for violations in this field tolerated either by private individuals or by civil servants.

As regards judicial means of protection against acts of racial discrimination, the victims of such acts are afforded an opportunity either to bring a complaint before a civil court or to institute criminal proceedings against the offender. Articles 125 and 133 of the Constitution require the judicial authorities and the Procurator's Office to protect the rights and legitimate interests of citizens. Article 97 of the Code of Civil Procedure of the People's Republic of Bulgaria enables any person, irrespective of his racial or national origin (this applies also to aliens) to file suit for reinstatement of a violated right. The same possibility is open to the Procurator (article 27). The courts are bound to examine and take a decision on any statement they receive requesting assistance with regard to, or protection of, personal and property rights (article 2).

The victim of an act of racial discrimination can also initiate criminal proceedings against the offender either by filing a complaint with the Procurator, who prosecutes the offender (article 6(6) of the Procurator's Office Act, article 39 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) or directly by filing a complaint with the court (article 39 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

The right of the victim of an act of racial discrimination to seek fair compensation or satisfaction is guaranteed by article 52 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which provides that a person who has sustained property or non-property damage as a result of any ordinarily punishable offence is entitled to participate in judicial proceedings in the capacity of a private prosecutor, and by article 60, paragraph 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which enables a person who has suffered damage as the result of an offence, or his heirs, to bring, in the course of criminal proceedings, a civil suit for damages. Under article 45 of the Liabilities and Contracts Act, everyone is required to make good such damage as he wrongfully causes another person.

Article 56 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria lays down a number of rules which broaden the opportunities for persons who have suffered damage as a result of acts of racial discrimination by State organs or officials to raise the question of the responsibility of such organs or officials. The State is made responsible for damage caused by unlawful acts or unlawful official actions of its organs or officials; everyone is given the right to demand the prosecution of officials for crimes committed in the performance of their official duties; citizens are given the right to demand compensation from officials for damage suffered as a result of illegal actions perpetrated by those officials in the performance of their official duties.

The 1979 Administrative Procedure Act provides for three types of procedure (described in greater detail in the sixth periodic report of the Bulgarian Government) whose object is to protect the rights of citizens from unlawful administrative actions. The first is a non-adversary procedure which enables the persons concerned to defend their rights in advance, prior to the publication of an administrative instrument. The second is a procedure of complaint to a higher administrative body. The third procedure is one of complaint to the courts. Broad opportunities to defend the rights and legitimate interests of citizens against any violations caused by organs of social administration or through the actions of individual officials or citizens are also available under the 1980 Proposals, Submissions, Complaints and Petitions by Citizens Act (for more detail see the sixth periodic report of the Bulgarian Government and the explanations given during its discussion in committee).

An important role in the protection of human rights, inter alia against possible acts of racial discrimination, is played by the various forms of supervision exercised by the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, the supervisory organs of the State and the people, the Procurator's Office and the Ministry of Justice.

C. During the period under review there have been no cases of racial discrimination requiring intervention by judicial or other State organs.

Article 7

A. Education and teaching. A characteristic of education and teaching in socialist Bulgaria is their profoundly democratic character, and it is entirely natural that in both these fields great importance is given to combating prejudices which lead to racial discrimination, and to strengthening the spirit of understanding, tolerance and friendship between nations and between racial or ethnic groups.

The juridical basis of that policy in the field of education and teaching is laid down in the Constitution, whose Preamble expresses the determination of Bulgarian citizens to co-operate for the consolidation of world peace, and for understanding between all nations in the world. Article 3 defines as a basic task of the State the pursuit of a policy of peace and understanding with all countries and peoples, while article 63 makes it the duty of every citizen to contribute to the maintenance and strengthening of peace and declares incitement to war and war propaganda to be serious punishable crimes.

As already stressed, in Bulgaria the right to education is recognized and uniformly guaranteed to all Bulgarian citizens without distinction as to their national or ethnic origin. School curricula in Bulgaria are imbued with the ideas of internationalism, of respect for the history and culture of all peoples, and of striving for peace and mutual understanding with all nations.

Problems of human rights and mutual understanding, tolerance and friendship between nations, appropriately adapted to the learner's age, hold a broad place in teaching and educational activity at all levels of the education system, from kindergartens to higher education establishments. The educational work of children's and youth organizations is carried on in the same humanitarian spirit. The study of human rights issues, in various forms and at various levels of education, has an inter-disciplinary character. As yet these issues are not treated as a separate subject of study (for example, in primary and secondary schools they are studied in conjunction with such subjects as "Knowing your country", "The Constitution", "Ethics", "History" and "Principles of Communism"). These problems are studied in the greatest detail in higher education establishments concerned with the humanities, especially the law faculty. Great attention is given to these issues at UNESCO-associated schools in Bulgaria and in the activities of United Nations associations and UNESCO clubs among young students. The Twelfth General Conference of UNESCO, held at Sofia, adopted by consensus on the initiative of Bulgaria a special resolution on the role of UNESCO-associated schools and clubs. The International Days fixed by the United Nations General Assembly in honour of human rights, the United Nations, the struggle against racial discrimination and other topics are regularly observed at all education establishments by the holding of lectures, assemblies and meetings.

The training of Bulgarian youth in a spirit of internationalism is also furthered by the fact that many Bulgarian students are studying at universities in other countries (approximately 4,500 in 1980/1981) while the doors of Bulgarian educational institutions are wide open to many students from abroad, chiefly from developing countries (almost 5,000 in 1980/1981).

B. Culture. The profoundly national character of culture in Bulgaria was given a particularly strong impetus for development at the end of the 1960s, when the national and local administration of culture was placed on a joint social and State basis.

Cultural activity in Bulgaria is marked by respect for the cultural achievements of other nations and by the desire to become familiar with everything of excellence and value created by other peoples in the cultural field. Evidence of the national character of culture and of the participation of the people in its creation and spread is to be seen in the development of amateur artistic activities. These comprise original forms of development of choreographic and musical art and the preservation and transmission from generation to generation of musical and dance folklore, traditional clothing and national costumes, in which the amateurs - ordinary workers and farm labourers studying in their free time - participate. In 1980 there were 24,000 amateur groups in Bulgaria, with some 500,000 participants.

Among the books published in Bulgaria (6.9 books per capita in 1981), translated literature - from the ancient Greek classics to the literature of the nineteenth twentieth centuries - has a large place. The access of Bulgarian citizens to world culture is also ensured by the theatre and the cinema, in which productions of other nations have an important place, and through the holding in Bulgaria of international cultural events: art exhibitions, concerts, guest appearances by famous performers, etc. This activity gains from the intensive contact maintained by Bulgaria with 132 countries in all spheres of art, literature and science, and is further illustrated by the five meetings of writers from all continents under the slogan: "Peace - the hope of the planet", organized in Sofia by the Union of Bulgarian Writers (from 1977 to 1983) and attended by the best-known writers from dozens of countries.

A distinctive form of international cultural contacts between children which has developed in Bulgaria is the "Banner of Peace" movement initiated by Ludmila Zhivkova. It is intended actively to stimulate the creative aptitudes of children throughout the world, and to rally the creative forces of the planet to the struggle for the peace and progress of mankind. Hundreds of children from more than 100 countries have taken part in three assemblies (in 1979, 1982 and 1985, between which there were two meetings in 1980 and 1981), held under the auspices of Todor Zhivkov, the Chairman of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and Amadou Makhtar M'Bow, the Director-General of UNESCO. More than 30,000 works of fine and applied art, literature, musical composition and art photography by children from 101 countries have been contributed to the "Banner of Peace" fund since 1979. Material from this fund has been used in 52 exhibitions in Bulgaria and abroad, and has been published in dozens of albums, almanacs, etc.

In addition the societies for friendship with other peoples, the United Nations Association in Bulgaria, the Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa, the Bulgarian Association for International Law and other associations established in Bulgaria are actively engaged in the development of friendly relations with other peoples and in the elimination of racial prejudices and racial discrimination.

C. Information. The information media in the People's Republic of Bulgaria pay particular attention to the struggle to eliminate apartheid, racism and racial discrimination. Bulgarian society annually observes the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, African Liberation Day, the Week of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Peoples of Southern Africa and others. Meetings are held; the press, radio and television report on the activities of the United Nations in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Particular attention is paid to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On 30 October 1985 a commemorative assembly of the public in the capital was held

to mark the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. In the report delivered by Petr Mladenov, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, special attention was paid to the struggle of the United Nations for the final elimination of apartheid, racism and racial discrimination. On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the thirtieth anniversary of Bulgaria's admission to membership, Bulgarian television prepared a special film. Problems relating to the struggle against apartheid, racism and racial discrimination are a constant theme of such specialized periodicals as Mezhdunarodni otnoshenia and Prava misul. On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, meetings were held, brochures were issued, articles were published in periodicals, and so on.