

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr:  
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1986/34/Add.1  
28 January 1986

Original: ENGLISH/FRENCH

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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Forty-second session  
3 February-14 March 1986  
Item 22 of the provisional agenda

ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General submitted in  
pursuance of Commission resolution 1985/26

Addendum

(The present document contains information on technical assistance to the Government of Bolivia, in accordance with resolution 1985/34 of the Commission on Human Rights)

1. By its resolution 1985/34, the Commission on Human Rights urged the Secretary-General rapidly to implement the projects mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 9 of his report (E/CN.4/1985/31) submitted to the Commission at its forty-first session; also requested him to communicate to Governments and international organizations the projects submitted to the Special Envoy of the Commission on Human Rights and discussed by him, and invite them to consider the assistance that can be provided to the Government of Bolivia and be implemented. The Commission also invited all Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to support Bolivia in its efforts to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and requested the Centre for Human Rights to maintain contacts on the setting in motion of its resolution with the agencies responsible for the various assistance programmes, with a view to providing the Government of Bolivia with the required assistance in this field.

2. In conformity with paragraph 1 of that resolution, the Secretary-General, on 10 June and 18 July 1985 addressed two letters to the Permanent Representative of Bolivia in Geneva, expressing the readiness of the Centre for Human Rights to organize in Bolivia a training course for relevant government personnel, inviting the Government to nominate candidates for fellowships to specialize in human rights areas of need; offering the provision of assistance in the development of human rights teaching programmes and offering assistance for the reproduction and dissemination of international instruments on human rights in local languages. Contacts are still going on with the Government of Bolivia on these matters.

3. In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the resolution, the Secretary-General, on 15 July 1985, addressed a note verbale to all Governments inviting them to consider any assistance that can be provided to the Government of Bolivia for implementation of the projects referred to in these paragraphs which were reproduced in an aide-mémoire accompanying a note verbale. The aide-mémoire contained detailed information on the projects listed in paragraph 2 of Commission resolution 1985/34. Similar letters were sent by the Secretary-General on the same date to intergovernmental organizations, including specialized agencies, as well as to non-governmental organizations concerned.

4. As at 1 December 1985, the following substantive replies have been received from Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations.

FRANCE

[Original: French]

[15 October 1985]

... The projects submitted in the context of the advisory services for Bolivia have been very carefully considered by the Government of France. Of these projects, it would seem that project No.VI on "assistance in improving basic economic conditions and in overcoming the problems of the health sector,

and dealing with child health centres" should be given priority attention in the implementation of the programme of advisory services for Bolivia. 1/

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[18 October 1985]

...

The relevant authorities in the United Kingdom already operate a major aid programme in Bolivia which includes projects similar to those described in sections VI and VII of the aide-mémoire. They would be ready to consider offering help with the projects described in those sections (and listed at paragraph 2 (f) and (g) respectively of Commission resolution 1985/34). The relevant authorities would also be ready to consider offering help with the project described in section IV of the aide-mémoire (paragraph 2 (d) of the resolution) but would be grateful if it could be noted that the provision of funding for training in the United Kingdom would depend on the type of training required and the institution in Bolivia for which the training would be intended. 2/

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

[Original: English]

[4 November 1985]

It should be noted that most of the projects mentioned in the Commission's resolution do not fall within the ILO's field of competence. Only one proposal appears capable of involving the ILO, namely that concerning extreme poverty submitted by the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination, but we understand that its execution has already been entrusted to UNICEF. Nevertheless, as "critical poverty" appears to be one of the cornerstones of UNDP's forthcoming IV Country Programme 1987-1991, a national project on employment policies oriented to alleviation of extreme poverty could be considered within the ILO future technical assistance programme, if the Government wished and the necessary resources could be secured.

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1/ In a follow-up letter dated 5 November 1985, the Secretary-General requested the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations Office at Geneva to indicate whether it was possible for his Government to contribute to the implementation of project No.VI, so that the Bolivian Government could be informed accordingly. In a reply of 6 December 1985 the Permanent Representative stated that:

... "While confirming the interest of principle of my Government in project No.VI, I regret to inform you that it is not possible for us, in the present circumstances, to make a special contribution available for its implementation."

2/ In accordance with a request made in the reply of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of Bolivia has been informed that if it wishes to pursue any of the projects mentioned above with the relevant authorities in the United Kingdom, it should contact the British Embassy in La Paz to discuss them.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

[Original: English]

[28 November 1985]

...

The projects referred to in paragraph 2 of Commission resolution 1985/34 have been reviewed, and it appears that of these, only project No.VI (assistance in improving basic economic conditions, in overcoming the problems of the health sector and project dealing in the infant health centres) would be relevant to FAO activities.

The project is aiming at setting up health care centres where adequate attention and basic health care will be provided to pre-school children. In its implementation, the Nutrition Division of the Ministry of Health will develop nutrition education activities through mothers' clubs. FAO's experience with such clubs in Bolivia has been positive, as shown by a WFP assisted project where this innovative approach was adopted, partly with FAO assistance. If the present project proposal attracts WFP assistance, FAO can provide the technical advice as it does for all WFP projects within its area of competence.

In the proposed project, the aspects of responsibility to FAO are those related to training and education in nutrition. FAO could provide training materials and, if necessary and if requested, some consultants who could advise on and assist in their utilization. The training materials that could be of help to the government officers are: (a) Field Programme Management Training Pack: Food and Nutrition and (b) Manual on Management of Group Feeding Programmes. Both publications are available in Spanish and a few copies could be sent to the Nutrition Division of the Ministry of Health, at their request.

As part of its Technical Co-operation Programme, FAO has started in Bolivia the implementation of a project on the training of rural women for their involvement in agricultural and livestock production. This project should, inter alia, result in improvements in the nutritional habits of rural families living in the areas of project No.VI. This project will therefore constitute a contribution to the attainment of the objectives of project No.VI. A copy of the project document is attached. 3/

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[13 August 1985]

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These resolutions together with all other resolutions of the Commission relevant to the work of UNESCO will be submitted to the Executive Board at its one hundred and twenty-second session (Paris, 11-27 September 1985).

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3/ Available with the secretariat for consultation.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

[Original: English]

[16 August 1985]

...

At the outset, I would say that much of DTCD's previous letter of 22 October 1984 to you remains valid. <sup>4/</sup> Miss Anstee continues to be the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Bolivia, and has over the past year played an active and catalytic role in co-ordinating efforts to increase financial co-operation with Bolivia on the part of donors and the United Nations System. This Department's role in assisting the Government in its planning capacity has also remained critical.

As you know, Bolivia has very recently elected a new President, Dr. Victor Paz Estenssoro, who has requested the Secretary-General to continue to make his good offices available in helping the Government to mobilize international co-operation in support of its efforts to resolve the disastrous economic and social situation still confronting the country.

In this connection, I would reiterate the general concept that any activities directed towards the improvement of socio-economic conditions inevitably have an impact upon human rights.

In so far as the proposals detailed in paragraph 2 of resolution 1985/34 are concerned, DTCD, as the Executing Agency for the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, will most probably be called upon to field the various consultants and arrange for the fellowships envisaged in the projects.

In addition, we will be collaborating with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in the implementation of a seminar on strengthening informal social controls eventually to reduce the relative importance of coca plantations vis-à-vis other crops in the Yungas region.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

[Original: English]

[14 August 1985]

...

Of these projects, the ones which in our view would fall more directly within the mandate and objectives of UNDP are the two projects submitted by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination.

With regard to the first project which would envisage working with women through their organized groups such as mothers' clubs, you will be interested to know that there is currently, within our programme of assistance for Bolivia, a project focused on the strengthening of the mothers' clubs through basically training activities. Therefore, given the existence of this

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<sup>4/</sup> This letter has been reproduced in the report of the Secretary-General concerning assistance to Bolivia, in E/CN.4/1985/31.

UNDP-financed project and the fact that both UNICEF and WFP are expected to contribute to the financing of this project proposal, we are requesting our Resident Representative in Bolivia to review this proposal in detail to establish the necessary linkages for purposes of co-ordination and determine, in consultation with the appropriate government authorities, ways in which the two projects could be complementary or supportive.

As for the project request submitted by the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination to carry out a study to determine the areas of extreme poverty in Bolivia, it would appear from the project description that the intention is to request UNICEF to provide the required financing.

We are copying your letter and attachments as well as our response to our Resident Representative in Bolivia for his information and action as appropriate, requesting that he communicates directly with your office on this matter, keeping us informed.

As you are aware, a new Government assumed office in Bolivia on 6 August 1985. Therefore, we shall have to reconfirm with the new authorities the priorities established in this area.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

[Original: English]

[24 July 1985]

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This General Secretariat wishes to inform the secretariat of the Centre for Human Rights that the aforementioned letter and its enclosure have been forwarded to the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for consideration.

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