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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF
WORK OF THE COMMISSION: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS
WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE
ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Development of public information activities in the
field of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 1986/54, the Commission on Human Rights inter alia requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Commission at its forty-third session. The present report, covering the year 1986, is submitted in compliance with that request.
2. In paragraph 4 of resolution 1986/54, the Secretary-General was requested "to complete the task of issuing the proposed personalized version of the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the six official languages of the United Nations by the end of 1986 ...". The personalized version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been issued in all six official languages of the United Nations.

3. In paragraph 5 of resolution 1986/54, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General "to expedite work on building up the collection of reference works and existing United Nations material within each United Nations information Centre ...". In his report (E/CN.4/1986/20) to the forty-second session of the Commission the Secretary-General indicated his intention to provide each centre during 1986 with three basic reference books drawn from a list recommended by the Centre for Human Rights. The purchase of these books has been deferred because of the financial situation of the United Nations.

4. Other activities undertaken by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in response to the various requests in resolution 1986/54, as well as other relevant mandates, are described below.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AT HEADQUARTERS

Coverage

5. Press releases covering the debates and decisions on human rights in the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and other bodies, were produced in English (170 releases) and French (105 releases). Resolutions and other documents on the subject were made available to information media and attention was drawn to developments in the human rights field at DPI press briefings.

6. Radio, television, film and photo coverage of the debates in the General Assembly and other organs were provided. During the period under review, four television news packages were prepared in New York and made available to broadcasting organizations.

7. Human Rights topics were also covered in the Yearbook of the United Nations, Basic Facts, the UN Chronicle, the News Digest, Everyone's United Nations, United Nations today (Suggestions for speakers), and Objective: Justice.

Publications

8. The following is a list of DPI publications on human rights issued in 1986:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/15)	French (reprint) Kiswahili (reprint)
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, personalized format (DPI/876)	Arabic, Chinese, English French, Spanish, Russian
A Crime against Humanity (DPI/705)	Russian

Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance Based on Religion or Belief (DPI/714)	Russian
The International Bill of Human Rights (DPI/797)	Russian
The United Nations and Human Rights (DPI/808)	French
Outlawing an Ancient Evil: Torture (DPI/847)	French (reprint) English (reprint)
Combating Racial Discrimination (DPI/858)	French, Spanish
International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of <u>Apartheid</u>	Romanian
Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals Who are not Nationals of the country in which they live (DPI/894)	English, French, Spanish
Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (DPI/895)	English, French, Spanish
International Convention against <u>Apartheid</u> in Sports and the International Declaration against <u>Apartheid</u> in Sports (DPI/892)	English, French, Spanish
United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (DPI/896)	English, French

Audio-visual activities

9. Human rights issues were accorded extensive coverage in both radio newscasts and radio feature programmes in 18 languages.
10. A special radio documentary was produced in English and adapted into several languages for world-wide distribution. Human Rights Day 1986 was highlighted in all radio newscasts and feature radio programmes were produced.
11. A television spot in Arabic, English, French and Spanish was produced to mark Human Rights Day, 1986.
12. A television spot was produced in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.
13. Previously released films dealing with human rights continued to be actively promoted and distributed to television organizations and other users.

Special briefings and programmes

14. A special briefing for non-governmental organizations commemorating Human Rights Day 1986 was held at Headquarters.

15. The annual DPI Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Countries in 1986 included briefings and discussions on human rights, the questions of Palestine, Namibia and apartheid.

16. Queries on various aspects of human rights were answered from Headquarters in New York. In all, 788 queries were answered and five group briefings for over 100 visitors were conducted. On request from educators, students, libraries, etc., kits containing information on human rights, including copies of the Universal Declaration, were distributed. Over 7,000 publications on human rights were handed out at Headquarters.

ACTIVITIES OF UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES

17. All information centres and services were kept abreast of events and activities relating to human rights. In this connection, Directors of information centres were instructed to undertake special programmes to draw the attention of national communities to the following special observances: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Sharpeville Day) (21 March); the Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples of Southern Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Equal Rights (19-23 May); the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling Peoples of South Africa (Soweto Day) (16 June); the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia (8 August); Namibia Day (26 August); the Week of Solidarity with the People of Namibia and its Liberation Movement, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) (27-31 October); the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November), United Nations Day (24 October) and Human Rights Day (10 December).

18. The various declarations and other documents relating to human rights, including all statements by the Secretary-General and other United Nations officials, were extensively distributed through the United Nations information centres.

19. In addition, United Nations information centres and services organized seminars, exhibits and workshops and distributed the international instruments and other human rights material locally. In that connection, a total of 16,122 publications dealing with human rights, 1,111 wallsheets and 304 posters were distributed by United Nations information centres in their regions.

20. A total of 164 cables were sent from Headquarters to United Nations information centres concerning human rights issues.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE INFORMATION SERVICE OF
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

Coverage

21. Press releases covering discussions at the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Committee were issued in English and French. Publicity was also provided for the thirty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as well as the activities of working groups dealing with questions such as Israeli practices affecting human rights in the occupied territories, traditional practices which affect the health of women and children, and the rights of the child. A total of 159 press releases in English and 148 in French were produced or reissued at Geneva.

22. During the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights, regular briefings were organized for the Chairman of the Commission. Press conferences and briefings were organized for the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Kurt Herndl, as well as for ranking personalities and delegates participating in the session. Arrangements were also made for the Chairman of the Commission to meet the press.

23. Attention was drawn to developments in the human rights field at the twice-weekly press briefings.

24. Radio, television and photo coverage of the debates in the Commission was organized. Television coverage of the discussions during the Commission, together with interviews and press coverage, was extensively distributed through Visnews, station requests and satellite transmissions. In addition to a number of satellite transmissions to the Middle East and Latin America, special coverage was provided in response to requests from television stations in Guatemala, Venezuela, the Netherlands and Sri Lanka.

Radio and audio-visual distribution

25. Human rights issues were featured in the radio programme "Tour d'horizon" and in French, Arabic and English newscasts and interviews.

26. The DPI television spot for use on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was distributed to all television stations in the region.

Special briefings and programmes

27. Special briefings for non-governmental organizations were organized in connection with the sessions of the Commission and the Human Rights Committee. Fifty-one representatives of non-governmental organizations attended a meeting concerning issues to be dealt with at the forty-second session of the Commission. Mr. Herndl was the guest speaker.

28. A briefing on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, was organized for non-governmental organizations.

29. A commemorative meeting was organized on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It was attended by more than 30 representatives of non-governmental organizations as well as interested staff members.

30. A note was sent to the community of non-governmental organizations informing them about the publication by DPI of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in a personalized format.

31. The twenty-fourth session of the Graduate Study Programme organized in Geneva, which lasted two weeks, included on its agenda several lectures on human rights issues.

32. Some 6,000 public inquiries were answered and over 20,000 brochures and pamphlets distributed.

33. Within the framework of the guided tours at the Palais des Nations, United Nations activities for the promotion and protection of human rights were described in briefings, posters and films.