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Item 21 of the draft provisional agenda

ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 1986/52, the Commission on Human Rights, having taken note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on "Advisory services in the field of human rights" (E/CN.4/1986/34 and Add.1-6), encouraged his efforts to award human rights fellowships to, and to organize training courses for, persons directly involved in the implementation of international conventions on human rights. The Commission also noted the importance of expert services and seminars under the programme of advisory services as forms of practical assistance to States in the implementation of international human rights standards and for mutual understanding and co-operation in that field. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts to co-ordinate and facilitate the flow of bilateral assistance to States which had indicated their need for technical assistance in the field of human rights; took note of the Secretary-General's efforts to solicit voluntary contributions for the implementation of projects within the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; called upon all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in a position to do so, to consider making voluntary contributions for the implementation of projects within the programme of advisory services and considered that the idea of establishing a trust fund on advisory services in the field of human rights merited further examination. Finally, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-third session on the progress made in the implementation of the

programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and to submit relevant information on the possible role of an eventual trust fund on advisory services in the field of human rights and, if it were established, the manner in which it could function.

2. At the same session, the Commission also adopted resolution 1986/53 on advisory services and technical assistance to Equatorial Guinea. Information on the implementation of this resolution is contained in an addendum to the present report.

3. At the same session, but under different items, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts under the programme of advisory services to assist States parties to the Covenants in discharging their reporting obligations under the Covenants and to consider holding a training course on the preparation of reports on implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (resolutions 1986/13 and 1986/17). The Commission also invited the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), to hold a training course on teaching human rights, under the advisory services programme, in the Asian-Pacific region (resolution 1986/57).

SEMINARS

4. In the framework of the activities for the implementation of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, a seminar on international assistance and support to peoples and movements struggling against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid was held at Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 28 April to 9 May 1986. This seminar, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General to the forty-second session of the Commission (E/CN.4/1986/34), was financed from the resources allocated to the programme of advisory services. The report of the seminar (ST/HR/SER.A/19) will be made available to members of the Commission.

TRAINING COURSES

5. From 19 to 30 May 1986 a national training course on human rights was organized in Bolivia by the Centre for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 4 of Commission resolution 1985/26 in which it recommended

"... that, in cases in which technical assistance in the field of human rights is being considered at the request of a Government, due consideration be given to the organization of information and/or training courses for appropriate government personnel in the country concerned on the provisions of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international organs".

In organizing the training course, due account was also taken of General Assembly resolution 40/116, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite all States parties to the five United Nations conventions on human rights having more than two reports overdue, to indicate whether they were interested in technical advice and assistance to help them fulfil their reporting obligations better. Accordingly, the Centre for Human Rights offered the Government of Bolivia a training course and, on 3 February 1986, the Government accepted the offer.

6. Thanks to the assistance provided by the Bolivian Government and to the dedication of the Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos, a non-governmental organization to which the authorities delegated many of the organizational tasks at the local level, it was possible to complete preparations in a very short time. This national training course, the first of its kind, was thus held in La Paz from 19 to 30 May 1986.

7. Forty-five persons, including magistrates, officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior and Education, as well as representatives of the Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos, took part in the training course, which was formally inaugurated by the Chairman of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and former President of Bolivia, Mr. Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas. The course consisted of lectures on the international, regional and national systems of protection of human rights as well as a series of practical exercises in the drafting of national reports to treaty bodies. A copy of the programme of the course is contained in the annex to the present document.

8. As indicated above, this was the first purely national training course organized by the Centre for Human Rights under the programme of advisory services even though the lecturers came from different countries and even from different regions. However, the fact that every lecture was held, every question raised and every answer given in the participants' mother tongue helped create an atmosphere of frank and pleasant informality, which was reflected in the many comments made at the end of the course.

9. Finally, the Secretary-General would like to express his warmest thanks for the help and assistance provided by the Bolivian authorities. He is also especially grateful to the Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos for its efforts in securing participants, not only from the city of La Paz, but also from all provinces of Bolivia. Without this invaluable help, from governmental and non-governmental sources alike, it would not have been possible to hold the training course in 1986.

ADVISORY SERVICES OF EXPERTS

10. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 926 (X), the programme of advisory services also provides for the advisory services of experts in the field of human rights. During the reporting period such advisory services have been provided to the Government of Equatorial Guinea (see para. 2 above).

TRUST FUND ON ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

11. It may be recalled that in his introduction of the item "Advisory services in the field of human rights" at the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights informed the Commission that the current budget allocation for the advisory services programme was sufficient to finance one seminar at Geneva, attended by 26 to 32 participants, 25 fellowships and the provision of some expert advice to Governments at their request. As a large part of the programme's budget for 1986 was already committed to a seminar on international assistance and support to peoples and movements struggling against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid (see para. 4 above), any cuts which might be imposed on the advisory services programme would consequently reduce the other elements of the programme. He emphasized that more financing would

therefore be required in the future for the advice and assistance programme, but that there was little hope of obtaining additional resources from within the United Nations system in view of the present financial situation of the Organization.

12. In paragraph 12 of resolution 1986/52, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit relevant information on the possible role of an eventual trust fund on advisory services in the field of human rights and, if it were established, the manner in which it could function.

13. The Secretary-General hereby submits that an eventual trust fund on advisory services in the field of human rights would be of importance for the programme. Its primary role could be to seek extra-budgetary resources with a view to supporting or supplementing the substantive work programmes of the advisory services of the Centre for Human Rights. It could provide urgently needed additional resources for the implementation of specific decisions of the Commission concerning assistance to countries. It will be recalled that in the past several countries have presented specific projects in the field of human rights, including the organization of training courses for the teaching of human rights or the drafting of legislation or of reports required under the various conventions on human rights.

14. Under the existing Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, trust funds may be established for the implementation of United Nations activities. In order to assist the Commission in its consideration of this matter, further information on possible arrangements for the establishment of a trust fund on advisory services in the field of human rights will be contained in an addendum to this report.

Annex

TRAINING COURSE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

La Paz, 19-30 May 1986

Morning: 9 a.m. to noon
(break: 10.15-10.45 a.m.)

Afternoon: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
(break: 4.15-4.45 p.m.)

Monday, 19 May	Registration and issue of documents Opening meeting	<u>Mr. José Luis Gómez del Prado,</u> United Nations Centre for Human Rights General introduction to human rights within the United Nations framework: the international instruments on human rights
Tuesday, 20 May	<u>Mr. José Luis Gómez del Prado,</u> United Nations Centre for Human Rights The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights	<u>Mr. José Luis Gómez del Prado</u> United Nations human rights bodies and their procedures
Wednesday, 21 May	<u>Mr. Edmundo Vargas Carreño,</u> Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (OAS) Protection of human rights under the inter-American system	<u>Mr. Edmundo Vargas Carreño,</u> Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (OAS) Protection of human rights under the inter-American system
Thursday, 22 May	<u>Mr. José Luis Gómez del Prado,</u> United Nations Centre for Human Rights The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	<u>Mr. José Luis Gómez del Prado,</u> Practical exercises in drafting national reports in fulfilment of obligations under United Nations conventions on human rights
Friday, 23 May	<u>Dr. Daniel Zovatto,</u> Assistant to the Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights Analysis of the reports of the Special Envoy, Mr. Héctor Gros Espiell, on assistance to Bolivia	<u>Dr. Daniel Zovatto,</u> Assistant to the Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Morning: 9 a.m. to noon
(break: 10.15-10.45 a.m.)

Afternoon: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
(break: 4.15-4.45 p.m.)

Monday, 26 May

Mr. José Antonio Pastor Ridruejo, Professor at the University of Madrid
Problems related to the incorporation, hierarchy, application and
interpretation of international human rights standards (Universal Declaration
of Human Rights, Covenants and other United Nations conventions) in internal
law (legislative, judicial and administrative aspects)

Tuesday, 27 May

Mr. Julio Prado Vallejo, Member of
the Human Rights Committee
The International Covenant on Civil
and Political Rights - the
Human Rights Committee

Mr. Julio Prado Vallejo, Member of
the Human Rights Committee
Practical exercises in drafting
national reports in fulfilment of
obligations under the international
Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Wednesday, 28 May

Panel on the Bolivian system for the
protection and promotion of human
rights - discussion led by some
participants

Mr. Julio Prado Vallejo, Member of the
Human Rights Committee
Practical exercises in drafting
national reports in fulfilment of
obligations under the International
Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Thursday, 29 May

Panel on the Bolivian system for the
protection and promotion of human
rights: minimum domestic legislation
required to give effect to
international human rights standards -
discussion led by some participants

Mr. José Pastor Ridruejo, University
of Madrid
Problems related to the incorporation,
hierarchy, application and
interpretation of international human
rights standards (Universal
Declaration of Human Rights, Covenants
and other United Nations conventions)
in internal law (legislative, judicial
and administrative aspects)

Friday, 30 May

Mr. José de Faria, Centre for
Human Rights
Measures in the spheres of
information, teaching and education
for the promotion of human rights
Evaluation of the course

Closing meeting