



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/8367/Corr.1
25 October 1971

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-sixth session
Agenda item 54 (a)

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM
AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

The replies from the Governments of the following Member States, which had been inadvertently omitted from document A/8367, should be incorporated in Section II:

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BRAZIL

/Original: English/
12 May 1971

Motion adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the
State of São Paulo, Brazil

The United Nations has designated 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Peoples in every region of the world must endeavour to eradicate, by the most effective means, the hatreds and obstacles which have separated men and cultures for so many centuries.

The cost, which is still being paid, is high; destruction, pillage and death have marked the current period of protest and confrontation in the quest for equality of rights and opportunities in life.

Many claim to hate the injustice of racism but they remain aloof, refusing to think about, act against or denounce happenings which they witness daily. It is important that the United Nations should observe with especial solemnity the year for action to combat racial discrimination - which should be studied in all its forms. The folly of racism is that it feeds on myths and unreason. Various manifestations of the scourge are clearly recorded in history; the ships of the slave traders, the concentration camps such as Dachau, and the Warsaw Ghetto have become symbolic. The International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination is directed towards basically educational objectives in that man is called to examine his conscience; man's education does not consist of his condemning his neighbour. Twenty-six years after the end of the Second World War and the establishment of the United Nations, racism has emerged as a particularly serious threat to peace; it is a stain on man's image, separating peoples by violence and dividing nations. Yet racism is not the only source of unjust discrimination among men in the contemporary world.

Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established for all the principle of human brotherhood: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

The impetus of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination is such that it is increasingly transcending the confines of mere ceremonial.

LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC

/Original: English/
15 July 1971

The Department concerned in the Libyan Arab Republic has introduced several special programmes in the form of titled commentaries and films on racism: its disadvantages and the means of eliminating it.

These programmes, as titled below, have been introduced to the public via the media of television, radio and press:

- (1) "Racism": This commentary deals with the serious problem of racism from its historical, social and political aspects (20 minutes).
- (2) "Islam Discarding of Racial Discrimination" (10 minutes).
- (3) "International Day to Combat Racism" (10 minutes).
- (4) "The Voices of Masters and Slaves" (15 minutes).
- (5) "Racism in a World Full of Contrarities" (15 minutes).
- (6) Television has composed three special programmes on racial discrimination comprising a thorough explanation of the history of racial discrimination its motivation, factors enabling its continuation, tragedies resulting from its causes, and ways and means to eliminate racism.

These three programmes focus on the forms of racial discrimination being exercised presently in Palestine, South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

- (7) The press has published a number of articles on racism and racial discrimination.
- (8) A postage stamp will be produced to commemorate 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

PAKISTAN

/Original: English/
18 February 1971

The International Day was celebrated in Pakistan on 21 March 1970, in a befitting manner.

Meetings, seminars, symposia and essay competitions were organized in which the role of the United Nations organizations to eliminate racial discrimination were discussed. Editorials were published in newspapers and a special article, written for the occasion by the United Nations Information Service in Karachi, was published in the English, Urdu and Bengali newspapers. The day was covered in the news bulletins on television, and features, talks and dialogues were broadcast on the radio.

YUGOSLAVIA

/Original: English/
16 March 1971

The Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia takes the view that the violation of human rights and intolerance towards whatever race or group of people is impermissible and that all available resources should be used in order to combat racial discrimination. For this reason the representatives of Yugoslavia have exerted efforts in all forums of the United Nations with a view to designating 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Government of Yugoslavia confirms, with its action programme for the observance of the International Year, the importance it attaches to this activity of the United Nations.

A Co-ordinating Committee has been established in Yugoslavia for the observance of 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Committee is headed by Punisa Perovic, member of the Council of the Federation and member of the Presidium of the Federal Conference of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia, the largest social and political organization in Yugoslavia. The Co-ordinating Committee, numbering 42 members, is comprised of Government representatives, representatives of the Socialist Republics and regions, social and political organizations and of eminent scientific and public workers. The Co-ordinating Committee will serve as a media for broad participation of the Yugoslav peoples in the observance programmes and for dissemination of information on the problem of racial discrimination.

The Co-ordinating Committee has adopted a proposal that the observance of the International Year will begin in Yugoslavia on 21 March 1971. The following programmes will be carried out during the International Year:

- in all socialist republics and regions, special programmes are planned, starting with the mobilization of the mass information media - press, radio and television - including special school activities and workers' university programmes dealing with subjects on racial discrimination and forms of struggle against this evil and against the régimes pursuing the policy of racial discrimination;
- on the eve of 21 March - the International Day of Struggle against Racial Discrimination - the Yugoslav television network will carry a special programme on the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;
- in all socialist republics and regions the United Nations documentary film, "Apartheid - Twentieth Century Slavery", will be shown on television network;
- the eminent Yugoslav magazine Yugoslav Review of International Law will devote one of its issues exclusively to racism and racial discrimination;
- The Community of Yugoslav Universities will invite all Yugoslav universities to initiate studies, masters' theses and doctors' dissertations on various aspect of racial discrimination;

- the booklet "All Human Beings are Born Free and Equal", issued by the United Nations Information Centre in Belgrade (translation of UNESCO publication), will be widely distributed throughout Yugoslavia by the United Nations Associations of the republics;
- Yugoslav trade unions will actively support the struggle for the rights of the African population in the southern part of Africa, in particular at the international gatherings in which the Yugoslav trade union leaders will participate;
- in September 1971, at the University Centre in Split, scientists will meet to discuss the topic of racial discrimination. Papers submitted by scientific workers at this gathering will be issued in a special publication;
- a possibility of issuing a special stamp with the emblem and seal of the International Year is being examined;
- at all ceremonies the International Year emblem, distributed by the Secretary-General, will be displayed;
- the Co-ordinating Committee at its meetings will also examine other possibilities for the Yugoslav contribution to the successful observance of the International Year;
- the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, at the beginning of 1972, will inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of all the activities carried out in Yugoslavia for the observance of 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.
