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ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM
AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED BY GOVERNMENTS

AUSTRIA

[Original: English]
27 October 1970

The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs has constituted a National Committee for the preparation and co-ordination of the Austrian contributions to the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. This Committee has also been charged with the supervision of the implementation of all measures envisaged in this context.

These measures are primarily intended to draw attention more effectively to the significance and basic ideas of the International Year. For the achievement of this aim various measures are being considered, such as the publication of articles by official institutions and private organizations in their journals or periodicals, the broadcasting of special programmes by radio and television, as well as the holding of seminars, panel discussions and the organization of lectures.

The International Year and its ideas will also be taken into account in the preparation of the teaching programmes of schools.

In this connexion it should be pointed out that the annual speaker's competition of the United Nations Association of Austria, in which some thousand students, young workers and rural youths participate, will be devoted to the theme "The Arrogance of Prejudice; Discrimination at home and abroad". In the academies for the training of school-teachers the Austrian UNICEF Committee will organize an essay competition on a similar subject.

The Austrian Parliament and the Federal Government will equally pay tribute to the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination by the ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In this context the revision of some obsolete provisions of the Austrian Penal Law is intended.

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SYRIA

[Original: English]
21 October 1970

The Syrian Arab Republic, which acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 21 April 1969, should like to reiterate that no racial discrimination under any form exists within its borders. However, Syria is relentlessly pursuing the implementation of national programmes in the economic and social fields in order to eliminate all forms of social and economic inequities.

On the international level, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, whose stand on racial discrimination is too well known to need reiteration, has been intensifying and expanding its efforts for the rapid and total eradication of racial discrimination, including the policy of apartheid, nazism and all of its contemporary forms, as well as other manifestations of racism. As a member of the Security Council, Syria has actively participated in the initiation of international measures to combat the racist and colonialist régimes of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Portugal.

Despite the fact that part of Syrian territory is still under Israeli occupation and that the population of the occupied areas remains displaced, its towns and villages destroyed or burned down, Syria envisages activities in connexion with the International Year that would reaffirm its genuine solidarity with all those who, like the Arabs, are victims of racial discrimination, foreign military occupation and other forms of colonial and imperialist aggression.

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MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

/Original: English/
26 June 1970

General Assembly resolution 2544 (XXIV) was brought to the attention of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization at its forty-fifth session from 20 to 30 January 1970, and the Executive Board took note of the General Assembly's resolution.

A further report, in which reference was made to this resolution, was presented to the twenty-third session of the World Health Assembly, which took note thereof in resolution WHA23.43.

We have noted the provisions of Suggestion E in the programme annex to resolution 2544 (XXIV) to which our attention was drawn. While the World Health Organization is in full agreement with the principles motivating the observance in 1971 of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the constitutional and organizational structure does not lend itself to the organization of special meetings of the kind referred to in Suggestion E. Consideration is being given, however, to the inclusion of appropriate material in publications of the World Health Organization.

The World Health Organization by its established methods of work is devoted to ensuring the fundamental right of health to all persons without discrimination on any grounds whatsoever. It is a further matter of long-standing practice for the Director-General to bring to the attention of the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly any and all decisions of the principal organs of the United Nations which affect or concern the work of the World Health Organization, and the attention of the legislative bodies of WHO is thus systematically drawn to the decisions of the United Nations in the field of human rights. Accordingly, a further report will be made to the forty-seventh session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization in January 1971 covering all relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions.

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MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED BY REGIONAL
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

[Original: English/Spanish]

Programme of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
in joining in the observance in 1971 of the International
Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Based on the suggestion of the Programme for the observance in 1971 of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, annexed to resolution 2544 (XXIV) of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights prepared a draft programme (Doc. 14-24). The Commission, at the tenth meeting of its twenty-fourth session, agreed to adopt the following programme:

1. Special meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

During its twenty-fifth session, which will take place in March 1971, the Commission will hold a special meeting to commemorate the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

2. Publication of a commemorative pamphlet entitled "The OAS and the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination", in which will be included the declarations and resolutions approved by the Organization of American States on this subject, especially resolution XXV entitled "Statement on Racial Integration in America" approved by the Second Special Inter-American Conference of Rio de Janeiro in 1965.

3. Approval of a resolution of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, joining in the observance of the International Year against Racism in which it will expressly recommend to the Governments of the member States of the OAS, in accordance with the authority granted by article 9 (b) of its statute, that they adopt progressive and effective measures for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination in their respective territories and requesting that they promote, by all the means within their power and at all social and educational levels, seminars and symposia on the theme of racism and racial discrimination.

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4. Organization of a symposium on racism and racial discrimination in collaboration with one of the universities of the city of Washington, D.C., which will be held in October 1971, in which will participate the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the persons and entities that the Commission thinks suitable. This Symposium will last two days. In addition, the Secretariat of the Commission will publish, as a contribution to the programme for action to combat racism and racial discrimination, the dissertations or debates of the Symposium and give it the broadest circulation possible.
