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ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Future meetings of the Committee on the Elimination  
of Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its decision 1 (XX) of 13 August 1979, being convinced, *inter alia*, that the holding of Committee sessions in various regions would increase awareness and interest of the peoples of the regions concerned in the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and in the activities of the Committee, and being aware of the fact that many of the developing countries which have expressed the wish to invite the Committee to hold sessions in their territories are unable to extend such invitations because of the heavy costs to be borne by them in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976, recommended to the General Assembly to consider the adoption of appropriate measures in order to facilitate the holding of Committee sessions in various regions by taking into account the difficulties of the developing countries with respect to the payment of the costs for holding of such meetings.
2. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution 34/28 of 15 November 1979, *inter alia*, noted with due attention Committee decision 1 (XX) concerning the future meetings of the Committee, and requested the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of providing necessary assistance for the holding of such meetings in developing countries and to submit a report in this regard to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.
3. The present report is submitted by the Secretary-General in response to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 34/28.

\* A/35/150.

4. In this connexion, the Secretary-General wishes to recall the relevant provision of General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976, by which the Assembly decided that:

"... United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved".

5. At present, the above-mentioned provision of resolution 31/140 governs the action which may be taken by the Secretary-General in determining the actual additional costs of meetings to be borne by Governments issuing invitation to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to hold sessions in their territories. The resolution makes no distinction between the Governments of developing countries and those of developed countries which may extend such invitations to the Committee.

6. It is the understanding of the Secretary-General that the General Assembly by its request contained in resolution 34/28 did not intend to suggest any departure from the application of the relevant provisions of resolution 31/140.

7. In order to facilitate the holding of Committee sessions in developing countries, therefore, the General Assembly may wish to give consideration to the following alternative proposals:

(a) The General Assembly may wish to consider setting up a special trust fund for the holding of the meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in developing countries, and invite the Governments of States parties to the Convention to make contributions to the trust fund, whose resources would be utilized to cover the actual additional costs which would arise by holding meetings of the Committee in developing countries. If this proposal is opted for, the Secretary-General would accept to supervise the administration of the trust fund, and the Committee, in consultation with the Secretary-General and subject to the availability of funds, would be able to accept invitations from the developing countries to hold sessions in their territories.

(b) Alternatively, the General Assembly may wish to consider suggesting to States parties to the Convention that they agree, at their next meeting which will be held at Headquarters in January 1982 for the purpose of electing nine members of the Committee, to defray the additional costs arising from the holding of Committee meetings in developing countries in the same manner in which they apportion among themselves the costs of travel and per diem of the members of the Committee to the two yearly sessions, in accordance with article 8, paragraph 6, of the Convention.

(c) In addition, the Secretary-General wishes to bring to the attention of the General Assembly a suggestion made by some members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its twenty-second session. In connexion with the Committee's consideration of the Programme of activities, approved by the

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General Assembly in resolution 34/24, for the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, it was suggested by some members of the Committee that the General Assembly may wish to consider authorizing a one-time expenditure for one of the future sessions of the Committee to be held in a developing country as part of the Programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade. This suggestion is reflected in the annual report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, under chapter VI of the report entitled "Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination". The Committee requested the Secretary-General to bring this suggestion to the attention of the General Assembly in connexion with its consideration of item 74 (b) of its provisional agenda.

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