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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Sixth session

CIVIL LIBERTIES FOR WOMEN

Supplementary Report of the Secretary-General

Introductory Note

1. At its fourth session the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a resolution^{1/} by which inter alia it requested the Secretary-General "to prepare, if possible four months in advance of the next meeting of the Commission, a compilation and an analysis of the information contained in the replies already supplied by governments to the sections of Part I of the Questionnaire not yet so compiled and analyzed, namely Section C, on public services and functions; Section E, on civil liberties; and Section F, on fiscal laws; supplementing this information from other sources necessary to ensure a complete and accurate picture".
2. On the basis of information which was received by governments and non-governmental organizations, the Secretary-General presented to the Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifth session, a report on "Civil liberties for Women".^{2/}
3. At its fifth session the Commission adopted a resolution^{3/} recommending that the Economic and Social Council, inter alia,
"Invites Member States to forward to the Secretary-General such additional information as they may have, with respect to women in public services and functions, and civil liberties for women.
"Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the sixth session of the Commission a supplementary report on these subjects, based on the additional information supplied by member governments."

^{1/} See document E/1712, paragraph 42 (d).

^{2/} See E/CN.6/157.

^{3/} See E/1997/Rev.1, paragraph 67.

The Economic and Social Council adopted this resolution (385 G (XIII)) at its thirteenth session.

4. As at 17 January 1952 the following governments have sent in information on civil liberties in response to the above-mentioned resolution: Ecuador, France, Greece, Iran, Lebanon and Turkey. Of these six governments, three have sent in information for the first time. These are Ecuador, Iran and Lebanon. The remaining three governments, France, Greece and Turkey, have sent in additional information thus bringing the information in document E/CN.6/157 up to date.

5. The Secretary-General has the honour to submit the information thus received to the Commission in the present document.

	What are the constitutional or legislative safeguards of civil liberties?	Do women have the same degree of freedom as men in respect of				Do women have equal status with men before the courts?		Do men and women have free choice to marry any spouse regardless of nationality, race, religion or political affiliation?	Observations.
		religion	speech	assembly	unwarranted search and seizure	married women	unmarried women		
Ecuador	See Political Constitution, Articles 150-188.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No see obs.		Yes	<p>A married woman requires her husband's consent in order to appear in a legal action except in the case of action brought against the husband, or in cases involving questions of work or trade when the wife engages in a trade separately from her husband.</p> <p>The husband's consent is however not necessary in criminal proceedings brought against the wife, or in a lawsuit brought by the wife against the husband or by the husband against the wife. Nevertheless, it shall always be the duty of the husband to render his wife such assistance as she may need for her lawsuits or legal defense.</p> <p>A married woman may also appear before a law court without her husband's consent when representing her children who are under her parental authority or when representing her legitimate children in lawsuits against the father or in cases authorized by the present Code or by Special Act.</p>
France						Yes, see obs.		Yes	Women have the same rights as men before the civil courts. They also have equal status with men before criminal courts.
Greece	See the Greek Constitution (articles 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 16)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, except in the case of a difference of religion. See obs.	The Greek Civil Code forbids the marriage of a Christian to a member of another religion.
Iran		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, see obs. 1		Yes, but see obs. 2.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Except in so far as concerns the giving of testimony. 2. Except if the husband is not Moslem. In case of difference of nationality, authorization from the Ministry of Interior is necessary.
Lebanon	The Lebanese Constitution (articles 6 - 15) enumerates and guarantees civil liberties.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	See obs.	In principle women have free choice to marry any spouse regardless of nationality, race, religion or political affiliation. However, the marriage of a non-moslem to a moslem woman is invalid.
Philippines	See the Philippines Constitution (art. III) and statutes.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No but see obs.	Yes	Yes	Married women may not sue or be sued without joining their husbands, except in the following instances: (a) when the action concerns her paraphernal property, (b) when the action is between herself and her husband, and (c) when she is living separately and apart from her husband for just cause.
Turkey	Constitution of 20 April 1924 (articles 69 and 70). See obs.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Article 69 of the Turkish Constitutional Law of 20 April 1924 states: "The Turks are equal before the laws and are expected conscientiously to abide by them. Every type of group, class, family, and individual privilege is abolished and prohibited." Article 70 of the same law states: "Personal immunity, freedom of conscience, of thought, of speech and press, the right to travel, to make contracts, to work, to own and dispose of property, to meet and associate and to incorporate, form part of the rights and liberties of Turkish citizens."