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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Second periodic reports submitted by States parties to the
Covenant, concerning rights covered by articles 10 to 12, in
accordance with the second stage of the programme established
by Economic and Social Council resolution 1988 (LX)

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND:
DEPENDENT TERRITORIES*

[23 September 1993]

* The present document constitutes the report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, dealing with the Dependent Territories, in respect of articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant. In its note dated 23 September 1993 transmitting the present report, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations Office at Geneva informed the Secretariat that the reports of the Isle of Man and Guernsey were under preparation and would be submitted in the shortest delay possible.

The initial report submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with respect to the Dependent Territories on rights covered by articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant (E/1980/6/Add.25 and Corr.1 and Add.26) was considered by the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts at its 1981 session (see E/1981/WG.1/SR.16-17).

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Introduction

1. This report is submitted by the United Kingdom as an addendum to its second periodic report on articles 10 to 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1986/4/Add.23). The present report relates to the United Kingdom's Dependent Territories overseas to which the Covenant also applies, that is to say, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

2. The detailed position in relation to each of the above-named Territories is set out separately in the various sections of the present report. The position described is as ascertained when the supporting material was assembled in the respective Territories. In most cases this process was completed in 1992 but in some contexts the position has had to be described as it stood in late 1991 or, in a few cases, earlier. The United Kingdom regrets the delay that there has had to be in the assembling and compilation of the material and the submission of this report.

3. Each of the sections of this report up-dates or supplements, as appropriate, the account given in the corresponding section of the United Kingdom's first periodic report in respect of those Territories (E/1980/6/Add.25), to which the Committee is accordingly referred. In relation to all of the Territories the Committee is particularly referred to paragraphs 3 to 8 of that first periodic report. Those paragraphs, which made certain general observations concerning the legal systems and other relevant circumstances of the various Territories and concerning the form and content of the corresponding annexes, are also applicable in relation to the present report.

4. The Committee is also specifically referred to the United Kingdom's second periodic report on articles 13 to 15 of the Covenant in respect of the above-named Territories, which is being submitted to the Committee at the same time as the present report. The information given for each Territory in the relevant section of the present report should be read in conjunction with, and in the light of, the information given for that Territory in the corresponding section of the report on articles 13 to 15.

5. The Committee is further specifically referred to the latest reports submitted in respect of the above-named Territories under article 40 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR/C/58/Add.6, Part III) and under Article 73e of the Charter of the United Nations.

6. Because of the disproportionate bulk of the large number of laws and other instruments and reference documents that are mentioned at various points in the 10 separate sections of this report, it is not practicable for copies of all of them to be enclosed with the report. Where a copy of a particular document is so enclosed, this is expressly stated in the relevant section. But a set of copies of all the other instruments or documents that are cited is being assembled and will be forwarded to the secretariat so that they may be consulted as required.

I. BERMUDA

General

7. Bermuda has a population of 58,080 (1987 estimate) and an area of approximately 53.3 sq. km.

8. Bermuda enjoys a wide measure of internal self-government under an elected legislature and Ministers. The right of self-determination is guaranteed by the policy of successive United Kingdom Governments, subject to the wishes of the population of Bermuda.

Article 10

Protection of the family

9. Relevant legislation includes the Protection of Children Act 1943, as amended; the Social Welfare Act 1971; the Adoption of Children Act 1963; the Employment of Children and Young Persons Act 1963; the Foster Homes Act 1960; the Obscene Publications Act 1973; and the Affiliation Act 1976 (formerly the Illegitimate Children's Act).

10. Provision is made under the legislation, and services are provided, to protect children from abuse or neglect or impending neglect. Individual, family and marriage counselling services are also provided. Assistance is given over adoption, custody and foster care of children.

11. In addition to a private day care centre, there is a day care centre operated by the Government which caters for children from the area who require low cost or specialized day care attention. This facility, which has trained staff and is well equipped, can accommodate up to 50 children between the ages of three months and four years. It admits children who fall into one of the following categories: children of working mothers; children of students; children of chronically ill mothers or mothers particularly in need of relief; children who need specialized experience; and children of one-parent families or of low-income families.

12. The Physical Abuse Centre offers counselling and protection to women and children who have been victims of abuse.

13. The Rape Crisis Centre also provides protection to women and children by its efforts to educate and increase public awareness about sexual assault. This programme is supported by a grant from the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Housing.

14. Various kinds of assistance with housing for Bermudian families is provided by the Bermuda Housing Corporation (see also under art. 11 below).

Maternity protection

15. Antenatal and postnatal care is offered by the Department of Health to ensure so far as possible that the mother maintains good health, develops adequate skills as a parent, has a normal delivery and delivers a healthy child.

16. Maternity benefits are included as part of standard hospital insurance benefits. In the case of eligible government employees, the cost of hospitalization is paid for in full and the sum of \$600 is paid towards doctors' fees.

Protection of children and younger persons

17. The Child Development Project began in 1978 as a pilot project through the collaboration of the Ministries of Health and Social Services and Education. At that time, it was recognized that some children in Bermuda were not receiving the kind of care and management that promoted the development necessary to prepare them to become contributing members of a society in which technical competence and social responsibility are both important. The objective was to prevent or minimize developmental problems and to reduce the possible harmful effects of environmental deprivation on some preschool children in Bermuda. Initially a pilot scheme was started in one parish, but now, more than 10 years later, the project is offered island-wide.

18. The first stage of the project involves identifying all families in Bermuda with children under two years of age providing them with information about the project and inviting them to participate in its services. As many families as possible are enrolled. Screening and assessment follow. This process identifies the specific needs, and services are offered to meet those needs.

19. The programmes offered are extensive, including programmes for children with overall delay in development, language delay or behaviour management problems. Some parents and children are offered the experience of group activities at the Project Centre. A toy library and a parent library are available to families. Parents are invited to parent discussion groups held throughout the year. Booklets on child development and newsletters are sent regularly to participating households.

20. The project is headed by a coordinator with a staff of two family coordinators, three child development specialist supervisors, three home intervention workers, two development testers and six toy demonstrators. It has been seeking to add a psychologist to its staff. During the year 1989 a total of 578 children received screening.

21. The project has received international recognition as an outstanding model for the early identification and prevention of health, education and welfare problems. UNESCO is among donors from abroad of research grants to it.

22. There are four residential care centres operated and financed by the Government through the Department of Social Services to meet the needs of those who for various reasons are unable to live with their own families. Three of these centres are concerned with the care of young people. They are Observatory Cottage, the Brangman Home and the Youth Development Centre. Observatory Cottage is a centre for boys between the ages of 8 and 17 who cannot be cared for in their own or foster homes. In addition to the provision of accommodation and basic living requirements, its programme includes regular attendance at school, recreation and counselling. There are about five boys in residence at any given time. The Brangman Home provides similar care for any child from birth to 17 years of age. The Home can accommodate up to 10 children and follows a programme similar to that of Observatory Cottage. The Youth Development Centre was opened in 1986 to accommodate those boys previously resident at Paget Island Junior Training School as a result of court orders. It was later expanded to include girls in this category and can house up to 12 children between the ages of 8 and 17.

23. The Adolescent Project is a community-based early intervention programme which uses volunteers to provide a one-on-one service for a period of 18 weeks to youths and their families. The project became operational in 1985.

Article 11

24. Under the provisions of the Parish Assistance Act 1968, social assistance is available to any individual who does not have enough income to cover basic needs (which have been defined as food, shelter, clothing, fuel, utilities, household supplies and personal requirements; funerals and burials; and health care services). Six social assistance workers provide assessments of eligibility and make recommendations concerning payment. Payments, where granted, are made through the parish councils.

Right to adequate food

25. The De