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TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT
OR PUNISHMENT

Draft Code of Medical Ethics

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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BARBADOS

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Proposed principles

Principle III

1. The Medical Council is of the opinion that a categorical statement on what constitutes a contravention of medical ethics is necessary. The Council holds the view that the statement, as it is at present worded, does not adequately reflect the more modern approach to medicine which accepts that a doctor's role is not only one of prescribing medicine for the sick, but is also related to the promotion of the general health of the patient.

Principle VI

2. This clause appears to be in need of redrafting to provide some mechanism for deciding whether a particular department from accepted principles is justified or not.

Explanation of proposed principles

Paragraph 2

3. While it is appreciated that it would be impossible to draw up a universally acceptable set of principles because of the necessity to take account of a variety of cultural, political and religious contexts, it should be stressed that medical ethics should be divorced from political or judicial policy and practice.

Declaration of Tokyo

4. Section 3 stipulates that a doctor should not be present during any procedure during which torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment is used or threatened.

5. It is the practice for doctors to be present during corporal punishment and at executions. The paragraph needs to be amended to reflect certain exceptions because the presence of a doctor in these circumstances would be in the interest of the prisoner.
