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

Reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1977 (LX)  
by States Parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by  
articles 10 to 12

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[9 June 1980]

1. In the context of the submission of periodic reports about human rights, considerable information about the legislation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and also statistical data and information were published in Economic and Social Council documents E/1978/3/Add.19 of 28 July 1978 (concerning articles 6 to 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and CCPR/C/1/Add.27 of 15 June 1978 (concerning the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). Questions connected with articles 10 to 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have been given some coverage in a number of documents submitted by the Byelorussian SSR in recent years to the secretariats of international organizations.

2. The consistent development of socialist democracy, the strengthening of the legal basis of State and public life and the maintenance of legality and law and order, as indicated in the above-mentioned documents, are inextricably linked with the education of citizens in the spirit of scrupulous and unswerving implementation of the Constitution and other legislative acts and the observance of State discipline. The main goal of improving and developing the system of legislation in force in the Byelorussian SSR is to ensure the fullest possible satisfaction of the material and spiritual needs of Soviet citizens and comprehensive guarantees of their rights and freedoms.

3. Since the present report is meant to describe the "basic conditions" and the "basic programmes and institutions relevant to the rights dealt with in articles 10-12", with special reference to developments which have taken place since the entry into force of the Covenant, that is, since 3 January 1976, information is provided below on specific aspects of articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Covenant.

I. ARTICLE 10: PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY, MOTHERHOOD AND CHILDHOOD

4. Marriage, the family, motherhood and childhood enjoy the special protection of the State in the Byelorussian SSR. The establishment of more favourable conditions for the protection of maternal and child health is one of the guiding directions of the policy of the Communist Party and State. Article 51 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR stipulates that the family enjoys the protection of the State.

5. The basic legal instruments in the Byelorussian SSR for the protection of the family, motherhood and childhood are the following:

- (a) The Constitution;
- (b) The marriage and the family code of 13 June 1969;
- (c) The Labour Code of 23 June 1972;
- (d) The Health Act of 1 June 1970.

6. The State demonstrates its concern for the family by establishing and developing a broad network of children's institutions, by organizing and improving

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communal services and public catering, by paying childbirth allowances and by providing allowances and benefits to large families and also other types of allowances and assistance to the family.

7. Under article 64 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR, all citizens are obliged to concern themselves with the upbringing of children, with training them for socially useful work and with raising them as worthy members of socialist society. Children, in turn, are obliged to care for their parents and to help them.

8. The State demonstrates its concern for the family by establishing and developing a broad network of maternity homes, day nurseries and kindergartens, boarding schools and other children's institutions, by organizing and improving communal services and public catering, by paying childbirth allowances and by providing allowances and benefits for single mothers and large families and also other types of allowances and assistance to the family.

9. Motherhood in the Byelorussian SSR enjoys nation-wide esteem and respect and is protected and encouraged by the State. Protection of the interests of the mother and child is assured by means of special measures to protect the labour and health of women; by the establishment of conditions enabling women to combine motherhood with active industrial and socio-political activity; and by the provision of legal protection and material and moral support for mothers and children, including paid maternity leave for pregnant women and mothers without their losing wages or other benefits.

10. Another instance of assistance to families is the State's assumption of the major proportion of the cost of maintaining children in pre-school children's institutions. In 1976, over 390,000 children attended full-time pre-school institutions and in 1979, the figure rose to over 463,000. In 1976, 110,000 children, including 20,000 children of pre-school age, attended seasonal children's institutions; and in 1979, the figures were 124,000 and 21,000 respectively. In the course of the tenth five-year plan (1976-1980), the total number of children in pre-school institutions increased by 30 per cent as compared with the total of the year 1975. The State's concern about the education of the younger generation not only enables parents to participate actively in industrial and public work but also increases the family budget, since parental contributions to the maintenance of children in kindergartens amount to an average of only 21 per cent of the total and in day nurseries, 15 per cent of the total. All other expenses are borne by the State.

11. In the case of general education schools, the costs are entirely borne by the State. Parents pay only 8 per cent of the cost of maintaining their children in boarding schools. Schools with extended hours and schools offering extended hours for some groups provide considerable assistance to mothers in raising children and teenagers.

12. Extra-curricular children's institutions play a significant role in raising children to a high level of morality, culture and general education. Children in the Byelorussian SSR have at their disposal 168 young pioneers' and schoolchildren's

palaces and centres, 51 centres for young technicians and naturalists, 299 children's libraries and also a large number of children's music, art and dance schools.

13. Great attention is paid to physical education for the younger generation. Children and young people who are interested in sports may take advantage of a large network of sports schools designed for them and of the many stadiums, swimming pools, ski centres, children's parks and other sports and health facilities.

14. The physical-training institutes, the physical education and physical-training faculties of teacher-training institutes and a number of secondary special educational establishments of the Byelorussian SSR train specialist personnel for work with children and young people. Board scientific research is carried out on problems of the physical education of the younger generation.

15. The organization of summer vacations plays an important role in strengthening child health. Over a million children and young people have the opportunity to spend the summer in pioneer and school camps or at tourist and excursion centres or to travel for the summer to holiday villages at which there are children's institutions. Furthermore, health and resort facilities for children and young people, including facilities in sanatoria, rest homes and holiday hotels for parents with children from 4 to 14 years of age, have been broadly developed. The costs of such vacations for children and parents are to a great extent met from social insurance funds and the State budget, and this demonstrates the significant extent to which the State assists families in obtaining healthy vacations for all of their members.

16. Expenditure from the State budget of the Byelorussian SSR on socio-cultural facilities and research is constantly increasing and amounted to 1,785.6 million roubles in 1975 and 2,020.8 million roubles in 1978. A considerable proportion of the increase corresponds to expenditure on health care and education.

17. The State assists families by establishing a minimal payment for accommodation and by demonstrating constant concern about improving family living conditions. Over the past 10 years, half the population of the Republic moved to new modern apartments or improved their living conditions.

18. Another aspect of State assistance to the family is the provision of communal services to the population, an area which is developing intensively, thus affording women considerably increased free time. The volume of such services increased 1.5 times between 1970 and 1980 in the Byelorussian SSR.

19. The State also assists families by providing various types of allowances. These include child-birth allowances, allowances for mothers of large families and others.

20. State allowances for mothers of large families are provided for in a decree adopted by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 8 July 1944 entitled "Increased State assistance to expectant mothers,

mothers of large families and single mothers, the strengthening of maternal and child care, and the establishment of the honorary award "Mother-Heroine", the order "Maternal Glory" and the medal "Motherhood Medal". Allowances for mothers consist of two types: (a) one-time allowances paid on the occasion of the birth of the third child; and (b) monthly allowances paid on the occasion of the birth of the fourth child (beginning the second year after birth and continuing to the fifth birthday). Monthly allowances are paid for each successive child, regardless of whether the mother is receiving any other allowances for children born earlier. Large families have priority in obtaining accommodation and in improving their living conditions and also enjoy tax benefits (a 30 per cent reduction in income tax for families with more than three children).

21. The single mother (a woman who is not married to the father of her child) receives a monthly State allowance for each child and enjoys a number of benefits relating to the education of her child in pre-school children's institutions: she has priority over other mothers in placing her child in a day-care centre or kindergarten; she pays a minimal charge to keep her child in a children's institution and she has the right to place the child to be raised in a State children's institution entirely at State expense.

22. Under decision No. 74<sup>A</sup> of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR of 12 September 1974 concerning further increases in material assistance for needy families with children, child allowances are paid in cases where the average total income per person in the family does not exceed 50 roubles per month. These allowances are paid even if the family is already receiving monthly allowances for the children on other grounds (for example, allowances paid to large families, allowances paid for the children of military personnel serving fixed terms of duty, allowances for disabled children and others).

23. On 1 December 1975, new benefits were established in connexion with the provision of allowances for the care of sick children. In accordance with a decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR of 26 July 1973, mothers are issued a medical certificate for a fixed period and receive an allowance to care for a sick child who has not yet reached 14 years of age. Single mothers, widows and divorced women receive additional benefits under this scheme.

24. Mothers who are released from work in order to be with a sick child in a hospital receive an allowance for the entire duration of that leave (para. 12 of the Provisions on the award and payment of allowances from State social insurance, as confirmed by decision of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of 5 February 1955).

25. Under the marriage and family code of the Byelorussian SSR, the further strengthening of the Soviet family on the basis of the principles of communist morality is one of the most important objectives of Soviet legislation on marriage and the family. The existence of a strong and healthy family makes it possible for each of its members to enjoy equal rights. Article 51 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR provides that "marriage is based on the free consent of the woman and the man; the spouses are completely equal in their family relations".

The conditions governing the contracting of marriage include the mutual consent of the parties and the attainment by each partner of the minimum age for marriage (article 15 of the marriage and family code of the Byelorussian SSR). If these conditions are violated, the marriage is considered invalid (article 45 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

26. All the regulations for contracting marriage apply equally to women and men and, in both cases, the minimum age for marriage is 18 years. Article 3 of the marriage and family code of the Byelorussian SSR makes special reference to the equality of rights of women and men in family relations. Article 4 of the marriage and family code of the Byelorussian SSR is concerned with the equality of rights of citizens in family relations irrespective of their nationality, race or attitude to religion: "Any direct or indirect restrictions of rights and the establishment of any direct or indirect privileges at the time of contracting marriage or in family relations on the basis of national or racial origin or attitude to religion shall be prohibited."

27. The constitutional position regarding the equality of women and men in family relations is further developed not only in the marriage and family code of the Byelorussian SSR but also in other rules of family law which regulate specific aspects of marital and family relations.

28. The personal rights of spouses under the legislation in force in the Byelorussian SSR relating to marriage and the family, which include the right to choose one's surname at the time of contracting marriage, the right to decide jointly on matters relating to family life and the raising of children and the right to the free choice of occupation, trade and place of residence, are enjoyed by both spouses on an equal basis. The property rights of the spouses are dealt with in article 21 of the Code which especially stipulates that the spouses enjoy equal rights in the ownership, use and disposal of property acquired during the marriage. Furthermore, equal rights to property are preserved even if one of the spouses has been engaged in managing the household or caring for the children or for other valid reasons has not had an independent income. The court may waive the general rule (equal shares for each spouse) if this would be in the interests of minor children or the legitimate interests of one of the spouses. Under the legislation in force, the share of one of the spouses may be increased if the other spouse has refused to engage in socially useful work or has used the joint property in a manner detrimental to the interests of the family.

29. The legislation of the Byelorussian SSR relating to marriage and the family, under article 22 of the Code, devotes considerable attention to equality of rights and obligations of parents, including their rights and obligations in cases where the marriage is terminated. There are also special rules designed to preserve the equality of the rights and obligations of parents if one of them does not live with the children.

30. When a marriage is terminated, the spouses enjoy equal rights and the conditions of the divorce apply to each of them in the same manner. Article 43 of the Code states that a spouse who changed his or her surname at the time of

contracting marriage is entitled to keep the same surname after the termination of the marriage or, at his or her request, to re-assume the surname used prior to the marriage.

31. Marriages between Byelorussian nationals and aliens, and also marriages between aliens, are contracted in the Byelorussian SSR in accordance with the legislation in force. This principle also applies to divorces.

32. The constitutional position regarding the equality of citizens in their marital and family relations is thus consistently reflected in the legislation on marriage and the family at the stage when the family is formed, during the period when it performs its functions and when it ceases to exist.

33. Under article 33 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR, equality between women and men is ensured by the establishment of conditions enabling women to combine work with motherhood and by the provision of legal protection and material and moral support for mothers and children. The Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR lays down special guarantees regulating working conditions for expectant mothers and women with children under one year of age.

34. Pregnant women, nursing mothers and women with children under one year of age may not be required to work at night, overtime or on rest days and may not be sent on assignments. Women with children aged between one and eight years may not be required to work overtime or be sent on assignments without their consent (articles 162 and 163 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

35. On the basis of a medical certificate, expectant mothers may be transferred for the duration of pregnancy to other, lighter work while retaining the same average remuneration. If nursing mothers and women with children under one year of age are unable to carry out their previous work they may be transferred to other work while retaining the same average remuneration throughout the nursing period or until the child reaches its first birthday (article 164 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

36. Women are entitled to maternity leave of 56 calendar days before confinement and 56 calendar days after confinement and receive State social security benefits during this period. In the event of complications during childbirth or of a multiple birth, the post-natal leave entitlement is extended to 70 calendar days (article 165 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

37. In addition to maternity leave, women are entitled to apply for supplementary leave without pay until the child reaches its first birthday (article 167 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR). Maternity benefits are paid throughout the period of maternity leave at the full earnings rate (article 243 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR). If, on application, a woman is granted additional post-maternity leave until her child reaches its first birthday, her job or post is held open for her. This leave is counted as part of her total length of uninterrupted service and also of her total length of service in a specialized field (article 167 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

38. A woman who adopts a new-born baby directly from a maternity home may take leave for the period from the date of adoption until the child is 56 days old; during this period she is entitled to receive State social security benefits. At her request, a woman who adopts a new-born baby directly from a maternity home may take additional leave without pay until the child reaches its first birthday (article 160 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR). At her request, a woman may be granted annual leave before maternity leave or directly after it, irrespective of her length of service in a particular enterprise, establishment or organization (article 166 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

39. There are also special safeguards for mothers with respect to hiring and the termination of employment. It is prohibited to refuse employment to women or to reduce their wages on the grounds that they are pregnant or nursing a child. Dismissal by management of pregnant women, nursing mothers and women with children under one year of age is prohibited except in cases of the closure of the establishment, enterprise or organization, when dismissal is permitted on condition that alternative employment is found (article 170 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR). Refusal to employ women or their dismissal from work on grounds of pregnancy, and also refusal to hire nursing mothers or their dismissal, is punished by corrective labour for a period of up to one year or by dismissal from duty (article 136 of the Criminal Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

40. Where necessary, the management of enterprises and organizations, with the consent of the factory, works or local trade union committee, may issue free or reduced-rate passes to sanatoria and rest homes to expectant mothers and may also provide them with material assistance (article 171 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

41. At enterprises and organizations with a large female staff, day nurseries, kindergartens, feeding rooms and women's rest rooms are provided (article 172 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

42. The Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR (article 40) lays down the right of citizens to health protection. The Health Act of the Byelorussian SSR contains detailed provisions about mother and child care. The organization of health care for women and children in the Republic, as in the entire country, is based on the fundamental principle of Soviet health care - State-provided, free, universally accessible and highly qualified medical care for all citizens and an emphasis on prevention in the work of all medical institutions.

43. The Byelorussian SSR has a broad-ranging network of special institutions: women's clinics, maternity homes, sanatoria and rest homes for pregnant women and mothers, children's pre-school institutions etc. There are 613 women's clinics, children's polyclinics and out-patient departments in the Republic. They are to be found in every district and town and in many towns there are at least two or three such institutions.

44. All women - in both towns and rural areas - are ensured the possibility of medical check-ups during pregnancy and are able to give birth in hospital (at present, virtually all women receive qualified medical assistance during



confinement). Check-ups on the progress of pregnancy and on the health of nursing mothers take place at women's clinics which provide, free of charge, not only medical and preventive care but also, if necessary, social assistance. The clinics assist women in family planning (if the women so wish), make recommendations about the organization of work and leisure and about nutrition for pregnant women and nursing mothers, as well as provide the necessary assistance in transferring pregnant women to lighter work if this is required for medical reasons. In accordance with the legislation in force, the doctors at the clinics authorize maternity leave for women.

45. The main tasks of the women's clinics include the mass preventive screening of women, clinical observation and the diagnosis and cure of illness.

46. Special attention is paid to health care for women workers in industrial enterprises within which a number of women's clinics or gynaecological units (based on the number of working women at the enterprise) are attached to the medical and health sections, provide obstetrical and gynaecological care for these women and continuously monitor their state of health. These institutions also monitor the hygiene of women's work and study the characteristics of production and the influence of industrial factors on the female organism. On the basis of the data obtained and of scientific research, they establish health and gynaecological standards for various industries, identify and eliminate harmful factors and work out preventive measures.

47. Outpatient obstetrical and gynaecological care for women living in rural localities is developing at various levels (outpatient women's clinics of district, regional and Republican hospitals and assistance provided under sponsorship schemes by personnel from the obstetrical and gynaecological departments of medical institutes).

48. In major towns, specialized maternity homes and departments have been established for expectant mothers with cardiovascular, glandular and other disorders and for women with certain types of obstetrical complications, so as to avoid serious complications among women and new-born babies.

49. Preventive sanatoria, rest homes and sanatoria for pregnant women and women with gynaecological disorders, as well as pregnancy pathology departments on partly along sanatorium lines help strengthen the health of women and prevent the development of a number of serious complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

50. The great attention paid to the working and living conditions of mothers is demonstrated by the establishment in 1976 of a Standing Commission on Women's Working and Living Conditions, Maternity and Child Welfare, attached to the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR and consisting of 17 deputies. At its session in June 1979, the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR considered the work of this Commission and its monitoring of the state of health care and education for children and of the fulfilment of planned targets for the construction of schools, kindergartens and day nurseries, hospitals and polyclinics. At that session, the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR adopted a decision commending the work of the Standing Commission on Women's Working and Living Conditions, Maternity and Child

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Welfare and establishing further targets in the implementation of measures for health and labour protection, for the improvement of medical and communal services for women and for the enhancement of living conditions for children, in particular their studies, education, health care and organized leisure activities.

51. At the end of 1979, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR considered the question of the implementation of measures in connexion with the observance of the International Year of the Child. It was noted that a considerable amount of work had been carried out in the Republic to further improve mother and child care, strengthen child health and improve the education and upbringing of children.

52. Measures were adopted to increase the production and improve the quality of children's goods and items, develop the network of children's pre-school institutions, schools and extra-curricular institutions, improve the system of medical services for mothers and children, construct new children's medical institutions, develop the material base for leisure activities for children and their families and improve the system of physical education for children and young people.

53. In 1979, seven new children's sanatoria and sanatorium-style forest schools were opened; children's polyclinics, new general education schools with 57,500 places and pre-school institutions with nearly 27,500 places were brought into operation; 50 pioneer camps were constructed and nine city and district young pioneer's and schoolchildren's centres were opened. Since 1 September 1979, pupils in the second and third forms of general education schools have been provided with textbooks free of charge (this measure was introduced in 1978 for pupils in the first form).

54. In the Byelorussian SSR, the system of the organization of medical care for children consists of three basic, functionally interlinked, levels: the polyclinic - the hospital - the convalescent institutions (sanatoria, specialized pre-school institutions, forest schools, young pioneer health camps etc.).

55. Children's polyclinical institutions are in the forefront of this system because of their role as centres for child health; they fully implement the basic principle of Soviet health care - the unity of prevention and cure. The main objective of the children's polyclinics, which are equipped with modern diagnostic and medical apparatus and with health vehicles, is to produce healthy and harmoniously developed children.

56. A central figure in pediatric work is the local pediatrician: the family doctor, who, from the time of birth, continuously monitors the physical development of the child, ensures that it is rationally fed and develops resistance and also takes steps to prevent infectious diseases and to ensure early diagnosis, prompt treatment and recovery of children suffering from illnesses. The basic method of work of children's polyclinics is the continuous clinical screening of the entire child population by means of full-scale preventive examinations. Specialist doctors: surgeons, neurologists, oculists

and others, take part in the clinical screening of healthy children. Together with pediatricians, and under their supervision, they carry out preventive examinations of children from early infancy and provide a range of medical and health services for children.

57. In order to improve the way in which doctors' work is organized in pre-school institutions and schools, special school and pre-school sections have been set up in most children's polyclinics. These sections devote increasing attention to improving methods for stimulating children's physical development, helping pre-school age children adapt to life in the collective, preparing them for school and promoting the notion of a healthy way of life among parents. Wide-ranging medical and pedagogical measures help to create optimal conditions for children's normal development within the collective. Many schools have their own speech therapy, dentistry and physiotherapy units, allowing children to be treated inside the school.

58. Ensuring proper nutrition for children is an important part of the work of children's polyclinics, since balanced nutrition, particularly for young children, is most important for their normal physical and neuro-psychological development. In addition to carrying out extensive preventive work, children's polyclinics provide qualified medical and diagnostic care, including specialized care, and improve the ways in which it is administered; specialized care is currently available in nearly 20 fields.

59. An important constituent of the child health-care system is the organization of hospital treatment, including specialized hospital treatment. In the Byelorussian SSR there are a considerable number of pulmonary and allergy centres and departments and also orthopaedic, ophthalmic, neurological and other centres.

60. An important aspect of specialized medical care for children and a major achievement of recent years, are the pathology departments for new-born and premature babies. These departments are equipped with the necessary apparatus and medicinal supplies to carry out a full range of medical and diagnostic treatments.

61. Care at sanatoria and health resorts plays an important part in the treatment of children. In addition to children's sanatoria of various kinds, other types of institutions for treating children exist and are being developed: sanatorium-style pre-school institutions for children with various sanatorium-style disorders, forest schools, specialized boarding schools and young pioneer health camps.

62. Success in mother and child health care is largely a result of the high level of Soviet medical science and the practical application of the advances made. During the years of Soviet power, child mortality has decreased more than tenfold.

63. The State's particular concern for the health of the younger generation has been embodied in article 40 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR, under which child labour, except in connexion with the child's formal education and work training, is prohibited. The employment of young persons under the age of 16 is prohibited. In exceptional cases, and with the consent of the factory, works or

local trade union committee, it is permissible to employ young persons who have reached the age of 15 (article 173 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

64. Procedures for the employment and production training of young people who have completed their studies at general education schools, vocational-technical or technical institutions and other persons under 18 are laid down for all enterprises and organizations (article 182 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

65. Minors (persons under the age of 18) have the same rights as adults in regard to the legal employment relationship, but where work safety, working hours, leave and certain other working conditions are concerned they enjoy the privileges laid down in the Labour Code and in other instruments of labour legislation (article 174 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

66. The employment of persons under 18 years of age in arduous work, work in unhealthy or dangerous working conditions or underground work, is prohibited (article 175 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

67. A list of industries, occupations, specialized trades and jobs in which persons under the age of 18 may not be employed was approved by a decision of the State Committee on labour and social affairs of the USSR Council of Ministers with the assent of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, on 29 August 1959. The list has subsequently been amended and expanded. The current list names about 3,000 trades and occupations in which the use of juvenile labour is not permitted.

68. Similarly, the training of persons under 18 years of age for listed occupations, specialized trades and jobs under the individual-group training system is prohibited. Certain limitations on the use of juvenile labour are established by legislation not only to protect the life and health of minors, but also in the interests of their proper upbringing. It is precisely for this reason that there is a ban on the employment of minors for work related to the production, storage or sale of alcoholic beverages.

69. It is also prohibited for minors to carry or move loads exceeding the weight limits established for them (article 175 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

70. Persons under 18 years of age may be employed only after a preliminary medical examination and they must undergo a compulsory medical examination each successive year until they reach the age of 18 (article 176 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

71. Manual and non-manual workers aged between 16 and 18 work a 36-hour week, and persons aged between 15 and 16 work a 24-hour week (article 43 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

72. Manual and non-manual workers under 18 years of age are entitled to annual leave of one calendar month (article 67 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

They may take annual leave during the summer or, if they prefer, at any other time of the year (article 178 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

73. Output quotas for workers under the age of 18 are fixed on the basis of the quotas for adult workers, but are reduced in proportion to the working hours of persons under the age of 18. Reduced output quotas may be established in circumstances, within limits and for periods established by legislation, for young workers who take up employment in an enterprise or organization after completing their studies at general education schools or at vocational-technical training institutes or in special courses and also for those who have received on-the-job training. These quotas are fixed by the management of the enterprise or organization concerned in agreement with the factory, works or local trade union committee (article 180 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

74. Manual and non-manual workers under the age of 18 who work reduced daily hours are paid at the same rate as manual and non-manual workers in corresponding categories working a full working day. Manual and non-manual workers under the age of 18 who perform work paid at piece rates are paid at the rates established for adult workers and receive a supplementary payment on the basis of the tariff rates to compensate for the time by which their working day is reduced in comparison to that of adult workers (article 181 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR). Manual and non-manual workers under the age of 18 may not be required to do night or overtime work or to work on rest days (article 177 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

75. Young workers who have completed their studies at vocational-technical and technical schools and young specialists graduating from higher and secondary specialized educational institutions, are provided with employment in accordance with their specialized skills and qualifications (article 184 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

76. Management may not dismiss manual or non-manual workers under the age of 18 unless, in addition to observing the general rules concerning dismissal, it has the consent of the district or city Minors Board. Dismissal is allowed on such grounds as the closure of the enterprise, institution or organization, a reduction in the number of its employees and staff or the unsuitability of the manual or non-manual worker for the post occupied or the work to be performed, owing to insufficient qualifications or to a state of health that prevents him from continuing such work. The reinstatement in a post of a manual or non-manual worker who previously held it is allowed only in exceptional circumstances and is not permitted unless the worker concerned has been found alternative employment (article 185 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

77. In this connexion, it should be noted that in the Byelorussian SSR, all children of school age attend school. The number of pupils in the general education schools of the Byelorussian SSR is 1.5 million.

78. Child and juvenile labour is prohibited in the Byelorussian SSR by law, but a good attitude to work and basic working habits are fostered at an early age. The schools and the V. I. Lenin All-Union Young Pioneers Organization perform a great

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service in educating students for work. The Young Pioneers Organization, which unites children from 10 to 15 years of age in its ranks on a voluntary basis, encourages children to participate to the extent of their abilities in socially useful work suited to their ages and capabilities. Pioneers collect scrap metal and waste paper, take part in street landscaping projects, keep school premises clean, help adults with the harvest during the holidays etc. This gives children an opportunity to acquire social habits within the collective, develop the ability to tackle any job constructively and cultivate a love of work and a readiness to strive, in future, for the good of society.

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## II. ARTICLE 11. AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

79. The Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR establishes that the supreme goal of social production under socialism is the fullest possible satisfaction of the people's growing material and intellectual requirements (article 15). The policy of raising the living standards of the working people is implemented both through appropriate legislation and by means of the necessary practical steps. High living standards are guaranteed by the entire system of social ownership and the planned production and distribution of the national income created by the collective labour of all citizens of the country. Article 23 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR states that the State pursues a steady policy of raising workers' pay levels and real incomes on the basis of the growth in labour productivity.

80. The Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR guarantees the right to work, education and social welfare. Full employment of workers, constantly expanding public production and the system of free general and vocational training constitute the basis on which the population receives increasing returns from work in the form of manual and non-manual workers' salaries and income from the public administration of collective farms.

81. Stable retail prices for basic commodities, full employment, the absence of inflation, the steady growth of wages and the satisfaction of needs from the social funds are characteristics of the increase in the real incomes of working people in the Byelorussian SSR.

82. The number of manual and non-manual workers in the Byelorussian SSR increased from 3,075,000 in 1970 to 3,860,000 in 1978.

83. During the years of the ninth five-year plan (1971-1975) national income rose by 47 per cent and real per capita income by 28 per cent, and payments and benefits from the social consumption funds amounted to 13.1 billion roubles, an increase by a factor of 1.4 in comparison with the period of the eighth five-year plan. The average monthly wage of manual and non-manual workers increased by 18.4 per cent and the income of collective farmers from public production rose by 37 per cent.

84. Real per capita income increased by 16.4 per cent during the four years of the current five-year plan (1976-1979); the average income of manual and non-manual workers rose by 16.2 per cent and the income of collective farmers from public production increased by 32 per cent. The amount of payments and benefits provided to the population from the social consumption funds increased by 24.4 per cent during this period and reached 3.7 billion roubles compared with 3 billion roubles in 1975.

85. In 1979, real per capita income rose by 4 per cent. The average monthly wage of manual and non-manual workers increased by 3.2 per cent and the income of collective farm workers from public production rose by 7 per cent. The payments and benefits received by the population from the social consumption funds increased by 3.9 per cent. Thus, the standard of living of the population is steadily rising.

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86. The right of citizens to personal ownership of their labour income and savings is protected by law. All enterprises and establishments of the Byelorussian SSR are owned by the State or co-operative-collective farms or by public organizations (for example, trade unions), and the country's economic life is directed and determined by State economic and social development plans. Thus the possibility of the bankruptcy of enterprises or of their closure by the courts is eliminated. In the Byelorussian SSR, the payment of wages at established levels is guaranteed regardless of the financial state of the enterprise or establishment.

87. Particular attention is paid to guaranteeing the income of the workers. Citizens of the Byelorussian SSR have the right to guaranteed employment and pay in accordance with the quantity and quality of their work and not below the state-established minimum (article 38 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR).

88. Minimum rates of pay are increased in accordance with state social and economic development plans, which provide for minimum wage levels. Along with the constant growth in salaries, a rise in minimum income is ensured by a whole system of measures in the field of taxation: the minimum level of earned income not subject to tax is being increased systematically and tax rates on relatively low earned incomes are being reduced. Between 1973 and 1975, the tax-free minimum was increased by nearly 17 per cent, and tax rates on low earned income were reduced by 15 per cent.

89. An adequate standard of living is guaranteed not only for workers, but also for those unable to work, through the social welfare and social insurance system. Citizens of the Byelorussian SSR have the right to maintenance in old age, in sickness, in the event of complete or partial disability, during pregnancy and childbirth and in the event of loss of the bread-winner (article 41 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR). This right provides for the payment of benefits to manual and non-manual workers and collective farmers during periods of temporary disability and the payment of pensions on grounds of old age, disability or the loss of the bread-winner, out of State and collective farm resources: this right also provides for care for the aged and the disabled and other types of social welfare. In addition to the existing benefits, new, broader benefits were introduced in 1980 for invalids of the Great Patriotic War and also for invalids from the armed forces (a 50 per cent reduction in apartment rents and in payments for communal services, exemption from income tax, increased levels of pensions for a number of categories, a free trip once a year on railways or river steamers). Participants in the civil war and the Great Patriotic War and in other military operations in defence of the motherland enjoy a 50 per cent reduction in income tax. They also have priority in obtaining accommodation.

90. Pensions and benefits are paid from public resources, and no contributions of any kind are levied from the population for this purpose. Every year, substantial funds are allocated from the State budget of the Republic for the payment of benefits, pensions and other types of social insurance. During the period of the ninth five-year plan (1971-1975) State expenditure on the payment of pensions and allowances alone amounted to over 3.3 billion roubles, or 63 per cent more than during the previous five years.



91. From 1976 to 1980, there was a further improvement in social insurance for the population. As a result of an increase in maximum pension rates and other measures, expenditure on all types of social assistance amounted to over 6 billion roubles during the five-year period, compared with 4.8 billion roubles during the previous five-year plan.

92. The State maintains all institutions concerned with education, health and culture and also health and resort facilities. The right to free education, vocational training, medical services and leisure is guaranteed under the law (articles 39, 40 and 43 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR). Partially disabled people are offered possibilities of work.

93. Payments and benefits from the social consumption funds (pensions, allowances, bursaries and also resources for free health care, education and culture) increase the pay of manual and non-manual workers by more than one third. Additionally, the State assumes responsibility for the costs of constructing housing, communal enterprises, hospitals and other social service facilities, thereby freeing families from the onus of paying for these facilities themselves.

94. The legally established right to accommodation for each citizen is of particular importance in a system that guarantees living conditions for the population. This right, according to article 42 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR, is ensured by the development and upkeep of state and socially-owned housing, by assistance for co-operative and individual house building, by fair distribution, under public control, of the housing that becomes available through the implementation of the programme of building well-appointed dwellings and by low rents and low charges for utility services.

95. In the Byelorussian SSR, the profit motive is totally excluded from housing construction and, furthermore, levels of rents by no means cover the operational repair and maintenance costs of housing. Apartment rents and payments for communal services cover about 32 per cent of expenses, and the remaining sum is defrayed from State resources and constitutes a separate item of expenditure under the State budget. The consistently low level of apartment rents (only 3 to 4 per cent of the income of manual and non-manual workers' families) ensures a good supply of housing for all families, including families with relatively low incomes. The system of the construction and maintenance of housing at State expense is the economic basis for the equality of rights of all citizens in relation to access to housing.

96. Steadily growing incomes for the population are ensured by the planned development of the production of consumer items and goods. Food and industrial goods produced in the State and collective farm-co-operative sectors are supplied to the population through State and co-operative marketing, including public catering.

97. In order to increase consumption, major investments are made every year in agriculture and in the food and light industries so as to ensure a systematic growth of production in these sectors. Stable retail prices for the basic goods in mass demand ensure a high level of consumption among all groups of the population. Preferential prices have been established for children's goods and also for transport services and communal enterprises.

98. The sale of major consumer goods to the population in State and co-operative trading, including public catering, is growing every year. Thus, if the sale of all goods in 1970 was 100, in comparable prices it increased to 149 in 1976, 150 in 1977 and 165 in 1978.

99. The population's consumption of the major industrially produced goods is rising every year. For example, the sale of articles of clothing to the population has increased as follows:

Retail sales in State and co-operative trading  
(millions of roubles)

	1975	1976	1977	1978
Fabrics	215.7	231.2	238.6	233.0
Clothing and linen, hats and furs	734.1	795.9	849.1	882.2
Knitted goods, socks and stockings	431.3	464.2	467.6	508.9

Thus the population's right to adequate clothing is guaranteed and developed through constantly increasing volumes of the production and sale of the goods in question and also as a result of the increase in the real incomes of the population already noted.

100. One of the most important means of improving the standard of living in the Byelorussian SSR is the further development of agriculture. Article 22 of the Constitution states: 'A programme is being consistently implemented in the Byelorussian SSR to convert agricultural work into a variety of industrial occupations, to extend the network of educational, cultural and medical institutions, and of trade, public catering, service and public utility facilities in rural localities, and transform hamlets and villages into well-planned and well-appointed settlements'. The process of agricultural specialization and concentration is taking place on the basis of intersectoral co-operation and agro-industrial integration. Material incentives for workers, and greater material motivation for increasing production, are being introduced on a broad scale.

101. Measures are also being taken to increase the efficiency of spring field operations and of harvesting in order to ensure that the work is carried out in good time and is of good quality and to increase deliveries of agricultural machinery, mineral fertilizers, chemical toxins etc. for agriculture.

102. Broad-scale collective production has created favourable conditions in the Byelorussian SSR for the mechanization of agricultural work and for alleviating the work of the peasants. At present, the collective and State farms are the main producers and suppliers of agricultural products to the State. The average

annual gross output of agricultural products is steadily growing. The yield of grain and other crops is improving, the numbers of all types of livestock are increasing and their fertility is rising. Over the past 13 years, grain production has increased 2.2 times in collective and State farms, milk - 2 times, meat - 2.7 times and eggs - over 7 times.

103. The increased industrial rearing of livestock and the construction of complexes represent an important aspect of the process of intensifying agricultural production. Area specialization in crop growing, taking into account natural and climatic conditions, is being developed. There is greater specialization and increased concentration of the cultivation of industrial crops, vegetables and potatoes.

104. As agricultural enterprises become more specialized, they are supplied with high-productivity machines, appliances, and equipment to make it possible to achieve the full-scale mechanization of production processes both in crop cultivation and in livestock rearing and to further enhance the labour productivity and efficiency of agricultural production. At present, a number of inter-sectoral enterprises set up by collective and State farms by means of combining part of their resources in order to organize production on a modern technological basis and improve the management of production and labour are successfully operating in the Republic. The link between science and production has been developed in the organization of scientific-production associations (for pedigree livestock breeding, producing seeds for perennial grasses, grain crops and potatoes and providing agro-chemical services to collective and State farms and scientific-economic agricultural associations).

105. The links between agriculture and the manufacturing industry are being increasingly broadly developed and a growing number of agro-industrial enterprises are being set up. This applies, in particular, to such sectors as cattle-raising, beet and flax growing, etc. It is precisely as a result of the progress made in the development of agriculture that high levels have been attained in Byelorussia and in such sectors of the manufacturing industry as meat, milk, tinned goods, sugar and flax processing. There is a State system of quality control for agricultural products which operates on the basis of the standards demanded.

106. An increasingly broad and rational use is being made of the Republic's natural resources - land wealth, forests, water, mineral ores etc. - in developing public production and increasing industrial and agricultural production, and environmental protection measures are being improved. Natural resources are used to improve the health of the population and increase its material well-being and cultural level. In recent years, land, water and forest codes and codes on mineral ores have been adopted by the Byelorussian SSR, and other acts are being prepared on the rational use of natural resources and on environmental protection.

107. The basic means of implementing the comprehensive programme for the development of agricultural production in the Republic is enhancing the productivity of the land and increasing its fertility by introducing into each farm a scientifically based system of land use, a range of measures to control soil

erosion, new strains and hybrids, progressive techniques for the cultivation and harvesting of agricultural crops and the rational use of fertilizers, pesticides and disease-control substances.

100. The protection and rational use of land resources, the improvement of soil fertility and the correction of deficiencies in soil-formation processes in the Republic are the object of constant concern on the part of the State. Considerable material, financial and labour resources are allocated for the implementation of these measures. This work is carried out on a planned basis. At present, the total area of drained land in the Republic has reached 2.3 million hectares, or 32.4 per cent of all the land requiring drainage. A total area of 156,000 hectares is irrigated.

109. The recultivation of land areas destroyed in the process of mining useful ores is an essential feature of land use. Recultivated land, depending on economic feasibility, is used for farming, fishing or forestry.

110. The broad-ranging work to intensify agricultural production is producing favourable results. In 1978, a large group of collective farms and State farms secured grain yields of between 30 and 50 centners per hectare; 64 per cent of the farms obtain between 200 and 400 centners of sugar beet per hectare; and many farms secure potato harvests of between 300 and 350 centners per hectare.

111. In solving the problems of increasing the yield of agricultural production and improving its quality, an important role is played by science and advanced practice. At present, 11 scientific-research and design-technology institutes as well as six State regional and two specialized experimental stations carry out scientific research work in agriculture. Over 2,000 scientific workers work in them, including 40 doctors and 900 persons holding candidate of science degrees.

112. As a result of the efforts made by the Republic in the realm of agricultural production, there has been a marked increase in the consumption of high-quality products and eating habits have noticeably improved. During the period from 1965 to 1978, per capita meat consumption in the Republic increased by an average of 13 kilograms, that of milk products rose by 91 kilograms and that of eggs more than doubled.

113. Collective and individual subsidiary agriculture also help improve the standard of living of the population.

114. In accordance with the law, each industrial enterprise, organization and establishment, as well as children's school, medical and other organizations, may engage in subsidiary farming to produce agricultural goods so as to improve the supply of such goods to manual and non-manual workers. These subsidiary farms supply a certain proportion of the produce - meat, milk, potatoes, vegetables, fruit etc. - consumed in manual and non-manual workers' canteens in addition to what is supplied from State funds.

115. All citizens receive their basic income from participation in public production and from the social funds (health, education, social security, cultural

and communal facilities etc.). At the same time, by law, they have the right to engage in private subsidiary farming in order to obtain additional income. In accordance with article 13 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR and other laws, citizens may be granted the use of plots of land for subsidiary farming and may own certain quantities of livestock and poultry in towns, plots of land may be granted to citizens in collective and individual market-gardens for growing potatoes, vegetables and other food items in order to enhance their well-being. They keep the produce grown on allotments and in market-gardens which they need for their own consumption, and they are entitled to sell the surplus in the market.

116. As to the question of international co-operation in eliminating hunger and poverty, the Byelorussian SSR is convinced that the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis and the economic and social progress of all countries, including the developing countries, are inseparably linked with the problems of disarmament and of the strengthening of peace and international security. Further progress in deepening and strengthening détente, limiting and halting the arms race and using the resources absorbed by the arms race for constructive purposes would create favourable prospects for the economic and social progress of the peoples and would help solve the world food problem.

117. The Byelorussian SSR also believes that the solution of the problem of securing increases in agricultural production depends significantly on the degree of mobilization of internal resources in countries and on the extent to which they introduce democratic agrarian reforms and other progressive socio-economic changes.

### III. ARTICLE 10: THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

118. The right of citizens of the Byelorussian SSR to health protection is guaranteed under the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR and the Health Act of the Byelorussian SSR.

119. Article 40 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR states:

"Citizens of the Byelorussian SSR have the right to health protection.

"This right is ensured by free, qualified medical care provided by state health institutions; by the extension of the network of therapeutic and health-building institutions; by the development and improvement of safety and hygiene in industry and by carrying out broad preventive measures; by measures to improve the environment; by special care for the health of the younger generation, including prohibition of child labour, excluding the work done by children as part of the school curriculum; and by developing research to prevent and reduce the incidence of disease and ensure citizens a long and active life."

120. There are also a number of other constitutional provisions which are designed to protect the health of the individual. They include, in particular, article 55 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR on the court protection of the life and health of citizens; article 21, in which the State undertakes to concern itself with improving working conditions and labour protection and with reducing and ultimately eliminating all arduous physical labour; article 33, concerned with social measures to protect the health of women; article 25, stressing the significance of the physical development of young people; and article 18, on the adoption of the necessary measures to protect and make scientific, rational use of the land and its mineral and water resources and the plant and animal kingdoms, to preserve the purity of air and water, ensure reproduction of natural wealth and improve the human environment. Many of these constitutional provisions are developed and made more specific in the Health Act of the Byelorussian SSR and in other acts.

121. The health-care legislation in force in the Byelorussian SSR provides that it is the duty of all State bodies, enterprises, establishments and organizations to protect the health of the population. Trade union, co-operative and other public organizations also take part in protecting the health of the population in accordance with their statutes (regulations).

122. The legislation also provides that citizens of the Byelorussian SSR themselves must take care of their own health and the health of other members of society (article 3 of the Health Act).

123. In accordance with the legislative provisions, aliens and stateless persons residing permanently in the Byelorussian SSR have access to medical services on the same basis as citizens.

124. The health-care legislation in force in the country regulates in detail questions of the health and epidemiological welfare of the population, medical and preventive services for the population, maternal and child welfare, treatment at sanatoria and health resorts, organized leisure, tourism and physical education, specialized medicine and medicinal and preventive services.

125. The State is implementing a comprehensive programme of measures designed to improve the organization of work at health-care institutions, reduce the incidence of disease and prevent accidents, improve the quality of medical services and expand specialized medical services, develop the material and technical base for health care, improve the work of scientific research institutes and medical higher educational establishments and broadly incorporate into medical practice the achievements of science and technology, advanced experience and the scientific organization of work. Scientific establishments of the Ministry of Health of the Byelorussian SSR are carrying out scientific research about the way in which the environment is affected by factories producing organic synthetics, potassium fertilizers and fibreglass, livestock raising centres and traffic noise. These establishments are also conducting research on the prevention of adverse effects on human health. In addition, research is being carried out on hygiene regulations for a number of chemical substances, pesticides and physical indicators.

126. The concern of the State and of society as a whole about public health is not confined to the organization of medical services for the population but extends to an extremely broad range of questions relating to the health of citizens. This principle of the organization of national health care arises from the preventive nature of many health-care measures. Prevention is not a narrow bureaucratic function of the health-care bodies. It is assured by the entire system of socio-economic measures of society designed to protect the environment and labour and improve living conditions. Under socialism, prevention is universal in nature. In our era, prevention does not simply involve health care and the prevention of illness but goes one step further and aims to ensure the harmonious development of the individual by extending to all aspects of his life and promoting health care not simply for individuals or groups of the population, but for the entire community.

127. At the present stage, prevention includes broad health and hygiene measures (environmental protection, improvement of working conditions, sanitary control of the design, construction and operation of technologies and of installations of various types), measures for the prevention of epidemics (ensuring epidemiological welfare and prevention and control of epidemic diseases etc.) and also socio-medical measures.

128. The socio-medical measures implemented by the medical and preventive establishments aim directly to control the most widespread and dangerous diseases, in particular cardio-vascular diseases, cancer etc. In many cases, these measures are of a comprehensive state-wide nature and include a broad range of provisions for the prevention and active early detection of disease and the active observation of individuals and entire collectives.

129. Because of the increasing effects of man's industrial activity on the environment and the socio-economic significance of healthy and safe conditions, the Byelorussian SSR pays great attention to various aspects of environmental protection and of improving labour conditions and also of preventing adverse effects of the urbanization process.

130. In the Byelorussian SSR, measures are designed and implemented to develop and improve safety techniques and industrial hygiene and to expand the network of establishments for treating and improving the health of citizens. There is also the implementation of broad preventive measures to protect the health of the younger generation and to expand scientific research aimed at preventing disease and reducing morbidity, ensuring many years of active life for citizens.

131. The labour-protection legislation in force in the Byelorussian SSR includes norms and rules regulating the planning and organization of labour protection and norms and rules on safety techniques and industrial hygiene.

132. Under article 139 of the Labour Code of the Byelorussian SSR, all enterprises and establishments must take the necessary steps to prohibit and eliminate unhealthy working conditions, prevent accidents and maintain appropriate levels of health and hygiene in work places. Article 26 of the Health Act of the Byelorussian SSR provides that the managers of enterprises, establishments and organizations must ensure that industrial premises and working areas are maintained in accordance with the health and hygiene norms and rules.

133. These norms and rules contain health and hygiene requirements for industrial and subsidiary buildings and premises and also lay down maximum permissible concentrations of harmful gases, steam, dust and other substances in the air of industrial premises, permissible levels of temperature, humidity, air movement and natural and artificial lighting. In all necessary cases, workers are provided with special clothing, footwear and protective devices, all free of charge.

134. Manual and non-manual workers in all categories undergo compulsory medical examinations when taking up employment and at periodic intervals in order to determine their suitability for the work they perform and to prevent occupational diseases. Preliminary and periodic medical examinations of workers are organized by medical and health units and polyclinics attached to industrial enterprises and also by medical-preventive institutions. If it is proved necessary in the medical examination, the worker is given medical and rehabilitative care. This includes treatment at hospitals or health resorts, rest homes or preventive clinics and temporary transfer to lighter work.

135. All the expenses involved in providing medical examinations are borne by the enterprise at levels established by the local organs of State power - the executive committees of the local soviets of peoples' deputies. Workers retain their average earnings during medical examination or screening.

136. In order to improve the level of specialized medical care for the population and to make effective use of the number of hospital beds available and of medical technology and personnel, large, multi-purpose hospitals are being built in the



Republic and, at the same time, the existing hospital network is being reconstructed and expanded. In the course of the ninth five-year plan (1971-1975) 40 hospitals and new wings for existing hospitals were built, with 9,800 beds; during this period, the number of hospital beds increased by 13.6 per cent. At present, there are 122 hospital beds for every 10,000 members of the population in the Republic.

137. The concern of the State about the health of the people is demonstrated by the all-round improvement in the quality of medical services and the level of organizational work and the strengthening of the first level of health care: district services, first aid, rural district hospitals and out-patient clinics. There are plans for the further development of convalescent centres and of specialized services in cardiology, cancer, traumatology, pulmonary disease and other types of medical care.

138. The social policy of the socialist State in the field of health care and the implementation of socio-preventive measures have made possible a historically unprecedented advance from the extremely low level of public health which existed in our country before the Great October Socialist Revolution to the present situation which is characterized by very favourable indicators. Before the Great October Socialist Revolution there was no unified system of health care in the Byelorussian SSR. In 1913, there was one doctor for every 7,700 people. At present, there are 30,900 doctors, or 32.3 doctors for every 10,000 people.

139. These changes, which have taken place within the lifetime of a single generation, have affected all the basic indicators of public health: the distribution and incidence of various diseases, the death-rate and the causes of death, physical growth etc.

140. During this period, the average life expectancy of the population of the Byelorussian SSR has doubled.

141. As has been noted above, special attention is paid to protecting the health of the younger generation; a system of special medical-preventive and health measures and a network of institutions for children and young people are being developed.

142. One of the indicators of the conditions created in the Byelorussian SSR to ensure a high level of physical and psychological health for the population is the number of people who take part in physical training. The number of people who regularly take part in physical training groups was 1,967,600 in 1970, 2,035,900 in 1976 and 2,268,000 in 1978.

143. The information supplied above shows that the Byelorussian SSR is fully implementing the provisions of articles 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both in its legislation and in practice.