

**INTERNATIONAL
COVENANT
ON CIVIL AND
POLITICAL RIGHTS**



Distr.
GENERAL

CCPR/C/SR.266
1 April 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Twelfth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 266th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 25 March 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. MAVROMMATIS

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS (continued)

1. Mr. TOMUSCHAT announced that his Government wished to extend a formal invitation to the Committee to hold its autumn session at Bonn from 19 to 30 October 1981. He understood that the Working Group on Communications would meet at Geneva from 12 to 16 October 1981.
2. Sir Vincent EVANS and Mr. SADI expressed appreciation for the invitation from the Federal Republic of Germany, which created a laudable precedent for holding meetings of the Committee away from Headquarters and Geneva.
3. Mr. OPSAHL asked when the programme for the autumn session would be available and whether the report of the Federal Republic of Germany would be considered at that session.
4. The CHAIRMAN observed that it might not be desirable to consider the report of the Federal Republic of Germany at the Bonn session, although he hoped that the session would provide an opportunity to see how that country's legal system operated and how it provided for the protection of human rights. At all events, the programme of work for the session would be discussed at the Committee's July session in Geneva.
5. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to accept the offer from the Federal Republic of Germany and agreed that the Working Group would meet at Geneva prior to the Bonn session.
6. It was so decided.
7. The CHAIRMAN read out a note from the Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services informing him that the General Assembly had decided at its resumed thirty-fifth session to increase the honoraria of members of certain United Nations organs and subsidiary organs, including the Human Rights Committee. With effect from 1 January 1981, the honoraria had been increased to \$5,000 for the Chairman of the Committee and to \$3,000 for Committee members.
8. Sir Vincent EVANS expressed appreciation for the increase, although in his view it was still far from adequate when one considered the work done by members of the Committee. He hoped that the matter would be kept under review.
9. The CHAIRMAN noted that members of the International Law Commission received additional emoluments when they acted as special rapporteurs or prepared reports or studies between sessions. Such a procedure might perhaps be made to apply to members of the Human Rights Committee.
10. Mr. SADI expressed appreciation for the increase, which he regarded as reasonable although perhaps not entirely adequate. There was a danger that, if

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the honoraria of members were increased too much, people might seek election to the Committee for financial reasons rather than because they had a genuine interest in the promotion of human rights.

11. Mr. TARNOPOLSKY expressed appreciation for the increase and for the efforts made by the Chairman and Sir Vincent Evans to secure it. Although the honoraria of members of the Committee were still not commensurate to the work they performed, the increase was a substantial one.

12. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adjourn and meet informally with representatives of certain States parties in connexion with their countries' obligations under article 40 of the Covenant.

13. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.