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

Reports submitted in accordance with Council resolutions
1988 (IX) by States Parties to the Covenant, concerning
rights covered by articles 10-12

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/11 March 1981/

The period following the entry into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights coincided with the implementation of the State plan for the economic and social development of the Ukrainian SSR for the tenth five-year period (1976-1980). The Ukrainian SSR has successfully implemented the long-term policy in the field of economic strategy worked out at the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth congresses of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Ukrainian Communist Party aimed primarily at securing a steady improvement in the material and cultural standard of living of the population, establishing better conditions for the all-around development of personality on the basis of the further enhancement of the efficiency of all public production, increasing labour productivity and promoting growth in the social and labour activity of the working people.

The twenty-sixth congress of the Ukrainian Communist Party, held from 10 to 12 February 1981, discussed in detail the results of the implementation of the socio-economic programme for the tenth five-year period and also identified the basic goals of economic and social development for the Ukrainian SSR for 1981-1985 and for the period up to 1990, the main goal being to ensure further increase in the well-being of the Soviet people.

National income in the Republic rose by 22 per cent compared with the previous five-year period. Four fifths of that income, taking into account expenditure on housing and socio-cultural construction, was used to ensure national well-being. The output of industrial goods increased by nearly one third. Gross agricultural output in the public sector increased by 11 per cent. An investment of 93.9 billion

roubles was made in the development of the national economy - 19.6 per cent more than in the previous five-year period. The fixed productive capital increased 1.4 times. As a result of the broad incorporation of the achievements of science and advanced practice and the mechanization and automation of technological processes, labour productivity in the sphere of material production increased by 16 per cent.

On the basis of the steady growth of the economy and the enhancement of its efficiency, a broad range of social measures has been progressively implemented and additional guarantees established for the fuller implementation of the rights laid down in articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant. During the period following the entry into force of the Covenant, socialist democracy was further developed and intensified. In 1973, the new Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR was adopted which fully guarantees the implementation in the Ukrainian SSR of all the rights laid down in the Covenant and other international legal instruments in the field of human rights to which the Ukrainian SSR is a party.

The broad range of rights guaranteed to citizens of our Republic in respect of the protection of the family, health and an adequate standard of living is being expanded and enhanced as socio-economic and cultural development programmes are implemented, the material and intellectual potential of society increases and socialist achievements are consolidated.

A brief survey of the situation with regard to the implementation in the Ukrainian SSR of the rights laid down in articles 10 to 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, taking into account articles 1 to 5 of the Covenant, is presented below.

Article 10 of the Covenant

Protection of the family, mothers and children

In the Ukrainian SSR, great attention is paid to the family, to strengthening marriage, to protecting and encouraging motherhood and to ensuring a happy childhood and all-round development and education for the younger generation.

The family in the Ukrainian SSR enjoys various forms of legal protection and, in the first place, constitutional protection. Article 51 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR states that the family enjoys the protection of the State. Free consent in contracting marriage is also laid down in the Constitution as the basic principle for the formation of the family (art. 51).

The Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR contains a number of articles designed to protect the family. They include, in the first place, articles concerning the conditions for ensuring the formation of a healthy and strong family. Article 15 regulates the conditions for contracting marriage. There are two conditions: the mutual consent of the persons contracting marriage and their attainment of marriageable age. Under article 17, impediments to contracting marriage are an undissolved marriage of one of the parties, close

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kinship (between relatives on the direct line of descent or ascent, between full and half brothers and sisters, between parents and their adopted children), and incapacity because of mental illness or retardation. There are no other impediments to contracting marriage.

The Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR states (art. 18) that persons contracting marriage must each be informed about the state of health of the other person, although that information is not a condition for contracting marriage.

An important condition for the formation of a family able to fulfil its functions, including the function of reproduction and the upbringing of children, is the attainment of marriageable age by the persons contracting marriage. In the Ukrainian SSR the marriageable age is 17 years for women and 18 years for men.

Questions of the upbringing of children and other matters relating to family life are decided upon jointly by the spouses, on an equal basis - this rule is laid down in article 20 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR. It is designed to promote the establishment of relations of mutual respect and the creation of a normal and healthy atmosphere in the family.

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. This provision is guaranteed under the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR (art. 51) and the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR (art. 5).

In the course of the tenth five-year plan, kindergartens and day nurseries with 500,000 places were constructed in the Ukrainian SSR. At present, 2.5 million children attend them, or half the pre-school age population. Every year State expenditure on the upkeep of children's pre-school institutions increases. Four fifths of all expenditure on the maintenance of children in pre-school institutions is paid from the social consumption funds and only 20 per cent is paid by parents.

Much attention is paid to large families. In accordance with the legislation in force, benefits are provided in the field of labour relations for citizens with families who have two or more dependants. Families with three or more children are entitled to priority in receiving accommodation. Citizens with many children also pay lower apartment rents. Large families enjoy income tax benefits. The fees for maintaining children in kindergartens and day nurseries are reduced by 50 per cent for families with three or more children. A State allowance is paid to mothers of large families at the birth of the third child and each subsequent child until the children reach the age of five, and an allowance is paid to single mothers until the children reach the age of 12.

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The family receives assistance if a child becomes ill. A medical certificate for the parent and an allowance for care for a sick child under the age of 14 is accorded for seven calendar days and, in the case of single mothers, widows and divorced women, for up to 10 calendar days.

One of the goals of the next five-year period is to achieve a significant expansion in the construction of housing for small families, and in particular for young families. These measures also help strengthen the family.

In our country the protection of motherhood is one of the most important State tasks. Motherhood in the Ukrainian 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 work with motherhood and by the provision of legal protection and material and moral support for mothers and children, including paid leave and other benefits for pregnant women and mothers and the progressive reduction of working hours for mothers with small children (art. 33 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR and art. 5 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

The labour legislation of the Republic includes special norms regulating work by women, and in particular that of working mothers and pregnant women; this is one of the indications of the State's concern about the protection of mothers and children. In the Ukrainian SSR it is forbidden to refuse employment to women or to reduce their wages for reasons connected with pregnancy or the nursing of 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 complete closure of the establishment, enterprise or organization. Even in such cases, dismissal is permitted only on condition that alternative employment is found (art. 184 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR). These categories of women may not be required to work at night, overtime or on rest days, and may not be sent on assignment (art. 176 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR). Women with children aged between one and eight years may not be required to work overtime or sent on assignments without their consent (art. 177 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

If a woman, on account of pregnancy, is unable to carry out her normal work, she must be transferred for the duration of pregnancy to other, lighter work while retaining the same average pay. Nursing mothers and women with children under one year of age who are unable to continue their existing work must also, and on the same conditions, be transferred to other work for the duration of the nursing period or until the child reaches the age of one (art. 178 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR). Such women are also allowed additional breaks for nursing. These breaks are allowed at least every three hours. In determining the timing and organization of the breaks, the mother's wishes are taken into account. Nursing breaks are included in working time and are paid the average wage (art. 183 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR). On 1 April 1956 the amount of maternity leave in the Ukrainian SSR was increased to 112 days (56 days before the birth and 56 days after the birth) with payment for this period of State social security allowances equivalent to 100 per cent of pay irrespective of length of service.

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When according women maternity leave the management must, at their request, allow them to take annual leave as well regardless of their length of service at the enterprise, establishment or organization in question.

In addition to maternity leave, women, at their request, are entitled to take additional leave without pay until the child reaches the age of one year. This leave, according to the wishes of the woman, may also be taken in parts at any time until the child reaches the age of one year. This additional leave is counted as part of the total length of uninterrupted service and also of the total length of service in a specialized field.

Article 182 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR regulates the system for according paid leave and additional leave without pay to women who have adopted newborn babies directly from maternity homes.

In the next five-year period, there are plans to introduce partially paid leave for working women to care for children up to the age of one; to allow women with small children to work a partial working day or a partial working week, on a flexible schedule, and also to work at home and to increase substantially the number of specialized clinics for pregnant women.

Penalties for violation of the constitutional rights of women are also envisaged in the legislation in force. For example, article 134 of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR makes it a criminal offence to refuse to hire pregnant women or nursing mothers or to reduce pay or dismiss women from work for the same reasons.

Where necessary the management of an enterprise, establishment or organization, with the consent of the factory, works or local trade union committee, issues free or reduced-rate passes to sanatoria and rest homes to pregnant women, and also provides them with material assistance.

In the Ukrainian SSR, a State system of maternal and child health care has been established which comprises a broad network of women's clinics, children's polyclinics and hospitals, kindergartens, day nurseries and other institutions. At enterprises and organizations with a large female staff, day nurseries and nursing rooms are provided.

The system of maternal and child welfare in the Republic is being developed in such a way as to increase the emphasis on preventive care at children's and women's polyclinics and clinics.

Over 2,500 children's and over 2,000 women's polyclinics and clinics are currently in operation in the Ukrainian SSR. With 35,000 maternity beds and over 85,000 children's beds available, it is possible to provide compulsory hospitalization for all pregnant women and sick children in both towns and rural areas.

In order to further improve medical services for women and children, the network of children's and maternity institutions is being steadily expanded and

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specialized paediatric, obstetric and gynaecological care is being developed (departments and preventive health centres for pregnant women with internal disorders, neonatal pathology departments, second stage nursing care for premature babies, departments for the prevention and treatment of female sterility and for endocrinological and children's gynaecology, etc. are being provided).

In order to accelerate the provision of qualified medical care to the rural population, the work of children's and women's outpatient clinics is being further improved.

In the Ukrainian SSR, considerable attention is given to ensuring proper nutrition for children and pregnant women. Scientists from the scientific research institutes of the Ministry of Public Health of the Ukrainian SSR have developed a system for providing instruction to pregnant women on the subject of proper nutrition and to mothers on the question of child nutrition. A number of new and nutritionally sound infant foods have been developed and are being produced industrially. The Ukrainian Ministry of the Meat and Milk Industry, in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Health, regularly introduces measures to expand the production of infant foods on a modern scientific and industrial basis. A broad network of milk distribution centres is the cornerstone of the system for ensuring that nursing infants receive proper nutrition.

With a view to ensuring proper nutrition for young children who do not attend pre-school children's institutions, 2,500 subsidized and collective-farm milk distribution centres have been established, in the Ukrainian SSR. Every year 2.5 million roubles are allocated for free food for children under one year of age.

In order to rear healthy children and reduce child morbidity, there are plans in the Ukrainian SSR to further expand scientific research into the production of special dried, liquid and paste milk products, tinned vegetable, fruit, meat and fish food for infants and dietary food for sick children.

In the Ukrainian SSR there are no restrictions on the right of motherhood or on the size of families. There are no special family planning institutions. Women and married couples plan and decide for themselves the size of their families. Motherhood is honoured and is encouraged by every kind of material and moral incentive. A special Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR established the honorary titles "Mother-Heroine", the order "Maternal Glory" and first and second class "Motherhood Medals". More than 14,500 women in our Republic have been awarded the honorary title of "Mother-Heroine" and over 1 million women have received orders or medals.

In the Ukrainian SSR, health instruction on the protection of women's and children's health is steadily improving. In 1978, a system of intensive gynaecological instruction and training for different population groups, in particular women, was devised by the Kiev Scientific Research Institute of Obstetrics, Pediatrics and Gynaecology. Research into the population's level of health education is expanding. Free medical instruction for women is provided by women's clinics and "Family and Marriage" clinics, schools for mothers and young fathers have been organized at maternity institutions, and consulting offices on

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family and marriage matters have been established in registry office bodies. Scientific and medical societies of obstetricians, gynaecologists and paediatricians, whose members give lectures to broad sections of the female population, play an important part in popularizing scientific knowledge and the discoveries of native and foreign scientists. Special "Health" programmes broadcast by the Republic's radio and television services are very popular.

In the Ukrainian SSR, approximately 17,000 doctors and paediatricians and 9,000 obstetricians and gynaecologists provide health care for women and children.

Fourteen medical institutes, four scientific research institutes and 80 faculties are carrying out research into maternal and child welfare. The Republican Centre for Maternal and Child Welfare does valuable work in caring for the child population.

Much useful work was done during the International Year of the Child (IYC) in 1979 towards further enhancing motherhood and childhood in the Ukrainian SSR. Full information on how IYC was observed in the Ukrainian SSR was transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in March 1980. The Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR of 19 November 1976, which established the Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR on Women's Working and Living Conditions and Maternal and Child Welfare, is also very important.

One of the basic functions of the family is to bring up children. Correct and proper rearing of children within the family ensures that the personality of the growing child is correctly formed. As a result, the fulfilment by parents of their obligation to rear their children is very important. Article 64 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR makes this a constitutional obligation, whereas previously it had been the subject of special sectoral legislation. The Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR not only establishes the responsibility of parents for the upbringing of their children but also specifies its nature. Citizens of the Ukrainian SSR are obliged to concern themselves with the upbringing of children, to train them for socially useful work, and to raise them as worthy members of socialist society.

Since children in the Ukrainian SSR are normally brought up in the family, the basic regulations concerning their protection and the provision of assistance to them form part of the regulations governing family relations.

The responsibility of parents for the upbringing of their children is multifaceted. Article 61 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR states that parents must bring up their children, and must concern themselves with their physical development and with their training and preparation for socially useful work. The stipulation that parental rights may not be exercised contrary to the interests of children is especially important.

In accordance with article 60 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR, the responsibility for protecting the rights and interests of

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minor children rests with their parents. Parents are the legal representatives of their minor children and defend their rights and interests in all institutions without requiring special authority.

The domicile of minors under 15 years of age is that of their parents (art. 17 of the Civil Code of the Ukrainian SSR). The right of children to receive a proper education is protected by law.

Parents are obliged to send their children to school. This ensures that children exercise their right to receive an education (art. 64 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

In accordance with article 43 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, citizens have the right to education. This right is ensured by the free provision of all forms of education, the institution of universal, compulsory secondary education and the broad development of vocational, specialized secondary, and higher education, in which instruction is oriented towards practical activity and production; by the development of correspondence and evening courses; by the provision of state scholarships and grants and privileges for students; by the free issue of school textbooks; by the opportunity to attend a school where teaching is in the native language; and by the provision of facilities for self-education.

The family must help to ensure that children exercise the right to education enjoyed by all citizens. In accordance with the Law on National Education in the Ukrainian SSR dated 28 June 1974 (Official Gazette of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, 1974, No. 28, art. 233), parents are obliged to place their children in school when they reach school age and to ensure that pupils attend educational institutions and do not absent themselves from school without valid reason. They are also obliged to make it possible for children to acquire secondary education and vocational training at the appropriate time.

Parents have an obligation not only to bring up but also to support their children. They must support minor children until they reach the age of 18 (art. 80 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR). If they refuse to fulfil this obligation, legal proceedings are instituted against them to secure the sums needed to support the children. The maintenance payments for minor children which parents are required to make amount to one quarter of their wages (income) in the case of one child, one third in the case of two, and one half in the case of three or more.

Orphaned children are looked after by care and guardianship institutions (art. 128 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR). The regional soviets of people's deputies provide accommodation for orphaned children in children's homes, boarding schools, boarding houses attached to regular schools or private homes and deal with adoption cases, in addition to handling the care and guardianship arrangements for minors (Act of the Ukrainian SSR, "The regional soviet of people's deputies", 15 July 1971: Official Gazette of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, 1971, No. 29, p. 242).

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Wilful refusal to honour maintenance and ward responsibilities is a criminal offence (arts. 114 and 115 of the Penal Code of the Ukrainian SSR). Using wardship provisions for personal ends to the detriment of the ward (occupying accommodation, making use of estate remaining after the death of the parents etc.) or leaving children in ward without supervision or essential material assistance is punishable by imprisonment of up to one year or corrective labour for the same length of time.

The penal legislation in force also makes disclosing the fact that a person has been adopted a criminal offence (art. 115 of the Penal Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

It is also a criminal offence to fail to render assistance to young children in life-endangering circumstances who are unable to take steps for their own protection (art. 111 of the Penal Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

Having sexual relations with a person who has not attained sexual maturity is punishable under the law by up to eight years' imprisonment (art. 120 of the Penal Code of the Ukrainian SSR). Raping a minor is punishable by eight to fifteen years' imprisonment with or without the addition of two to five years' internal exile, or by the death penalty (art. 117 of the Penal Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

The Commissions on Minors may apply various sanctions to parents or persons standing in loco parentis if they treat their children improperly, wilfully refuse to honour their obligations in respect of their children's upbringing and education, or cause a minor to be in a state of intoxication, and also in the event of a juvenile crime (art. 19 of the Regulations governing Commissions on Minors in the Ukrainian SSR). The appearance in public places of juveniles aged up to 16 years in an intoxicated state renders their parents liable to administrative proceedings (Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR "Increased liability for delinquency", 26 July 1966, para. 12: Official Gazette of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, 1966, p. 595).

One or both parents may be relieved of their parental rights if it is established that they are refusing to honour their obligations in respect of a child's upbringing or if they abuse their parental rights, treat their children cruelly, have a pernicious influence on them owing to their amoral or antisocial behaviour, or are chronic alcoholics or drug addicts (art. 70 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

Where both parents are relieved of their parental rights, ward of the child is transferred to the care and guardianship institutions (art. 72 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

Irrespective of any decision regarding parental rights, the courts may decide to take a child away and place him in the ward of the care and guardianship institutions if it is dangerous for him to remain with the persons with whom he is living (art. 76 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

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Births are registered by the parents at the child's place of birth or at the place of residence of one or both parents. In the event of the death of the parents or their inability for other reasons to register the birth, the registration is carried out on the basis of a declaration by relatives, other persons or the administration of the medical institution in which the mother was staying at the time of the birth (art. 163 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR). The time-limit for making such a declaration is three months (art. 164 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

The parentage of a child born to a married couple is certified by the record of his parents' marriage (art. 52 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR). The parentage of a child born out of wedlock is established by a joint declaration of the child's father and mother to the registry office. In cases where a child is born to unmarried parents and the parents make no joint declaration, paternity may be established by a judicial hearing (art. 53 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR). If the parents are unmarried, registration of the child's mother takes place on the mother's declaration, while registration of the father is carried out by a joint declaration of the child's father and mother or in accordance with a court decision (art. 55 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

In cases where a child is born to an unmarried mother and there is neither a joint declaration of the parents nor a court decision establishing maternity, the mother's surname is shown in the registry of births in place of the father's name and the child's first name and patronymic are registered according to her instructions (art. 55 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

A child whose parents were both citizens of the USSR at the time of its birth is recognized as a citizen of the USSR regardless of whether it was born in the territory of the USSR or outside the USSR (art. 11 of the Law of the USSR on Citizenship of the USSR). If the citizenship of the parents is not the same, but one of them was a citizen of the USSR at the time of the birth of the child, the child is recognized as a citizen of the USSR whether it was born in the territory of the USSR or outside the USSR if one or both of his parents had a permanent place of residence in the territory of the USSR at the time. If, at the time of the birth of a child one parent was a citizen of the USSR while the other was a stateless person or was unknown, the child is recognized as a citizen of the USSR regardless of the place of birth (art. 12 of the Law of the USSR on Citizenship of the USSR). A child born in the territory of the USSR to stateless persons who have a permanent place of residence in the USSR is recognized as a citizen of the USSR (art. 13 of the Law of the USSR on Citizenship). A child found in the territory of the USSR, both of whose parents are unknown, is recognized as a citizen of the USSR.

Thus, Soviet legislation guarantees that every child born in the Soviet Union who is not a citizen of another State or born outside the territory of the Soviet Union but to citizens of the Soviet Union has the right to citizenship of the USSR.

The Soviet State, while encouraging the participation of young people in social production, requires that economic managers should ensure that they work in

the most favourable conditions for their physical and moral development and are able to continue their work with education and occupational training.

Under the labour legislation, juveniles enjoy a number of privileges aimed primarily at protecting the health of the younger generation. The form and nature of these privileges vary; those relating to work may be divided into two categories: privileges relating to youth employment and privileges at work.

Article 38 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR states that citizens have the right to work, that is to guaranteed employment, including the right to choose their trade or profession, type of job and work in accordance with their inclinations, abilities, training and education, with due account of the needs of society. The use of child labour in the Ukrainian SSR is prohibited. Citizens may exercise their right to work after they have reached the age of 16. Only in exceptional cases and with the consent of the trade union bodies is it permissible to employ persons who have reached the age of 15 (art. 188 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

When deciding where to start work, juveniles are given assistance by special commissions attached to the executive committees of the local soviets of people's deputies. The commissions organize vocational guidance for young people and help place secondary school leavers and other minors in jobs.

Before starting work, all juveniles have to undergo a medical examination for the purpose of determining whether the person concerned can be employed at all and, more particularly, whether he can be employed to do the specific type of work he has chosen. Young persons undergo further medical examinations periodically (at least once a year) (art. 191 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

Under article 190 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR the employment of persons under 18 years of age in arduous work, work in unhealthy or dangerous working conditions or underground work, is prohibited.

Certain limitations on the use of juvenile labour are established under current legislation not only in the interests of protecting the life and health of juveniles, but also on the basis of moral and educational considerations, since certain types of work may adversely affect the character development of minors. In the light of these considerations there is a law prohibiting the employment of persons under the age of 18 for work related to the production, storage or sale of alcoholic beverages (Official Gazette of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, 1972, No. 26, p. 221).

There are also additional guarantees for manual and non-manual workers under the age of 18 regarding the termination of their contract of employment by the management. As a general rule workers belonging to this category can be dismissed on the same grounds as adult manual and non-manual workers. One feature which makes the dismissal of minors special is that if a young person is to be dismissed, besides observing the general rule, established for all manual and non-manual

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workers, regarding dismissal by management (with the consent of the trade union body), it is also necessary to obtain the consent of the district or city Minors Board. In such cases dismissal is permitted as an exception and there is an obligation to provide alternative employment (art. 198 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

Output quotas for workers under the age of 18 are fixed on the basis of the quotas for adult workers and in proportion to the shorter hours which persons under the age of 18 work. Reduced output quotas may be established with the agreement of the trade union body, in circumstances, within limits and for periods established by legislation, for young workers who take up employment at an enterprise or organization after completing their studies at general education schools or at vocational-technical training institutes or on courses, and also for those who have received on-the-job training.

As for privileges at work, under article 187 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR, persons under the age of 18 are treated in the same way 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 special privileges. These privileges include shorter working hours, increased rest time, reduced weight limits on loads to be carried or moved, a special system of rate-setting and remuneration, privileges connected with training received in schools, on courses, and at vocational-technical and other educational establishments and higher and secondary specialized institutes, without release from work, and also a special system for terminating their contract of employment.

Persons aged between 15 and 16 work a 24-hour week, and those between 16 and 18 work a 36-hour week (art. 51 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

The working hours established for juveniles by law ensure that they are able to do the amount of work set them in accordance with their mental and physical capabilities, and also give them ample opportunity for recreation and furthering their general educational, professional and cultural development.

The right to shorter working hours is not dependent on the sector of the economy in which minors are employed, nor on whether they are doing manual or non-manual work, working as part of an industrial training course or gaining industrial experience as students in an appropriate educational institution.

One guarantee of the right of minors to shorter working hours is the rule established by law that minors may not be required to do overtime or night work or to work on rest days (arts. 55, 62 and 192 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR), even in those exceptional cases where the law allows adult manual and non-manual workers to do such work.

In order to safeguard the health of young manual and non-manual workers, the legislation provides that minors may not be required to work at night. Night is considered the time between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

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Minors may not be required to do night work even in cases where only part of the work is to be done during the night-time period. Manual and non-manual workers under 18 years of age enjoy the same right as adult workers to free time, and in addition they have been granted a number of privileges in this respect. In order to safeguard the health of minors and establish the conditions for their normal physical development they are given an extended annual holiday, lasting one calendar month (art. 75 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

As a general rule manual and non-manual workers are given annual leave for their first working year after 11 months continuous employment at a particular enterprise, institution or organization at any time of the year according to the holiday schedule. Under the labour legislation, minors must be allowed to take annual leave during the summer or, if they prefer, at any other time of the year. Thus a young person may be allowed to take annual leave in advance or before the completion of 11 months continuous employment at a particular enterprise, institution or organization (art. 195 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

In order to ensure that manual and non-manual workers have a proper period of rest, the labour legislation stipulates that leave can be broken up only in exceptional cases at the request of the worker; in such cases, a minor must take at least 15 consecutive days' leave at a time (art. 69 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR). A minor is also forbidden by law to carry forward his leave from one year to the next. Manual and non-manual workers under 18 years of age also enjoy privileges in connexion with rate setting and remuneration. Output quotas for minors are fixed in proportion to their shorter working hours (art. 193 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

In according minors the privileges listed above, the labour legislation lays down an important rule - that minors who work reduced daily hours and do time-work are paid at the same rate as adult manual and non-manual workers in corresponding categories working a full working day. Minors who perform piece-work are paid at the piece-rate established for adult workers and receive a supplementary payment on the basis of the tariff rates for piece-work applicable to minors in the skilled grades to compensate for the time by which their working day is reduced in comparison to that of adult workers (art. 194 of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR).

Chapter XIV of the Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR lays down a number of privileges for manual and non-manual workers, especially young workers, who combine work with training. A shorter working week or working day is arranged for such people, they are granted additional leave to sit examinations, they may not be required to work overtime on days when they have classes, and so forth.

In the Ukrainian SSR concern for children is a State policy. It was precisely for this reason that the Ukrainian SSR supported the idea of celebrating the International Year of the Child (IYC). The noble and humanitarian ideas of IYC have been vividly demonstrated in our country where the Leninist principle "the best of everything for children!" is put into practice. In the course of

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the Year party, State and public organizations carried out a considerable amount of work in implementing measures for the further enhancement of mother and child care, the improvement of the educational system for children and young people and the strengthening of the material and technical base of the academic, educational and medical institutions of the Republic, continuing the wide-ranging activities carried out in this area since the establishment (over 60 years ago) of Soviet power in the Ukraine. A great deal of work in supervising the work of State Management bodies in implementing these measures is carried out by the permanent commissions of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR and the regional soviets of peoples' deputies, particularly in respect of the protection of the working and living conditions of women and mother and child care; health care and social security; education and science; culture; youth affairs etc.

In the Ukrainian SSR, the goal of introducing universal compulsory secondary education has been attained. Constant attention is paid in the Republic to improving the network of schools and strengthening their academic and material base. In the 1978-1979 academic year, about 22,000 general education schools were in operation in the Ukraine and were attended by 6.6 million children. In the International Year of the Child, 300 new schools with 180,000 places were built in the Republic.

An important role in the education of the younger generation is played by extra-scholastic institutions, of which there are over 16,000 in the Republic serving over 7 million children.

The organization of health facilities and summer holidays for children and also the establishment of specialized pre-school institutions, children's health centres, mother and child boarding homes, and health-oriented pioneer camps is a matter of great State importance.

In 1979, there were about 25,000 health institutions in the Republic serving 6.5 million children.

In the forthcoming five-year period, there are plans to build children's pre-school institutions with 500,000 places. By the end of the eleventh five-year plan, about 60 per cent of pre-school age children will study in them. Special attention is paid to improving the forms and methods of labour education in secondary schools, strengthening work in the vocational guidance of young people and developing the network of schools and groups with extended hours.

As a result of a variety of factors in our Republic, as in other countries, there are orphaned children and children who have been abandoned by their parents.

The Soviet Government devotes particular attention and concern to these children and young people and the State assumes full responsibility for their maintenance. In the Republic there is a broad network of children's institutions to which such children are sent by the executive committees of the local soviets of peoples' deputies as the care and guardianship bodies.

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In accordance with decisions of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR, boarding schools with pre-school sections have been established in the Republic for such children and in them all the necessary conditions have been ensured for the all-round development of children, for their education and their training for life and work and for their upbringing. In these schools, the living environment and conditions and the upbringing of the children is similar to that of the family. Children from the same family (brothers and sisters) are able to live in individual rooms. All this contributes to the strengthening of ties between children from the same family and the development among older children of a feeling of responsibility towards their younger brothers and sisters and demonstration of concern and affection towards them.

Children from these schools, after completing the eighth form are given preferential treatment in entering secondary vocational training schools and specialized secondary educational establishments. They are accepted by these establishments without having to enter a competition and they are fully supported by the State until the completion of their studies. After completing secondary school they are provided with accommodation and grants in educational establishments and with job placement by the community and they are given material assistance in the first stages of independent life.

In our country, from the first years of its existence, much has been done in order to protect the lives of children and to provide them with suitable conditions for their development, instruction and preparation for adult life. Considerable attention has been given to mentally and physically disabled children. The year 1919 saw the establishment of the first special boarding institutions for disabled children, in which children receive instruction and treatment and are brought up under full State protection.

The Republic now has eight types of special boarding schools and pre-school institutions for children, which cover practically all children who need to be placed in such establishments.

These children's institutions are under the constant surveillance of the Government of the Republic. Measures are being taken to improve the network of establishments for abnormal children, the instructional and material base of their daily care and teaching and the education, correctional treatment and medical care they receive.

Special attention is given in these schools to vocational training for the children and their adaptation to work in a production team. With this end in view, the schools are being equipped with workshops and laboratories, where the children acquire work skills, and practical training is organized in enterprises on collective and State farms and in consumer-service establishments.

Article 11 of the Covenant

(Right to an adequate standard of living)

All activities of the Party and the Government in our country are geared to the achievement of the supreme goal of ensuring a steady improvement in the well-being of the people, the flourishing of its cultural and intellectual capacities

in every sphere, and the harmonious development of the human personality. This position of principle was once again affirmed at the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine.

This concern for a constant improvement in the level of living of the people is manifested with particular clarity in the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, which states that "the supreme goal of social production under socialism is the fullest possible satisfaction of the people's growing material, cultural and intellectual needs" (art. 15).

The source of the growth of social wealth and of the well-being of the people and of each individual is the labour, free from exploitation, of Soviet people" (Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, art. 14).

The solution to the problem of ensuring a constant rise in the people's level of living and further developing social production lies in the growth of the national income, which showed an increase of almost 70 billion roubles, or 22 per cent, over the ninth five-year plan (1971-1975). Four fifths of that amount was devoted to consolidating the well-being of the people, including expenditure on housing and on social and cultural amenities. 1/

The continuous improvement in the material conditions of Ukrainian citizens is facilitated by the fact that, in accordance with article 23 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, the State pursues a consistent policy of raising pay levels and real incomes through an increase in productivity. In our Republic real per capita income increased by 17 per cent during the period of the tenth five-year plan, the average monthly earnings of manual and non-manual workers by 16 per cent, and the payments received by collective-farm workers from public consumption funds by 30 per cent. Action on the major social measure of increasing wage rates and salary scales for workers in the non-productive sectors was completed, with the result that 5.5 million persons received higher pay.

Over the period of the eleventh five-year plan (1981-1985), in the Ukrainian SSR over 300 billion roubles of the national income will be spent directly on consumption, housing and social and cultural amenities.

Real per capita income is expected to increase by 16-18 per cent. The average monthly pay of manual and non-manual workers will increase by 12-15 per cent and the payments received by collective-farm workers from public consumption funds by more than 15 per cent. It is envisaged that as labour productivity and the accumulation of resources increase, there will be a gradual rise in the minimum rates of wages and salaries for manual and non-manual workers, primarily in the productive sectors of the economy. Plans call for measures to improve the system of payment for workers in various categories, with due regard for the degree of difficulty and responsibility of their jobs, their working conditions and the intensiveness of their work. 2/

1/ Report of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine to the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, published in the newspaper Pravda Ukrainy, 11 February 1981.

2/ Report of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine to the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, published in the newspaper Pravda Ukrainy, 11 February 1981.

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In order to satisfy the needs of the Soviet people more fully, social consumption funds are set up. The State, with the broad participation of public organizations and work collectives, ensures the growth and just distribution of these funds (Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, art. 23). Social consumption funds, which constitute the practical means of implementing the constitutional right of Soviet people to free education and medical care, social security, care of children in pre-school establishments and the like, grew by 31.5 per cent during the period of the tenth five-year plan. In the past year 1980 alone, the population received from the social consumption funds a total of 20.6 billion roubles in payments and benefits, which was an increase of 1.1 billion roubles over the preceding year. Pension benefits are steadily being improved. In this area, approximately 30 billion roubles was spent over the past five years, or almost 40 per cent more than in the ninth five-year plan. The average pension of manual and non-manual workers grew by 16.2 per cent and that of collective-farm workers by 39.7 per cent. A number of supplementary benefits for veterans of the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945) and the families of slain members of the armed forces were introduced. A great deal was done to improve their living conditions.

The tenth five-year plan also gave rise to many other measures which had the effect of increasing the real income of the population and ensuring a further improvement in their level of living. The average monthly pay of manual and non-manual workers in the national economy, together with payments and benefits from the social consumption funds in the form of payments for social insurance, various types of assistance, pensions, scholarships, free education and medical care, and expenditure on the upkeep of pre-school establishments, sanatoria and holiday homes, amounted in 1980 to 215 roubles.

During the past five years there was an improvement in the range and quality of consumer goods available in the Republic. The output of such goods grew by 17 per cent, with cultural, recreational and domestic articles increasing by 38 per cent. Goods for children outstripped all other lines of production.

The growth in personal income, together with the simultaneous increase in the production of consumer goods, means greater material well-being, improved catering facilities and more consumer durable goods for the people.

During the tenth five-year plan the consumption of basic food and non-food items continued to expand. The turnover of retail commodities grew by 21.8 per cent and in 1980 amounted to 46.2 billion roubles. There was a substantial increase in the people's supply of consumer durable goods to lighten domestic work and provide the means for enhancing cultural life.

In order to bring the increased volume of industrial and agricultural products to the people, plans have been drawn up for a further improvement in commercial facilities. Work on the expansion of networks of shops, warehouses, cold-storage facilities and vegetable depots is continuing. Commercial enterprises are being furnished with modern equipment. Modern commercial methods are being widely applied.

The task of organizing public catering facilities in enterprises, laid down by the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, has in the main been carried out. In the past five years the volume of everyday services provided to the population has increased by 40 per cent.

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The Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR is working out additional measures to expand the production of consumer goods. A commission of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers has been set up for the purpose of co-ordinating the efforts of all sectors of the economy to this end.

The systematic strengthening of the material and technical base has brought about a further increase in agricultural production. The present stage of development in the agricultural sector is characterized by the intensive expansion, renovation and improvement of its material and technical base, streamlining at the organizational level and the introduction of the latest scientific and technological advances and innovative methods in its various branches. The Republic is establishing the objective conditions for steadily increasing rates of production of agricultural produce, improving the use of material resources and manpower, and finding ways of dealing adequately with the broad range of social and economic problems arising in the agricultural sector.

A characteristic feature of the present phase of agricultural policy is a substantial increase in the volume of material resources allocated to the agricultural sector and an increase in the share of agriculture in the over-all level of capital investment in the national economy. The main result of expanding the resources available for agriculture has been the growth of agricultural productivity. Gross output of the public portion of the agricultural sector increased by almost 10 billion roubles, or 11 per cent during the period of the past five-year plan. The marketable surplus of agricultural produce increased. Average annual grain production rose by 3.2 million tons, to 43.2 million tons. An important point to note is that the increase in the gross output of grain achieved over the past few years is due mainly to increased crop yield per kilogram of seed grain.

The increase in the volume of agricultural output contributed to greater efficiency in the sector. Labour productivity - the most important indicator of efficiency - in the public portion of the agricultural sector in the Ukrainian SSR grew by 56 per cent during the period 1965-1976. This made it possible to transfer from agriculture to other branches of the national economy an average of approximately 80,000 workers in every year of that period. Efficiency of land use improved appreciably. As the area of agricultural land in the Republic has remained constant, agricultural productivity has increased at the same rate as gross output, amounting in recent years to 3 per cent per annum.

One of the most important factors responsible for the increase in productive efficiency has been the reduction of losses during the storage of produce.

The Republic has constructed an extensive network of State-owned storehouses and facilities for processing agricultural produce. This network has been further developed during the period of the tenth five-year plan.

Another major way of enhancing the efficiency of agricultural production on collective and State farms is proper organization of the processing of unsold produce. In a number of districts of the Republic, enterprises and associations operate efficiently by organically linking the production, storage and industrial processing of fruit, grapes, vegetables and other forms of produce.

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Subsidiary enterprises and plants that process the agricultural and animal produce not sold to the State have become an integral part of agricultural production on many collective and State farms. They are establishing modern productive systems through the introduction of integrated machinery and production lines.

Over the past few years, animal husbandry in the Republic has undergone further intensive development in the area of specialization and concentration of production on the basis of inter-farm co-operation. Some 7,000 specialized collective farms, State farms and inter-farm enterprises and associations are already in operation in the Ukraine. In 1978 their share in the production of beef was 30 per cent, of pork 53 per cent, of poultry 50 per cent, of milk 49 per cent, of wool 45 per cent, and of eggs 83 per cent.

During the five-year period State purchases of milk increased by 10 per cent, of meat by 5 per cent, of wool by 6 per cent, of eggs by 40 per cent, and of fruit and vegetables by 20 per cent.

Measures are being taken in the Republic for the further improvement of procedures for the purchase of animal produce and an expansion of the system whereby collection is effected directly at production points and deliveries are made to processing facilities by transport furnished by the industry.

Because of the concentration of livestock in the limited area production points, it has been necessary to review many arrangements relating to livestock maintenance, to the improvement of veterinary work, to the protection of stock-raising complexes from the spread of communicable diseases and to environmental conservation.

In order to solve these problems, veterinary scientists and practitioners are concentrating their efforts on working out, and introducing into animal husbandry a set of standards and regulations for veterinary hygiene that will guarantee the creation of optimum conditions for keeping cattle and fowl, protecting livestock from communicable diseases and ensuring the output of produce that meets rigorous sanitary standards and is biologically sound.

The application of antiepidemic measures has greatly reduced the incidence of bovine foot-and-mouth disease and has completely eradicated brucellosis from livestock-rearing.

A great deal of attention is being devoted to measures to prevent respiratory diseases in young cattle, particularly in special centres stocked with selected herds.

All this has helped to enhance the effectiveness of treatment and to reduce losses of animals.

The increase in hygiene standards, the improvement of equipment in slaughterhouses and the extensive work of the veterinary service in carrying out veterinary and hygiene inspection of meat and meat products and in monitoring the application of veterinary and hygiene regulations in meat combines and meat-processing plants have helped to improve the quality of meat products.

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Administrative and special measures aimed at establishing a proper standard of hygiene on farms have brought about a significant improvement in the hygiene standard of milk.

Recently the world has seen the emergence of a problem which was previously of little importance, i.e. the need to protect livestock and animal products from the chemical weed-killers and pesticides widely used in agriculture. In the Ukrainian SSR, residues of pesticides, mercury, lead, arsenic and other toxic substances are not permitted in milk, meat or eggs.

In recent years research institutions in the Republic have been achieving solutions to a number of major problems which will be of great importance in intensifying agricultural production and enhancing its productivity. The objectives of the basic research was to increase soil fertility, to create new high-yield varieties and hybrids of agricultural crops, to improve new breeds of livestock and poultry, to develop better methods for protecting crops from vermin and disease and to improve measures for veterinary prevention and treatment in animal husbandry. Much attention has also been paid to the development of new techniques in the production of agricultural and livestock products on an industrial basis, the mechanization and electrification of agricultural production, and specialization and concentration within the sector, based on co-operation among agricultural enterprises and on agro-industrial integration.

In the matter of land reclamation and water management, scientific research has focused on finding solutions to the major problems relating to the construction and effectiveness of land reclamation systems and installations.

In forestry, solutions have been found to problems connected with, inter alia, seedling production, the creation of high-yield plantations and improvement of methods for controlling water- and wind-erosion of soil.

In the interests of the present and future generations the necessary steps are being taken in the Ukrainian SSR 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 (Art. 18 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR).

Other legislation has been enacted in this field in the Republic, including the Environmental Protection Law and the Forestry Code of the Ukrainian SSR.

During the last five-year plan much attention was devoted to environmental protection and the renewal of natural resources. The eighth session (held in July 1978) of the ninth convocation of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR was of great importance in increasing the effectiveness of environmental protection. The session considered the status of environmental protection in the Republic and measures for its further improvement. In the period 1976-1980 4.3 billion roubles were allocated for this purpose - 40 per cent more than in the ninth five-year plan.

Constant attention is being paid to the protection of water resources. Whereas in January 1976 the recirculated water supply totalled 38 billion cubic metres per annum, by January 1979 this total had already risen to 44.1 billion cubic metres. According to figures for 1979, 68 per cent of fresh water is saved through recirculation, as against 64 per cent in 1976.

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The discharge of untreated sewage has been diminishing from year to year, and during 1977 and 1978 it fell by more than 100 million cubic metres. Allocations for water conservation installations have been increasing: in 1977 they totalled 233.7 million roubles, while in 1978 the total was 248.1 million roubles.

Increasing attention has been paid to protecting the land. The use of biological methods to control crop pests is expanding. Unused land is being increasingly brought into production by such means as recultivation, reclamation and drainage. The implementation of anti-erosion measures has been improved.

Another important objective of the new five-year plan is the intensification of environmental protection work. Ukrainian scientists have already drawn up a special long-term environmental protection programme extending to the year 2000.

In light industry the Ukrainian SSR has taken a number of practical steps to improve production methods in the clothing industry. Close attention is being given to the variety and quality of children's goods. Retail sales of the principal non-food items are increasing annually. Thus, taking the sales of such goods in 1970 as 100, the corresponding growth in comparable prices is as follows: (1) clothing and linen: 1976 - 133, 1977 - 139, 1978 - 148, 1979 - 156; (2) knitwear: 1976 - 149, 1977 - 163, 1978 - 174, 1979 - 180; (3) leather footwear: 1976 - 135, 1977 - 145, 1978 - 149, 1979 - 153.

The fact that the right of citizens of the Ukrainian SSR to housing is affirmed in the Constitution helps to ensure the well-being of the population. This right 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 fulfilment of the programme of building well-appointed dwellings, and by low rents and low charges for utility services (art. 42 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR). Rents for apartments in the Ukrainian SSR have remained unchanged since 1928 and do not exceed an average of 3 per cent of income in working families. Household expenditure on rents and utility services amounts to less than a third of the total outlay on these items.

The period of the tenth five-year plan has seen the successful implementation in the Ukraine of a broad programme for further expansion of housing construction, as outlined at the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Ukrainian Communist Party. A total of 12.4 billion roubles has been earmarked for this purpose - 237 million roubles more than was allocated under the five-year plan. Living space in housing units in both towns and villages totals 91.4 million square metres; this has improved the living conditions of almost 8 million people. In the Ukrainian SSR the living conditions of 4,400 people are improved daily. Many families have been moved from unsatisfactory housing to new apartments. More apartments for single occupants and small families have been built, and new quarters with a total area of 5.6 million square metres have been constructed for young workers and students. Plans for the construction of schools, hospitals, polyclinics and children's centres have been fulfilled.

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Utility services for the population have been improved. The proportion of apartments with improved planning and facilities for tenants greatly increased during the previous five-year plan. This year all Ukrainian towns will be provided with a centralized water supply. The number of dwellings equipped with gas has risen by a third in five years and now constitutes 80 per cent of dwellings in towns and 60 per cent of those in rural districts.

Considerable attention has been directed in the Ukrainian SSR to the improvement of living conditions in the countryside. Decisions taken by the Government provide for specific privileges and assistance to rural house builders for the construction of dwellings and outbuildings for their own use: credit is made available, the initial contribution being 20 per cent of the cost of construction and the interest on the loan only 0.5 per cent annually. The loan is paid off over 20 years. Furthermore, half the amount of the loan is paid off by the state farms and other state-run agricultural enterprises, while the construction of transport links is undertaken through state capital investments.

In order to ensure a further increase in the quality of housing construction and of the design of future types of dwellings in the Ukrainian SSR, a wide range of scientific research is currently underway, dealing with problems relating to improvements in town planning decisions, improvements in existing series of model housing plans, the development of new types of housing for the current construction period and the design of the future types of housing.

Under the eleventh five-year plan, as in previous years, matters relating to the improvement of workers' living conditions will be of priority concern to the Party and the Government. In the period 1981-1985 it is planned that housing with a total area of 90 million square metres will be brought into service. This means that almost 2.5 million families will be housed in new apartments and dwellings. All these measures will ensure the fullest implementation of the citizens' constitutional right to housing.

Article 12 of the Covenant

(The right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health)

In the Ukrainian SSR, health protection is recognized as one of the most important tasks facing society. The Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR provides for the operation and extension of the State health care system (art. 24) and establishes the right of citizens to health protection (art. 40). "This right is ensured by free qualified medical care provided by State health institutions; by extension of the network of therapeutic and health-building institutions; by the development and improvement of safety and hygiene in industry; by the implementation of broad disease-prevention measures; by measures to improve the health level of the environment; by special care for the health of the rising generation, including the prohibition of child labour except for work done in the course of education and vocational training and by development of scientific research aimed at preventing

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and reducing the incidence of disease and ensuring a long and active life for citizens (art. 40 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR).

The Law on Health Protection adopted and now operative in the Ukrainian SSR regulates social relations in the field of health protection in order to ensure the harmonious development of physical and spiritual capacities, health, a high level of working capacity and a long active life for citizens; the prevention and reduction of the incidence of disease, a further reduction of the incidence of invalidity and mortality; and the elimination of factors and conditions which have a harmful impact on health. The Law regulates the sanitary and epidemiological protection of the population (sect. III); the provision of therapeutic and preventive medical assistance (sect. IV), the protection of mothers and children, including the encouragement of motherhood and guarantees for the health protection of mothers and children (art. 64); medical care for pregnant women and the newborn (art. 65) (sect. V); treatment at sanatoria and health resorts, the organization of leisure, tourism and physical culture (sect. VI); and matters relating to medical examinations (sect. VII), pharmaceutical and prosthetic assistance (sect. VIII), the bases for the organization of health care in the Ukrainian SSR (sect. I) and the medical and pharmaceutical professions (sect. II).^{3/}

The principle of free medical care is consistently implemented in all legislative and normative acts.

The broad system of health care established and now operative in the Republic includes therapeutic and preventive institutions (polyclinics, hospitals, dispensaries, first-aid stations, blood-donor stations and the like), sanitation and disease-prevention institutions (sanitary and epidemiological stations, disinfection stations and the like), sanatoria and health resorts. Pharmacists play a special role, in view of their combination of commercial and productive activities. The system of organization of health care includes research institutions and higher and middle-level medical and pharmaceutical educational establishments.

In the Ukrainian SSR there is in operation a highly developed network of organs of State sanitary supervision that operates through the implementation of hygienic and anti-epidemic measures aimed at eliminating and preventing pollution of the external natural environment and providing more healthful working, educational, leisure and everyday living conditions and through the organization and implementation of measures aimed at preventing and reducing the incidence of disease.

Public organizations established specifically to deal with particular problems in the area of health protection are playing a major role in protecting the health of the population. These include the Red Cross Society of the Republic and scientific medical societies in which medical workers are organized according to

^{3/} See the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic's Law on Health Protection of 15 July 1971, published in the Gazette of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, annex to No. 29 of 23 July 1971, p. 245.

speciality - surgeons, paediatricians and the like. Chapters of scientific medical societies function in large hospitals, polyclinics and sanitational and epidemiological institutions.

The State system for the organization of health protection in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic operates in conjunction with a growing and expanding system of physical education and sports, which constitute one of the most important means for improving the health of the citizens. Direct responsibility for physical education and sports is entrusted to the Committee on Physical Education and Sports of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR. Physical education and sports are truly mass pursuits in the Ukraine and are an integral part of the Party's social programme for the all-round development of the individual.

Major advances have been made in the Republic. Considerable success has been achieved in protecting and strengthening the people's health, training medical personnel and improving environmental safety. State budget appropriations for medical facilities for the population are steadily increasing. In 1980 they exceeded 2 billion roubles. One quarter of the social consumption funds - 20.6 billion roubles in 1980 - is spent on sanatorium and health resort treatment, services for children in pre-school institutions, payments in connexion with pregnancy and maternity leaves, temporary disability, and the like.

During the period of the ninth five-year plan, the total amount spent on health protection, sanatorium and health-resort treatment, sanitation for children, the development of physical education and sports, and organized recreation for workers was 14.7 billion roubles. The network of specialized and general hospitals, research and clinical centres, pharmacies, sanatoria and health institutions has been expanded.

The material and technical base of health-protection establishments, including those in industrial enterprises, in transport, on construction sites and in villages, has been strengthened; they are now more fully provided with modern diagnostic and therapeutic apparatus and equipment.

The total number of hospital beds increased by 27,400 during the period 1976-1979 and reached 617,100, or 123.6 beds per 10,000 persons.

In 1980 alone the number of physicians in all specialities increased by 4,000. There are more than 180,000 physicians and approximately 500,000 middle-level medical personnel working in the Republic today. There are about 8,500 physicians and Candidates of Science working in medical schools and scientific research institutes.

Effective new methods of disease prevention and treatment are widely used in medical practice. First-aid, emergency, resuscitation and rehabilitation services are being improved, as are medical facilities for the disabled and victims of the Great Patriotic War and those suffering from chronic diseases. Systematic measures to automate and mechanize technical procedures and improve sanitation in the area of production, working conditions and safety techniques have led to a reduction of work-related illnesses by more than one third in the last three years. In 1979 alone expenditures for worker protection reached nearly 400 million roubles.

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Special attention is given to children and mothers. The number of women's and children's clinics, maternity hospitals, polyclinics and general hospitals, sanatoria pre-school institutions, and sanatorium camps for pioneers is increasing year by year. The availability of maternity beds and children's beds and of medical personnel has been brought up to the normative levels.

A central role in worker health protection is played by preventive measures - environmental sanitation, the organization of public services and amenities in towns and villages, the application of a scientific approach to public catering and the implementation of measures to prevent disease. The Government has taken special decisions regarding measures to prevent the pollution of the Northern Donets River and the basins of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Sanitary standards for the design of industrial establishments, for work hygiene and for the protection of the air and of water reservoirs have been introduced through legislation.

The broad development of the food industry, public catering and trade and the introduction of new technological processes have required a sharp intensification of State supervision in the Republic in the area of food hygiene.

The State's concern for providing the Republic's workers with the best working and living conditions is complemented by special measures of a medical nature. These are based on the organization of complex preventive medical examinations aimed at the early detection and timely treatment of the sick. More than 129 million such examinations are carried out in the Ukraine each year, and modern diagnostic apparatus is used to increase their effectiveness. Sizable sectors of the population - young children, workers in industrial enterprises where conditions entail the possible occurrence of occupational diseases, workers engaged in the production and sale of food, those employed in pre-school children's establishments and others - are examined several times a year.

The health of the population is measured by a combination of criteria such as a reduction in morbidity, an improvement in indicators for the physical development of the population according to age and social groups, and a decrease in mortality. Infant mortality in the Republic has been reduced to one tenth of the pre-revolutionary level.

The main element in the whole multifaceted problem of medical services is the prevention, early detection and treatment of those diseases which tend to worsen and lead to a loss in working capacity and to higher mortality. These are primarily diseases of the cardio-vascular system and the respiratory organs, malignant tumors, traumatism and accidents, which account for over 90 per cent of total deaths.

Scientists in the Republic are working on these problems. They have equipped the health service with effective means and methods of emergency aid in dealing with such serious illnesses as myocardial infarcts, and as a result, mortality in these cases is showing a marked tendency to decline: 80 per cent of those who have suffered an infarct are returning to work. An important part is also played by the establishment of specialized centres, equipped with modern apparatus, and manned by trained and qualified workers.

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Intensive work on the problem of making medical assistance more available to the rural population is continuing. All the polyclinics of the central district hospitals in rural localities provide care in 18 to 20 medical specialities.

Physicians whose work is less specialized, such as general practitioners, paediatricians and stomatologists, are available in the most immediate proximity to the rural workers' homes. This problem is being solved by creating rural subdistricts centred about out-patient clinics, so that out-patient medical care can be made more accessible to the rural population.

A large part in the overall system of therapeutic and preventive care for children is played by sanatoria, at which the results of in-patient and out-patient treatment are reinforced and facilities for medical and functional rehabilitation are provided.

There are now 197 children's sanatoria with 28,100 beds functioning in the Ukrainian SSR, treating children suffering from various organic and systematic diseases.

The Ministry of Health is making serious efforts to strengthen the material and technical base and equipment of existing sanatoria. Annual expenditure for capital repair, reconstruction and modernization of the Republic's sanatoria alone amounts to 3 million roubles.

The measures carried out in the Republic have helped to improve the indicators of child health, and in particular to reduce infectious disease. The indicators of children's physical development today are higher than all the indicators for previous years.

Intensive and purposeful work is being done in the Ukraine on the prevention of infectious diseases among the population, primarily among children. Thanks to the successful use of highly effective Soviet preparations for active immunization, significant successes have been achieved in preventing some infectious diseases and reducing others.

Poliomyelitis has been practically eradicated from the Republic. The occurrence of diphtheria has declined sharply, but isolated cases of the disease are recorded in the territory of the Republic in some years. With the introduction of mass vaccination with combined preparations against whooping cough, the incidence of the disease has been reduced to one seventh the level recorded 20 years ago.

A mass vaccination against measles was carried out in the Ukraine in 1968-69, and a systematic programme of preventive vaccination is continuing today. As a result, the incidence of measles has been reduced to one fifth of the level during the pre-inoculation period.

The successes achieved in the campaign against children's infections were a result of the Soviet people's higher standard of living, of the co-ordinated work of paediatricians, epidemiologists, public-health administrators and physicians with other specialities, and of the correctly organized inoculation campaign in the Republic. Every year about 4.5 million children are inoculated against infectious childhood diseases. This helps in creating a large group of children immune to infectious diseases and preventing sickness.

Trade union organizations devote a great deal of attention to the problems of improving working, living and leisure conditions. They have at their disposal an extensive network of health resorts, clubs, palaces of culture, libraries, sporting facilities and tourist centres. This whole material base serves to maintain the health and satisfy the various needs of the workers.

Work to provide improved health protection for the people will continue under the current five-year plan. The network of therapeutic and disease-prevention establishments will be expanded and their material and technical base will be strengthened. The numbers of physicians and middle-level medical personnel will be increased. The provision of highly effective medicines for the population will be improved. A widening of the network of sanatoria, health resorts and tourist establishments is envisaged. Plans call for measures to develop physical culture and sports, to introduce them widely into the everyday life of the population and to utilize sports facilities rationally. All these measures, together with other social arrangements, will make it possible to provide additional guarantees for the fullest realization by citizens of the Ukrainian SSR of the right to health protection laid down in the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR.
