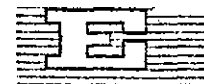


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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-seventh session

Item 21 (h) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE FOR
ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Note by the Secretary-General

Prepared in accordance with resolution 14 (XXXVI) C
of the Commission

1. At its thirty-fourth session, in resolution 34/24 of 15 November 1979» ~~the~~* General Assembly adopted a four-year Programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade, Paragraph 18 of the Programme, which was annexed to the resolution, provided, inter' alia, that the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the Commission on Human Plights should make a study . in co-operation with the Special Committee a.gainst Apartheid, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia with a view to enumerating specific measures whose application by all States, intergovernmental organizations, private institutions and non-governmental organizations will make it possible to end all collaboration-with' the racist régimes and prevent the supply of capital, loans, credits, foreign currency and any other form of commercial, financial and technological assistance to the economies of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Namibia by private banks, Governments and international agencies, such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Finance Corporation, the International Monetary Fund and similar institutions.

2. In resolution 14 (XXXVT) C of 26 February 1980, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to consult the Commission on Transnational Corporations and various other bodies with a view to determining the modalities under which the study referred to in paragraph 18 of the Programme of activities should be carried out. It further requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on specific proposals as regards the preparation of the study and the outline thereof. The present document is prepared in accordance with that decision.

3. The consultations held by the Secretary-General ^how-that various United Nations organs are carrying out a number of activities dealing with the questions to be covered in the proposed--study.- 'In that- connection, •mention-may be made of the reports prepared by the Centre on Transnational Corporations, 1/ the seminars and symposia on transnational corporations organized, by anti-apartheid movements and other organizations in co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid, and the seminar on the role of transnational corporations in South Africa which is scheduled to be organized in June 1981 by the Commission on Human Rights in co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid, pursuant to resolution 14 (XXXVT) B of the Commission.

1/ The following reports have been prepared by the Centre on Transnational Corporations;

(a) Act ivities of transnational corporations in southern Africa and the extent of their collaboration with the illegal régimes in the area (Exclude);

(b) Activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa? Impact of financial and social structures (E/C.10/39)I

(c) The role of transnational corporations in the industrial, military and nuclear sectors of South Africa (E/C.10/66) ;

(d) Document prepared by the Secretariat on activities of transnational corporations in the industrial, mining and military sectors of southern Africa (ST/CTC/12).

4. It will also be recalled that, in accordance with relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. Ahmed Khalifa, Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission, has prepared a report on the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to colonial and racist regimes in southern Africa, 1/ Furthermore in accordance with resolution 9 (XXXV) of the Commission, the Special Rapporteur submitted to the Commission, at its thirty-sixth session, a report containing a provisional general list of banks, firms and other organizations which give assistance to the colonial and racist regimes of southern Africa. By resolution 2 (XXXVIII) of 2 September 1980, the Sub-Commission decided to mandate the Special Rapporteur "to continue to update, subject to annual review, the list of banks, transnational corporations and other organizations assisting the racist regimes in southern Africa, giving such details regarding enterprises listed as the Rapporteur may consider necessary and appropriate and including explanations or responses, if any, and to submit the updated report through the Sub-Commission to the Commission on Human Rights". The Sub-Commission decided further to consider, henceforth, the topic entitled "Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the colonial and racist regimes in southern Africa" as a separate item on its agenda.

5« In the light of the above-mentioned activities and in order to avoid unnecessary duplication, the Secretary-General deemed it advisable to await the report of the seminar scheduled to be organized by the Commission in June 1981, before making proposals as regards the study referred to in paragraph 18 of the Programme of activities.

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No.E.79«XIV.3.