

1160 (XLI). International Year for Human Rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the part of the report of the Commission on Human Rights on the International Year for Human Rights,⁷⁸

Recommends the following draft resolution to the General Assembly for consideration at its twenty-first session :

“ *The General Assembly,*

“ *Recalling* its resolutions 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 and 2081 (XX) of 20 December 1965 on the International Year for Human Rights,

“ 1. *Approves* the further programme of measures and activities envisaged for Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies and national and other international organizations, which has been recommended by the Commission on Human Rights and is set out in the annex to this resolution ;

“ 2. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, and national and international organizations concerned, to devote the year 1968 to intensified efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights, including the measures set out in the above-mentioned programme, and to keep the Secretary-General informed of their plans and preparations ;

“ 3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to make any necessary arrangements to facilitate the co-operation of competent regional intergovernmental organizations in observing 1968 as International Human Rights Year, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX) ;

“ 4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to co-ordinate measures and activities undertaken by Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies, regional organizations and national and international organizations concerned ; and in particular to collect and disseminate at regular intervals information on activities contemplated or undertaken by them in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights ”.

*1445th plenary meeting,
5 August 1966.*

ANNEX

Recommendation A

It is recommended that in December 1967 the President of the General Assembly should issue a special message on the International Year for Human Rights, to be released on 1 January 1968. It is further recommended that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the executive heads of the specialized agencies, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, and the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions should issue similar messages during 1968 at the time they deem to be most appropriate, such messages to be widely circulated by all communications media.

⁷⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 8 (E/4184), chap. VII.*

Recommendation B

1. It is recommended that the Secretary-General should :

(a) Make arrangements for the issuing of human rights stamps and first-day covers on 1 January 1968, and for special cancellations during 1968 ;

(b) Promote the widest and most intensive dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically for the International Year ;

(c) Prepare and publish a special pamphlet on the Declaration specifically for the International Year ;

(d) Prepare a radio documentary script on the Declaration, for general distribution, and encourage and assist broadcasting and television organizations to produce documentary or dramatic programmes relating to human rights ;

(e) Make available to States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency a special model designed to symbolize the concept of human rights and freedoms, so that posters may be reproduced and distributed nationally during the International Year ;

(f) Direct United Nations officers at Headquarters and in information centres and regional offices to give lectures and write articles on the Declaration and to co-operate with information media and educational authorities in various countries in organizing the celebration of the International Year ;

(g) Request the distributors of United Nations publications to prepare a special display of relevant United Nations documents for exhibition during the months of November and December 1968 ;

2. For Human Rights Day, 1968, it is recommended that the United Nations should :

(a) Organize at Headquarters a special meeting of the General Assembly on 10 December 1968, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration. Governments are invited, whenever possible, to include in their delegations to the special meeting persons who participated in the drafting of the Universal Declaration ;

(b) Organize a concert at United Nations Headquarters on the same day to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration, and obtain the widest possible radio and television coverage for the concert.

Recommendation C

(a) *When a prize or prizes in the field of human rights should be awarded.* It is recommended that a prize or prizes should be awarded, for the first time, on 10 December 1968, on the occasion of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Thereafter prizes should not be awarded more often than at five-year intervals.

(b) *Number of prizes to be awarded.* It is recommended that no more than five prizes should be awarded at one time. If one prize is to be awarded, it should be for outstanding achievements in the field of human rights. If two prizes are to be awarded, one should be for outstanding achievements with reference to the promotion and protection of civil and political rights, and the other for outstanding achievements with reference to the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights. If more than one prize is awarded, each prize should be equal in every way.

(c) *Nature of the prizes.* It is recommended that a metal plaque bearing the United Nations seal and an artistic design, and engraved with an appropriate citation, should be presented to each winner of the prize as a concrete and lasting token of the award.

(d) *Procedure to be followed in selecting winners.* It is recommended that a special committee, composed of the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic

and Social Council, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, should be entrusted with selecting winners of the human rights prize. The Committee would establish its own procedure for receiving nominations, it being understood that nominations might be sought from Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status, and from other appropriate sources. The assistance of the Secretary-General would be available to the special committee at every stage of the process of selection.

(e) *Criteria to be applied in the selection of winners.* It is recommended that on the occasion of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1968, a maximum of five prizes should be awarded to persons who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in other instruments of the United Nations relating to human rights since the proclamation of the Declaration on 10 December 1948. Thereafter the prize or prizes, awarded at five-year intervals, would go to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Recommendation D

It is noted that in operative paragraph 4 of resolution 1961 (XVIII), the General Assembly invited all Member States to intensify their domestic efforts in the field of human rights, with the assistance of their appropriate organizations, in order that a fuller and more effective realization of the rights and freedoms might be achieved and might be reported at the proposed international review of such achievement in 1968 and thereafter. This proposed intensification of national domestic effort has been considered, bearing in mind the fact that an intensive programme of activity in this field is now in progress, in which the United Nations, the specialized agencies, national Governments and non-governmental organizations are already involved. It can be assumed that each Member State, within the framework of national legislation and policy, and according to available means, will wish to respond in its own way to the invitation expressed in operative paragraph 4 of the above-mentioned resolution.

In consideration of the fact that a wide variety of measures should not be added by Member States to their existing programmes, it is recommended instead that the Assembly should be asked to invite all Member States to make a special effort during the period, within the framework of national legislation and policy and according to available means, in two particular spheres:

(a) In the sphere of their national legislation;

(b) In the sphere of education towards a fuller realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It is agreed that the intensification of efforts on the national level does not exclude intensification of efforts by Member States on an international scale such as within the United Nations and its agencies.

Recommendation E

It is recommended that Governments be invited to consider adopting the following programme:

(a) Formally proclaim 1968 to be International Year for Human Rights and observe it as such;

(b) Issue, during the International Year for Human Rights, in the name of Heads of State or Governments, special messages reaffirming their faith in the dignity and worth of the

human person and their dedication to the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(c) Either appoint an *ad hoc* committee to co-ordinate the national celebrations for the International Year for Human Rights within their countries, or entrust its organization to an existing institution;

(d) Seize the opportunity of the International Year for Human Rights to redouble their efforts to bring about the signature and ratification, or the acceptance in another form, of all the existing international conventions or treaties designed to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in particular spheres;

(e) Consider the possibility of establishing one or more national awards to honour their nationals who have made distinguished contributions to the promotion of human rights, and to make these awards during the International Year for Human Rights;

(f) Maintain contact with the specialized agencies of the United Nations and participate in any regional conferences and seminars which the latter may wish to organize;

(g) Issue human rights stamps and first-day covers on 1 January 1968, and arrange for special cancellations during 1968;

(h) Promote the widest, and most intensive dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in as many languages and dialects as possible, by means of printed posters, leaflets and pamphlets issued during 1968;

(i) Examine the possibility of holding a special meeting of their Parliament or National Assembly, in order to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, preferably on 10 December 1968.

Recommendation F

It is recommended that the specialized agencies whose work touches on the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms should be invited:

(a) To proceed with the planning of their individual programmes of celebrations;

(b) To communicate directly with the Governments of Member States and with private, national and international organizations, so as to co-operate with them in the organization of national and regional programmes of celebrations for 1968;

(c) To inform the Secretary-General of the programmes they have formulated as soon as possible before 1 January 1967.

Recommendation G

It is recommended that other organizations having an interest in the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, non-governmental organizations in contact with the United Nations Office of Public Information, United Nations associations, research institutions, universities and other institutions of higher learning, and other appropriate organizations, should be invited to participate fully in the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights and to organize special activities of their own during 1968. The invitation to the organizations in consultative status and to those in contact with the Office of Public Information would be issued by the Secretary-General, while the invitation to national organizations would be issued by the Governments of the countries concerned.

Within the framework of their respective programmes, in order to develop further and to guarantee political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights and to end all discrimination and denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms on grounds of race, colour, sex, language or religion, and in particular to permit the elimination of *apartheid*, the various organizations mentioned above are invited to consider the following activities for the year 1968:

(a) To adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or articles thereof, as appropriate, as the theme of their annual conference for 1968 or of special conferences held during that year;

(b) To organize commemorative ceremonies on the Declaration during the International Year for Human Rights, and particularly on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1968;

(c) To print and distribute the text of the Declaration, and prepare public pamphlets, leaflets and posters on the Declaration;

(d) To organize community projects, such as panel discussions on local problems of human rights, children's parades, and the display of the United Nations flag in school and business buildings;

(e) To encourage local communities to establish a list of questions with a view to investigating and sounding out public opinion as to the community's effectiveness in promoting the principles of the Declaration;

(f) To publish, during the International Year for Human Rights, historic declarations, famous bills, and great orations and speeches on human rights, with appropriate commentaries or annotations;

(g) To encourage radio and television networks to carry special programmes, to encourage newspaper editors to publish editorials on the Declaration which could be printed or reprinted in whole or in part, and to encourage book-publishing firms to issue special publications, including books and booklets, on human rights problems designed to publicize the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and to encourage other media of information to organize public debates on great issues of freedom;

(h) To invite appropriate bodies in Member States to hold special services and observances, of a cultural and traditional nature, in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Recommendation H

It is recommended that the programme of measures and activities include activities by the United Nations, the specialized agencies, Member States, and international and national organizations. For an effective year of observances, some degree of co-ordination of these separate activities will be required. Some of the recommended activities are set out precisely and in reasonably full detail; in others, no more than the broad outlines of the proposal can be given at this stage, and details remain to be worked out. When these details have been worked out, it will be desirable that information about them be communicated to a central organization or to a central office. It is likely that individual Member States will have new ideas in regard to activities they may wish to undertake in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, and that they will wish to communicate some of these ideas to other Member States. It is agreed that all these activities should be co-ordinated and it is recommended that the co-ordinating and clearing-house function should be discharged by the Secretary-General. It would be important that the efficiency of the Secretary-General's present responsibilities in the field of human rights should not be prejudiced by this additional task which it is proposed to entrust to him.

1161 (XLI). Prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities

The Economic and Social Council,

*Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Rights,*⁷⁷

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 8 (E/4184).

*Noting the memorandum by the Secretary-General listing and classifying special protective measures, of an international character, for ethnic, religious or linguistic groups,*⁷⁸ and the compilation of the texts of those international instruments and similar measures of an international character which are of contemporary interest and which provide special protective measures for ethnic, religious or linguistic groups,⁷⁹

Decides to authorize the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps, within the budgetary resources available to him, for printing, circulating and making available for sale to the public this memorandum and the compilation as one publication.

*1445th plenary meeting,
5 August 1966.*

1162 (XLI). Report of the Commission on Human Rights

The Economic and Social Council

*Takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its twenty-second session.*⁸⁰

*1445th plenary meeting,
5 August 1966.*

1163 (XLI). Question concerning the implementation of human rights through a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or some other appropriate international machinery

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2062 (XX) of 16 December 1965 entitled "Creation of the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights", in which the Assembly requested the Council to transmit to the Commission on Human Rights the proposal to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, so that the Commission might study all aspects of the matter and report on it through the Council to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session,

*Having considered chapter V of the report of the Commission on Human Rights*⁸⁰ *concerning this proposal,*

1. *Informs the General Assembly that the Commission on Human Rights, recognizing the importance of the proposal, considered the item "Question concerning the implementation of human rights through a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or some other appropriate international machinery" and decided to establish a working group composed of nine States members of the Commission to study all relevant questions concerning such institution, taking into consideration the debate in the Commission on Human Rights on this item, and all the questions raised therein, and to report to the Commission at its twenty-third session in 1967;*

⁷⁸ E/CN.4/Sub.2/221.

⁷⁹ E/CN.4/Sub.2/214.

⁸⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 8 (E/4184).*