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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection  
of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, following consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/35/348), adopted resolution 35/197 of 15 December 1980 in which it noted with satisfaction the efforts currently under way within the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to elaborate an African Charter of Human Rights and to establish an African Commission on Human Rights, and requested the Secretary-General to maintain close co-operation with the Secretary-General of OAU on this matter and to keep the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights informed as he deemed appropriate. The Assembly welcomed with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Sri Lanka to host a seminar of Member States of the Asian region to consider appropriate arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, and requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements, following the finalization of the consultations with Member States of the Asian region, with a view to holding the seminar at Colombo in 1981 and to inform the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session of the deliberations of the seminar.

2. The present progress report has been prepared in compliance with resolution 35/197.

3. As requested in the above-mentioned resolution, the Secretary-General, in his report on the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights for 1980 (E/CN.4/1445) submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-seventh session, drew the attention of the Commission to the adoption of the resolution by the General Assembly.

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\* A/36/50.

4. In connexion with the efforts currently under way within OAU to elaborate an African Charter of Human Rights and to establish an African Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary-General has, as requested, maintained contacts with the Secretary-General of OAU with a view to making available any possible assistance which the organization might wish to request of the United Nations on this matter.

5. As regards the General Assembly's request that the Secretary-General should make the necessary arrangements, following finalization of the consultations, with a view to holding the seminar at Colombo in 1981, the Secretary-General wishes to inform the Assembly that, subject to the finalization of the consultations which are still continuing, it has been decided to defer the holding of the seminar until 1982. The Secretary-General expects to be in a position to inform the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session of the deliberations of the seminar.

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