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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 13 (c)

CONCLUDING ITEMS: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Draft report of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination
and Protection of Minorities on its forty-ninth session

Rapporteur: Mr. Marc Bossuyt

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* E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/L.10 and Addenda contain the draft chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Sub-Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Commission on Human Rights, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/L.11 and Addenda.

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED UNDER SUB-COMMISSION RESOLUTION 2 (XXIV) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1503 (XLVIII)

1. The Sub-Commission considered item 12 at its 31st, 32nd, and .. meetings, held on 26 and .. August 1997.
2. By resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970, the Economic and Social Council authorized the Sub-Commission to appoint a working group (Working Group on Communications) of no more than five of its members to meet annually for 10 working days, immediately before each session of the Sub-Commission, to consider all communications received by the Secretary-General under Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959, including replies of Governments thereon, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Sub-Commission those communications which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
3. The procedure to be followed by the Working Group on Communications in deciding on the admissibility of communications was established by Sub-Commission resolution 1 (XXIV) of 13 August 1971, and the Working Group itself was set up in accordance with Sub-Commission resolution 2 (XXIV) of 16 August 1971.
4. The Sub-Commission had before it a confidential report on the work of the Working Group on Communications at its twenty-fifth session, held from 21 July to 1 August 1997 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/R.1 and Addenda), certain communications which had been kept pending before the Sub-Commission since its forty-eighth session in 1996, as well as all government replies relevant to the material before it. The Sub-Commission noted with appreciation that a large number of government replies, including detailed and substantive replies, had been received in response to communications forwarded to governments under Council resolution 728F (XXVIII), and was pleased to see an increasing display of international cooperation in that regard. The Sub-Commission wishes to stress in this connection that government cooperation is essential for the proper functioning of the bodies entrusted with the implementation of the procedure governed by Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII).
5. Ms. Claire Palley, on behalf of Mr. F. Yimer, Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Communications, introduced the Working Group's report and drew attention, as appropriate, to the material which was pending before the Sub-Commission since its forty-eighth session.

6. Following the discussion which ensued, the Sub-Commission decided, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), to refer to the Commission on Human Rights for consideration certain particular situations which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights. The Sub-Commission also decided to defer action on certain communications until its fiftieth session in 1998, and to take no action with regard to other communications.

7. At its .. meeting (closed part), on .. August 1997, the Sub-Commission adopted a confidential report, pursuant to paragraph 8 of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), by which it communicated to the Commission on Human Rights its decisions taken under paragraph 5 of that resolution.

8. At its .. meeting, on .. August 1997, the Sub-Commission decided on the composition of its Working Group on Communications that would meet prior to its fiftieth session. For the composition of the Working Group, see chapter II, section B, decision 1997/...
