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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on the Promotion  
and Protection of Human Rights  
Fifty-first session  
Agenda item 14 (c)

CONCLUDING ITEMS:

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion  
and Protection of Human Rights

Rapporteur: Mr. Paulo Sérgio PINHEIRO

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\* E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/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.2/1999/L.11 and Addenda.

XV. 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 agenda item 13 at its 28th, 29th and ..th meetings on 24 and .. August 1999.
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-seventh session, held from 19 to 30 July 1999 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/R.1 and addenda), certain communications which had been kept pending before the Sub-Commission since its fiftieth session in 1998, as well as all government replies relevant to the material before it. The Sub-Commission again 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 728 F (XXVIII), and was pleased to see a continuing display of international cooperation. The Sub-Commission stressed in that connection that government cooperation was essential for the proper functioning of the bodies entrusted with the implementation of the procedure governed by Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). In view of the number and volume of replies submitted under the 1503 procedure by Governments, the Sub-Commission again requested that Governments consider submitting, whenever possible, five copies of each reply to the secretariat of the 1503 procedure.

5. Mr. F. Yimer, Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Communications, introduced the Working Group's report and mentioned that the Working Group had held an informal discussion on the recommendations concerning the 1503 procedure contained in the report of the Bureau of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1999/104) and that the Working Group's input had been endorsed by the Sub-Commission and included in the position paper of the Sub-Commission contained in the annex to document of E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/47.

6. Following the discussion which ensued, the Sub-Commission decided, pursuant to paragraph 5 of 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 to its fifty-second session in 2000, and to take no action with regard to other communications.

7. At its ..th meeting (closed part), on .. August 1999, 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 ..th meeting, on .. August 1999, the Sub-Commission decided on the composition of its Working Group on Communications that would meet prior to its fifty-second session. For the composition of the Working Group, see chapter II, section B, decision 1999/...

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