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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

Reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)
by States Parties to the Covenant, concerning rights covered by
articles 13 to 15

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[21 August 1981]

I. ARTICLE 13. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

1. During the years of Soviet power tremendous progress has been achieved in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic in the development of public education, science and culture. After eliminating illiteracy, the Republic has gone on to achieve universal compulsory secondary education for the young. One person in every three in the Republic is engaged in study. As at 1 January 1981, 3.6 million people out of a population of 9.7 million were undergoing various forms of instruction.

2. The right to free education and to a profession is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR. The material basis has been laid down and opportunities have been created to enable every citizen to exercise that right.

3. Article 43 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR states:

"Citizens of the Byelorussian SSR have the right to education.

"This right is ensured by free provision of all forms of education, by the institution of universal compulsory secondary education and the broad development of vocational specialized secondary and higher education, in which instruction is oriented toward practical activity and production; by the development of extramural, correspondence and evening courses; by the provision of State scholarships and grants and privileges for students; by the free issue of school textbooks; by the opportunity to attend a school where teaching is in the native language; and by the provision of facilities for self-education."

That article clearly shows that the right to education in the Republic is guaranteed on a wider basis than that provided for in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Article 13 of the Covenant establishes that primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all. The Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR guarantees the free provision of all forms of education, including higher education, and provides for the institution of universal compulsory secondary education.

4. The principle of free education applies to general-education schools and to vocational, specialized secondary and higher educational establishments. Not only is instruction free, but there is also no charge for the use of laboratories, study rooms, auditoriums, reading rooms, libraries and other auxiliary educational facilities, sports centres and installations, sports equipment and so forth.

5. The State provides students with grants and allowances and provides hostels for those who need them. Those studying while continuing to work are granted paid leave for the period of their examinations or are allowed to work a shorter work week or a shorter work day.

6. The government decision to introduce, over the period 1978-1983, the use of textbooks free of charge for the pupils of general secondary schools is being implemented in the Republic.

7. A modern system of public education is one of the main conditions for the all-round development of the human personality. Article 25 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR states: "In the Byelorussian SSR there is a uniform system of public education which is being constantly improved; it provides general education and vocational training for citizens, serves the communist education and intellectual and physical development of youth and trains them for work and social activity."

8. On 1 April 1975 the Public Education Law (adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic on 27 December 1974) entered into force. Article 4 of that Law defines the following basic principles of public education in the Byelorussian SSR:

(a) The equality of all citizens of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in respect to receiving education, irrespective of race and nationality, sex, attitude to religion, property and social status;

(b) The compulsory nature of education for all children and teenagers; the state and social nature of all educational establishments;

(c) The freedom to choose the language of instruction; instruction may be in the mother tongue or in the language of another people of the USSR;

(d) The free provision of all types of education, medical services, the full maintenance of students by the State, the provision of scholarship grants and other material assistance to students;

(e) The uniform nature of public education and continuity between all types of educational establishments, a situation which ensures the possibility of going from the lowest to the highest stages of education;

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(f) The unity of instruction and communist education; the co-operation of the school, the family and the public in the upbringing of children and adolescents;

(g) The linking of the instruction and education of the rising generation with life and with the practical aspects of building communism;

(h) The scientific nature of education and its constant improvement on the basis of the latest achievements in science, technology and culture;

(i) The humane nature and high moral standards of education and upbringing;

(j) Co-education;

(k) The secular nature of education.

9. Questions related to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination are included in the programmes of secondary schools and institutions of higher education throughout the Byelorussian SSR. Students in secondary schools study those questions in courses entitled "Social science" and "Principles of state and law". Students at higher-education institutions study those questions together with questions on the struggle against capitalist exploitation and apartheid and for the elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, genocide and so forth in courses entitled "Scientific communism", "State law" and "International law".

10. In the Byelorussian SSR, the church is separated from the State, and the school from the church (article 50 of the Constitution). All constitutional and other rights and freedoms of citizens, including the right to education, are guaranteed by the State irrespective of the citizens' attitudes towards religion. The law of the Byelorussian SSR on public education stipulates that officials and citizens who infringe the laws governing public education shall be liable to the penalties established by law. Infringement of the laws on the separation of school and church is a criminal offence (article 139 of the Criminal Code of the Byelorussian SSR).

11. In accordance with article 5 of the law of the Byelorussian SSR on education, the system of public education in the Byelorussian SSR includes pre-school upbringing, general secondary education, out-of-school upbringing, and vocational, specialized secondary and higher education.

12. Pre-school children's institutions - creches, nursery schools and kindergartens - in which children under the age of seven are brought up, are the first part of the system of educational institutions. The combination of upbringing within the family and upbringing in society has been developed to a high degree in the Republic. The aims of pre-school education are laid down in article 18 of the Public Education Law of the Byelorussian SSR, which says that pre-school children's institutions, in close co-operation with the family, should achieve the all-round harmonious development and upbringing of children, protect and strengthen their health, impart basic practical skills and instil a love of work, be concerned with their aesthetic education, prepare children for school education and bring them up to respect their elders and love their socialist Motherland and native land.

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13. The second element in preparing young people for life is the general secondary school. This is a unified, labour-oriented polytechnical school. The period of instruction in general secondary schools is 10 to 11 years.

14. The uniformity of these schools is achieved by organizing the education process on the basis of a common set of principles and by standardizing the content and level of general education.

15. The "instruction plan" (curriculum) is worked out on the basis of that of the JSSR Ministry of Education, and the specific character of the Republic is reflected in the teaching of certain subjects (Russian language, physical culture, foreign languages, history and geography of the Byelorussian SSR, nature studies and optional studies). The curriculum is compulsory for all schools in the Republic and can be changed only by the Ministry of Education of the Byelorussian SSR.

16. Besides the standard curriculum for general-education schools, modified curricula are drawn up for special schools (schools in which some subjects are taught in a foreign language or which concentrate on mathematics, physics, chemistry, literature, fine arts or music, sanatorium-style forest schools, etc.). A required level of general secondary education is laid down for all these schools, irrespective of their type.

17. General-education schools provide instruction for all children who have reached the age of seven years by the beginning of the school year. Pupils are given the opportunity of being taught in their mother tongue. Parents or guardians have the right to choose for their children a school where instruction is in the appropriate language. In addition to the language of instruction, pupils may, if they wish, learn the language of another people of the USSR.

18. Parents or guardians have the right to participate in discussions on the education and upbringing of their children, in extracurricular, extramural and health work in the educational establishments where their children are being educated and brought up (article 78 of the public education law of the Byelorussian SSR).

19. In order to strengthen the link between school and family and promote the participation of parents in the work of the school in bringing up and educating children and adolescents, a parents committee is established at each general-education school (article 35 of the Public Education Law of the Byelorussian SSR).

20. The network of schools includes educational establishments of various types: general secondary schools, schools offering vocational training, schools which give intensified instruction in specific subjects, schools with extended hours, boarding schools, evening (late-shift) and correspondence schools for young workers, schools for physically and mentally handicapped children, sanatorium-style forest schools, and specialized schools.

21. As T. V. Kiselëv, candidate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Byelorussian Communist Party, pointed out in his report to the 29th Congress of the Byelorussian Communist Party,

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"Today the process of social development is becoming more and more dynamic. Production is improving, and the nature and content of work are changing. This increases the demands on young people starting out in life and means that we must continually improve the whole system of public education. Secondary and vocational schools must produce young people with high moral and political qualities who are educated and prepared for work and for a role in society.

"A great deal of work has been done on this question in the Republic. Universal secondary education has been successfully introduced. Special purpose rooms for the teaching of individual subjects have been introduced in all secondary and vocational schools and a clear majority of the eight-year schools. Secondary education is becoming increasingly technically-oriented."

22. All children of school age in the Republic go to school (there are 1.4 million children attending 6,700 general-education day schools). In 1980 190,000 people received a secondary education.

23. Those who complete the eight grades are given a certificate of eight-year education which entitles them to enter the ninth grade at a general secondary school or to enter a vocational or a specialized secondary school (article 41 of the Public Education Law of the Byelorussian SSR).

24. Those who complete general secondary education are given a secondary-education certificate.

25. Those who complete general secondary education with vocational training are given a secondary-education certificate and a certificate of the skill learned with an indication of the grade awarded by the qualification commission (article 42 of the Public Education Law of the Byelorussian SSR).

26. The vocational educational establishment is the main school in the State system for providing young people with vocational training and is the principal means of producing skilled workers. In accordance with article 49 of the Public Education Law of the Byelorussian SSR, the main tasks of vocational schools are to produce for the purposes of the economy, young skilled workers who are thoroughly developed, technically educated and cultured and who possess the occupational skills required for the present demands and future development of modern industry and scientific and technological progress, and to provide vocational and general secondary education for young people in secondary vocational schools.

27. The network of establishments for vocational education in the Byelorussian SSR is constantly being developed. At present, there are 153,000 people enrolled in 220 such schools. Instruction is free of charge and students are provided with food and special clothing.

28. Middle-level personnel for all branches of the economy and the cultural field are trained in specialized secondary education establishments (agricultural and industrial colleges, teacher-training colleges, nursing schools, etc.); they enable many pupils who complete the eighth grade to continue their education. Those completing their studies in these establishments receive a specialized

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secondary-education diploma which entitles them to enter any higher-education institution in the country.

29. At present there are 163,000 young men and women enrolled in 136 specialized secondary-education establishments. Persons completing specialized secondary education receive a qualification corresponding to the skill acquired and are awarded a diploma (article 60 of the Public Education Law of the Byelorussian SSR).

30. Under the forthcoming five-year plan, the training of specialists will be expanded in those areas of the economy where the greatest shortages exist.

31. Schools of higher education are an integral part of the country's public education system. In accordance with article 61 of the Public Education Law of the Byelorussian SSR, higher education is provided in universities, institutes, academies and other educational institutions which have an established relationship with higher-education institutions.

32. Article 63 of the Public Education Law of the Byelorussian SSR specifies the main purposes of higher-education institutions:

(a) To train highly skilled specialists so that they have a mastery of Marxist-Leninist theory, deep theoretical knowledge and practical skills in their specialization and in the organization of mass political and educational work;

(b) To instil in students high moral qualities, communist awareness, culture, socialist internationalism, Soviet patriotism and a readiness to defend their socialist Motherland; to provide for the physical training of students;

(c) To constantly improve the quality of specialist training, taking into account the requirements and future development prospects of modern industry, science, technology and culture;

(d) To carry out scientific research with a view to raising the quality of specialist training and promoting social, scientific and technological progress;

(e) To produce textbooks and teaching aids;

(f) To train science teachers;

(g) To improve the qualifications of the teaching staff of higher- and secondary-education establishments and of specialists with a higher education who are working in the relevant economic sectors.

33. All citizens of the Byelorussian SSR and the other Union Republics, as well as foreign citizens and stateless persons, who have finished secondary education have the right to enter higher education. The schools of higher education exert a great influence on the activities of all types of educational establishments; training teachers, preparing educational literature and developing new methods and means of instruction. The principal forms of further education for working people are also based on higher-education schools: they include improving the qualifications of specialists with diplomas, the retraining of skilled personnel, post-graduate courses, and public universities.

34. In the Byelorussian SSR, paramount importance is attached to the training of teaching staff. Three universities, six teacher-training institutes and the Institute of Physical Culture train staff with higher education in all subjects of the school curriculum.

35. Fourteen teacher-training and technical colleges train teachers of elementary classes, labour education, fine art, drawing, and music and those in pre-school institutions, the duration of the course being four years for those who have completed eight grades and two years for secondary school-leavers.

36. The system of higher education is public in the full sense of the word. It has been created for and serves the interests of the people, providing every citizen without restriction with all the material and spiritual guarantees necessary to obtain higher education, including student grants, hostels and the use of educational facilities, libraries and so forth free of charge. Higher education is developing on a planned basis with account being taken of socio-economic, demographic and other factors.

37. There are at present 33 higher-education institutions in the Byelorussian SSR, including three universities, attended by 177,000 students. Out of every 10,000 people in the Republic there are 183 students. There are 16,200 students at the Byelorussian V. I. Lenin State University and 24,400 at the Byelorussian Polytechnical Institute, which are the largest higher-education institutions in the Byelorussian SSR.

38. Science is developing successfully in the Republic. There are approximately 38,000 scientific workers and specialists engaged in scientific research. The research work of the Byelorussian scientists in mathematics, physics, nuclear energy, chemistry, biology etc. has won wide renown. There are now 1 million specialists with a higher or specialized secondary education working in the economy. That is 5.5 times greater than in all of pre-revolutionary Russian. With such a wealth of personnel with higher or specialized secondary education in the economy, it is possible to pursue an efficient scientific and technical policy in industry and to deal successfully with the main social tasks related to protecting the health of citizens, training young people for work and social life and enriching the spiritual life of the people.

39. In the Byelorussian SSR the level of education of men and women has become practically equal.

40. Even in the first months of Soviet power in the Republic, all laws which put women in an unequal position were repealed. Article 33 of the new Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR, adopted on 14 April 1978, states:

"Women and men have equal rights in the Byelorussian SSR.

"Exercise of these rights is ensured by according women equal access with men to education and vocational and professional training, equal opportunities in employment, remuneration, and promotion, and in social, political and cultural activity, with the provision of special labour and health protection

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measures for women; by providing conditions enabling mothers to work; by legal protection, and material and moral support for mothers and children, including paid leave and other benefits for expectant mothers and mothers, and gradual reduction of working time for mothers with small children."

41. That women are fully guaranteed an equal right to education can be seen from the fact that, in the 1979-1980 academic year, 55 per cent of the students at higher-education institutions were women.

42. Having equal access to and opportunities in receiving secondary and higher education and vocational training, women play an important role in science and the economy. They make up 53 per cent of the Republic's specialists with a higher education.

43. Article 67 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR states: "It is the internationalist duty of citizens of the Byelorussian SSR to promote friendship and co-operation with peoples of other lands and help maintain and strengthen world peace". The country's entire system of education and upbringing is based on the need to fulfil that task.

II. ARTICLE 15. RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN CULTURAL LIFE AND
TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND THE
PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF AUTHORS

44. Article 44 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR states:

"Citizens of the Byelorussian SSR have the right to enjoy cultural benefits. This right is ensured by broad access to the cultural treasures of their own land and of the world that are preserved in State and other public collections; by the development and fair distribution of cultural and educational institutions throughout the country; by developing television and radio broadcasting and the publishing of books, newspapers and periodicals, and by extending the free library service; and by expanding cultural exchanges with other countries."

45. A distinctive Byelorussian socialist culture, varied in its popular forms and internationalist in spirit and character, has sprung up. There are 16 professional and some 50 public amateur theatres in the Republic. In all the major population centres there are cultural institutes or clubs. A total of 1.1 million workers, collective farmers and professional people are involved in amateur arts associations. Every year the "Byelorussianfilm" Studios release 40 to 50 different films.

46. In the Byelorussian SSR in 1980, 3,000 books and pamphlets in editions totalling 38 million copies were published. Publication of two essential works - the 12-volume Byelorussian Soviet Encyclopaedia and the 5-volume History of the Byelorussian SSR was recently completed.

47. The country's public libraries, almost 7,000 in number, have stocks of books totalling 87 million copies. The main State library, the Lenin Library, houses 6 million different publications - a figure 14 times greater than the combined library resources of Byelorussia before the Revolution.

48. A wide range of mass information media serves the Republic. In the Byelorussian SSR 193 newspapers with a total printing per issue of 4.7 million copies are published, together with 115 magazines and other periodicals totalling 37.8 million copies per year.

49. There have been notable achievements in television and radio. Five television centres are operating, and most families have television sets and radios. Radio and television broadcasts are accessible to virtually the entire population of the Republic.

50. The film distribution network in the Byelorussian SSR is developing rapidly. The building of large, modern cinemas and clubs has led to a marked increase in cinema-going: in 1965 audiences totalled 129 million, while the figure for 1979 was 136 million.

51. Concert life has been greatly expanded. There are 55 music associations, including the Byelorussian State Philharmonic, responsible for organizing concerts in the Republic. In 1975 there were 14,017 concerts, while in 1980 there were 17,116.

52. The network of museums has significantly widened. In 1965 there were 38 museums, while the number in 1981 was 68. The opening of the Palace of Arts in Minsk, the capital of the Republic, has given a new impetus to the staging of exhibitions, and in 1980 more than 200 exhibitions were held.

53. Broad sectors of the working people of the Republic have access to the cinema, theatre, music and the fine arts through clubs. In 1979 there were 6,305 such clubs, 5,464 of which were in rural districts. An extensive programme has been established for further cultural development in rural areas and for improving the work of cultural and educational institutions and strengthening their material and technical base.

54. The rights provided for in article 44 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR are applied without any kind of discrimination. All citizens in the Byelorussian SSR enjoy equal access to the country's cultural achievements "without distinction of origin, social or property status, race or nationality, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, type and nature of occupation, domicile, or other status" (article 32 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR). Equality of citizens' rights in cultural matters, as in the economic, political and social spheres, is ensured by legislation aimed at further enhancing socialist democracy and at strengthening the legal foundations of the State and society.

55. In the Byelorussian SSR favourable conditions have been established for creating and disseminating all types of cultural values. Under article 27 of the Constitution, "the State concerns itself with protecting, augmenting and making extensive use of society's cultural wealth for the moral and aesthetic education of the Soviet people and for raising their cultural level".

56. Article 66 of the Constitution affirms that "concern for the preservation of historical monuments and other cultural wealth is a duty and obligation of citizens of the Byelorussian SSR".

57. Article 1 of the Byelorussian law of 14 July 1978 on the preservation and use of historical and cultural monuments states that "all historical and cultural monuments situated in the territory of the Byelorussian SSR are maintained by the State", and goes on to give a detailed explanation of this provision. Article 48 of the same law affirms that

"... if a treaty of international agreement to which the USSR or the Byelorussian SSR is a party establishes regulations differing from those contained in USSR or Byelorussian SSR legislation regarding preservation and use of historical and cultural monuments, the regulations in the treaty or international agreement shall apply".

58. Much work is being done in the Republic on the preservation and use of historical and cultural monuments. According to article 7 of the Byelorussian law on the preservation and use of historical and cultural monuments,

"... State control of the preservation and use of historical and cultural monuments is the responsibility of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the Council of Ministers of the Byelorussian SSR, the executive committees of regional, district, municipal, urban district, community and rural councils of peoples' deputies, and also of State bodies specifically appointed to preserve monuments in accordance with the Constitution of the USSR and the Byelorussian SSR".

59. Article 16 of that law states that "historical and cultural monuments, irrespective of their ownership, are subject to State registration". Objects and documents which are the private property of citizens and which are of particular value for historical, scientific, artistic or other cultural reasons are therefore regarded as historical and cultural monuments and subject to State registration.

60. In the Republic, monuments can be used for economic or other purposes provided that this is not to the detriment of their preservation and does not impair their historical or artistic integrity. Funds accruing from the use of monuments are credited to special accounts of the State bodies responsible for protection of the monuments in question and are used by those bodies solely for the protection, restoration, preservation and maintenance of the monuments.

61. Enterprises, organisations and institutions which possess or make use of monuments are responsible for safeguarding them.

62. The restoration, preservation and maintenance of monuments are carried out with the permission and under the supervision of the State bodies responsible for the protection of monuments. The necessary funds are provided by the users or the owners of the monuments and by the State bodies responsible for the protection of monuments. The amounts spent on the upkeep and restoration of monuments are increasing year by year, and exceeded 1.5 million roubles in 1980. There are specialised workshops engaged in scientific restoration work in the Byelorussian SSR.

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63. Article 29 of the law provides for the designation of protected areas, areas in which building is restricted and areas where the natural landscape is protected, with a view to safeguarding historical monuments and for the purposes of archaeology, town planning, architecture and monumental art. Within these areas excavation, construction or any other kind of work is prohibited, as are economic activities. Groups of historical and cultural monuments may be designated as historical or cultural preserves.

64. Projects involving the planning, building and reconstruction of towns and other settlements possessing monuments which are of value from the point of view of history, archaeology, urban development, architecture or monumental art, are subject to approval by the appropriate bodies responsible for the protection of monuments and by their associations concerned with the protection of historical and cultural monuments. The demolition, removal or alteration of fixed monuments is, as a rule, prohibited.

65. In connexion with the question of the use of the results of scientific progress and the practical application, it should be noted that article 21 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR states that

"the State concerns itself with improving working conditions, safety and labour protection and the scientific organization of work, and with reducing and ultimately eliminating all arduous physical labour through comprehensive mechanization and automation of production processes in all branches of the economy".

66. The Constitution guarantees the individual's right to protection of moral and material interests arising from any scientific, literary or artistic work of which one is the author. Article 45 states that "the rights of authors, inventors and innovators are protected by the State".

67. Copyright is considered a human right and is guaranteed by legislation in the USSR and the Byelorussian SSR and by a range of measures for the implementation of that right. Section IV of the "Fundamentals of Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics" is entirely devoted to copyright. The Civil Code of the Byelorussian SSR also contains a section IV, entitled "Copyright", which develops and elaborates the fundamental provisions on Soviet copyright.

68. Article 45 of the Byelorussian Constitution states:

"Citizens of the Byelorussian SSR, in accordance with the aims of building communism, are guaranteed freedom of scientific, technical and artistic work. This freedom is ensured by broadening scientific research, encouraging invention and innovation, and developing literature and the arts. The State provides the necessary material conditions for this and support from voluntary societies and unions of workers in the arts and organizes the introduction of inventions and innovations in production and other spheres of activity."

69. The outstanding aspects of the Byelorussian culture, which is considered to be the inalienable right of the people and not a type of service sold for maximum

profit, are its broad popular character and its humanism. People active in the fields of science, literature and the arts are independent of commercial considerations and producers. This is the basis for the freedom of creative work, which is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR.

70. Byelorussian writers and poets, and those involved in culture and the arts, are creating outstanding works. The treasury of Soviet literature and art has been enriched by the immortal works of Yakub Kolas, Yanka Kupala, K. Krapiva, I. Shamyakin, V. Bykov, N. Aladov, E. Tikotsky, V. Olovnikov, Z. Azgur, M. Savitsky, and many other representatives of Byelorussian culture.

71. Article 49 of the Byelorussian Constitution gives citizens of the Republic the right "... to associate in public organizations that promote their political activity and initiative and the satisfaction of their various interests". The creative unions of the Byelorussian SSR (the Writers' Union, the Artists' Union, the Composers' Union, the Journalists' Union, the Architects' Union and the Film Producers' Union) on the one hand unite, organize and mobilize the literary and artistic intelligentsia in the creation of works imbued with lofty ideas and craftsmanship, encourage their members to participate in social and civic activities and provide them with specific material and other types of support and, on the other hand, they participate actively in the cultural, ideological and socio-political life of society.

72. In carrying out a wide programme for the development of science, literature and the arts, the Byelorussian SSR maintains extensive contacts and exchanges in the field of culture, information and education with other Soviet Socialist Republics and with other countries and provides other States with assistance in training their qualified personnel.

73. In the Republic favourable arrangements have been made for tours by foreign artists, singers, musicians and dancers, theatre companies and musical ensembles. Every year people who are engaged in culture and the arts visit the Byelorussian SSR from almost 30 countries. In return, professional companies and the best amateur associations of the Republic visit a large number of countries abroad. Contacts with people active in the cultural field abroad are constantly expanding, and agreements on cultural and creative co-operation are being concluded. For example, on the initiative of the Ministry of Culture of the Byelorussian SSR alone several hundred representatives of Byelorussian culture and the arts visited 25 countries in 1980. Direct co-operation has been established between the State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre of the Byelorussian SSR and a number of opera houses in Poland and the German Democratic Republic.

74. International scientific and technical co-operation has been developed extensively, as has tourism.

75. Byelorussian scientists and specialists have visited many countries to take part in scientific conferences and symposia and in meetings of experts. On the initiative of the Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education and the Ministry of Education of the Byelorussian SSR, a large number of scientific workers, teachers and students pay visits abroad every year. Direct co-operation between higher-education institutions is being developed. For

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example, in 1980 agreements on scientific and cultural relations were concluded between the Byelorussian V. A. Lenin State University and universities in Viet Nam and Cuba.

76. The Byelorussian Association for Friendship and Cultural Links with Foreign Countries, a mass public organization in the Republic, has maintained links and contacts with hundreds of organizations and associations in 71 countries.

77. Owing to its educational achievements, the Byelorussian SSR has been able to broaden the scale of its programme for training qualified personnel from other countries. Foreigners from 93 countries are studying in the Byelorussian SSR.

78. In this way the provisions of the relevant articles of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are being fully observed and implemented in the Byelorussian SSR.
