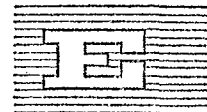


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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-eighth session

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION
AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID

Reports submitted by States parties under
article VII of the Convention

Addendum

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS 1/

[17 December 1981]

1/ The initial and second reports submitted by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.4/1277/Add.11 and E/CN.4/1415/Add.2) were considered by the Group of Three at its 1978 and 1981 sessions respectively.

As already indicated in the periodic reports submitted in 1978 and 1980 on this question (E/CN.4/1277/Add.11 and E/CN.4/1415/Add.2), any manifestation of the ideology and practice of apartheid is deeply alien to the Soviet State and the Soviet people. This is brought out quite clearly by Soviet legislation; primarily article 36 of the Constitution of the USSR, which states: "Citizens of the USSR of different races and nationalities have equal rights.

Exercise of these rights is ensured by a policy of all-round development and drawing together of all the nations and nationalities of the USSR, by educating citizens in the spirit of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism, and by the possibility of using their native language and the languages of other peoples of the USSR.

Any direct or indirect limitation of the rights of citizens or establishment of direct or indirect privileges on grounds of race or nationality, and any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness, hostility or contempt, are punishable by law."

The provisions on racial and national equality of rights embodied in the Constitution of the USSR are unshakeable principles which underlie Soviet legislation and life in Soviet society as a whole. An important event supplementing and further developing these principles was the adoption by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 24 June 1981 of the Act on the Legal Status of Aliens in the USSR. The Act states that aliens in the USSR are equal before the law irrespective of origin, social or property status, race or nationality, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, type and nature of occupation or other status (article 3).

The new Act confirms the constitutional provision concerning the granting by the USSR and the Union Republics of the right of asylum to foreigners persecuted for defending the interests of the working people and the cause of peace, or for participation in the revolutionary and national liberation movement, or for progressive social and political, scientific or other creative activity.

A distinctive feature of the Act is the special provisions which confirm the social and economic rights of aliens in the USSR and provide guarantees for the exercise of these rights.

With regard to labour relations, the Act provides (article 7) that aliens permanently resident in the Soviet Union may work as manual or non-manual employees in enterprises, establishments and organizations or engage in any labour activity in accordance with the conditions and procedures established for citizens of the USSR. Aliens temporarily in the USSR may engage in any labour activity in the Soviet Union if it is compatible with the purposes of their stay in the USSR. In so doing, aliens enjoy the same rights and have the same responsibilities in the field of labour relations as citizens of the USSR.

Aliens in the USSR have the right to rest and leisure, health protection, social security, education, housing and enjoyment of cultural benefits (articles 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of the Act).

Under the Act, aliens in the USSR are guaranteed freedom of conscience on an equal footing with citizens of the USSR (article 16); they enjoy the same rights and have the same responsibilities as Soviet citizens with regard to marriage and family relations (article 17); and they are guaranteed inviolability of the person and of the home (article 18).

The Soviet Union, true to the Leninist principles of its foreign policy, has consistently participated in the fight against apartheid in the international arena.

The USSR strictly complies with the provisions of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, favours an increase in the number of its participants, and supports and carries out all the decisions and recommendations of international bodies aimed at fighting apartheid.

Soviet representatives have played an active part in the work of various international meetings concerned with the struggle against apartheid, such as the International Conference in Solidarity with the Struggle of the People of Namibia (Paris, 1980), the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa (Paris, 1981) and the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on Namibia (September, 1981).

In his message to the participants at the Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, Mr. L.I. Brezhnev, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, said: "The Soviet Union, as was stressed once again at the recent twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, consistently pursues a course aimed at supporting the national liberation movements, firmly resisting the aggressive designs of imperialism and adopting decisive measures with a view to the eradication of racism and apartheid."

The Soviet Union adopts a clear and consistent position on the Namibian question. "We shall continue to provide support to the just struggle of the people of Namibia, headed by SWAPO, for its freedom and for the immediate settlement of the Namibian question, in full accordance with the decisions of the United Nations and the demands of the Organization of African Unity", said Mr. Brezhnev in his congratulatory message to the States and peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day, on 25 May 1981. At the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on Namibia, Soviet representatives once again emphasized that the Soviet Union seeks no special rights or privileges in either Namibia or Africa as a whole and is striving to ensure that the long-suffering people of Namibia, as well as other peoples still under the domination of colonialist and racists, achieve their freedom and genuine independence without delay, and have the possibility of independent national development. Stress was laid on the need decisively to repulse the impudent racists, to make use of the possibilities offered by the Charter of the United Nations and to impose the most stringent sanctions on the Republic of South Africa in accordance with chapter VII of the Charter.

The Soviet delegation endorsed the resolution adopted by a majority at the General Assembly session, which strongly urged the Security Council of the United Nations immediately to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

The Soviet public is engaged in widespread activity in support of the national liberation movements in southern Africa, aimed at unmasking the crimes of the apartheid régime.

Its representatives took an active part in the session of the International Commission for the Investigation of Racist and Apartheid Régimes in Southern Africa, held in Luanda in February 1981, in the course of which conclusive evidence based on eyewitness accounts and official documents was introduced revealing the involvement of the governing circles of leading capitalist countries and international monopolies in the crimes committed by the racist régime of South Africa.

At the initiative of Soviet public organizations, meetings and gatherings are held annually in the Soviet Union to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March) and Africa Liberation Day (25 May); from 25 to 31 March, the annual Week of Solidarity with the Struggling Peoples of South Africa is held in the USSR, during which meetings and gatherings expressing solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia are organized by Soviet public organizations and exhibits and seminars are held. There is widespread observation by the Soviet public of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (16 June), South Africa Freedom Day (26 June), Namibia Day (26 August), the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October) and the Day of Heroes of Southern Africa (16 December).

Soviet public organizations provide active assistance to those struggling against apartheid in the distribution of their information material calling for intensification and unity of action by all progressive forces against the apartheid régime. The literature distributed through the co-operation of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa includes the journal "sechaba" (ANC), "Namibia Today" (SWAPO), and bulletins and papers of international and national organizations fighting against apartheid. The Committee's journal "Asia and Africa Today", issued in Russian, English and French and published jointly with the African Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, regularly contains information on the policy of terror and repression pursued by the racist régime of South Africa, on its aggressive activities against neighbouring independent States, and on the economic, political and military co-operation of several NATO member countries with the Pretoria régime.

Soviet public organizations regularly provide material assistance to national liberation movements fighting against the apartheid régime. This material assistance comes from the Soviet Peace Fund, whose resources consist of voluntary contributions from Soviet public organizations, State enterprises and individual citizens. Over the past few years, the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa has contributed about \$200,000 to the United Nations Fund broadcasts to southern Africa. Through grants from the Soviet Committee for Solidarity, hundreds of activists from national liberation movements have attended courses in educational institutions of the USSR in various branches of economics, public health, science and culture, and many are continuing their studies in the USSR.

The Soviet public provides practical support for the liberation struggle against apartheid in close contact with ANC and SWAPO, the legal representatives of the oppressed peoples of the Republic of South Africa and Namibia.