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Agenda item 4

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF
ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Note by the Secretary-General.

(Addendum)

Supplement to Annex IV

The comments of the Governments of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are as follows:

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

The Government of the Ukrainian SSR supports the effort of the United Nations to draft an international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

If such a convention is brought into being, it will represent a major contribution by the United Nations not only to the promotion of respect for human rights and freedoms, but also to the cause of international peace and security.

In the opinion of the Government of the Ukrainian SSR, the draft convention should be based on the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1963, at its eighteenth session. The convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination should not only condemn discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin but also define the obligations to be assumed by States in

eradicating and preventing all forms of racial discrimination in all spheres of political and public life.

The Convention should impose on States the following obligations:

(1) To adopt legislation at the national and local level prohibiting all discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin and all propaganda based on ideas or theories of the superiority or privileges of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin seeking to justify or promote racial discrimination in any form;

(2) To rescind, where they still exist, laws or other legal enactments which serve to create and perpetuate racial discrimination in any form;

(3) To provide penalties under criminal law for all incitement to violence or acts of violence, whether by individuals or organizations, against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin;

(4) To adopt the judicial, administrative and other measures required to protect the equal rights of all persons, without distinction as to race, colour or ethnic origin;

(5) To prohibit the various fascist and racist organizations which preach hatred of mankind and the use of violence against individuals and groups on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin;

(6) To take immediate legislative and practical action to prosecute or otherwise proceed against those organizations which encourage racial discrimination, incite to violence or employ violence for purposes of discrimination on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin;

(7) To adopt measures in the fields of teaching, education and information with a view to preventing and eliminating all forms of racial discrimination and racial prejudice.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations ... has the honour to state the following:

The unanimous adoption by the United Nations General Assembly at its eighteenth session of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination shows quite clearly that States Members of the United Nations attach great importance to the question of the elimination of racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations.

Other resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolution 1906 (XVIII) of 20 November 1963 which requested United Nations organs to give absolute priority to the preparation of an international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, emphasize the urgency of this problem and the need for speedy preparation of a draft convention for submission to the nineteenth session of the General Assembly.

United Nations organs, including the Commission on Human Rights at its current session, should therefore make every possible effort to prepare the draft international convention in time, taking as a basis the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 20 November 1963.

The Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations also considers it necessary to draw attention to the proposals made by the USSR delegation at the eighteenth session of the General Assembly during the discussion of the United Nations Declaration on this question, particularly concerning concrete and effective measures, including legislative and other measures, aimed at prohibiting all racist and fascist organizations and banning their activities, putting an end to the criminal policy of genocide and preventing the dissemination of ideas or theories of racial superiority.

The Permanent Mission wishes to point out, in particular, that since the convention deals with questions of interest to all States and is aimed at enlisting the support of all countries in the fight against so crying a social evil as racial discrimination, it should be universal in character and be open for signature to all States.

The Soviet Union reserves the right to make specific proposals and comments during the drafting of the convention by United Nations organs.