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ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

I. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF UNITED NATIONS BODIES ADOPTED DURING
1982 THAT AFFECT THE ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF
HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Commission on Human Rights (thirty-eighth session); Economic and Social Council
(first regular session, 1982)

1. The Commission on Human Rights at its 60th meeting on 11 March 1982 adopted resolution 1982/37 concerning advisory services in the field of human rights designed to help the Government of Uganda to continue guaranteeing the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The resolution was subsequently approved by decision 1982/139 of the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session in 1982.

2. Pursuant to this resolution the Secretary-General was requested, in response to the interest expressed by the Government of Uganda, to provide consultative advisory services and other forms of appropriate assistance to help the Government of Uganda to take appropriate measures to continue guaranteeing the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, paying particular attention to the following areas: (a) the need for appropriate assistance to restore a law library for the High Court and Ministry of Justice; (b) the need for a qualified and experienced expert to serve as Commissioner for the revision of Ugandan laws in conformity with recognized norms of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the printing of consolidated volumes of the revised laws, (c) the need for the training of prison officers with a view to securing the application of recognized norms on treatment of prisoners; and (d) the need for the training of police officials, particularly investigative and scientific experts. The Commission further decided to review the question at its thirty-ninth session under the item "Advisory services in the field of human rights", in the light of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of this resolution. With regard to such implementation, attention is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/CN.4/1982/31.

3. At the same session in which it considered the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea, the Commission adopted resolution 1982/34 whereby it recommended a resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. The resolution,

adopted by the Council as resolution 1982/36, took note of the plan of action proposed by the Secretary-General for the restoration of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Equatorial Guinea and requested the Secretary-General with expert assistance if necessary, to discuss with the Government of Equatorial Guinea the role that the United Nations could play in the implementation of the plan of action. The Government of Equatorial Guinea was invited to co-operate with the Secretary-General in this respect. The Secretary-General was also requested to inform the Economic and Social Council at its second session in 1982 of the steps taken to implement the resolution, and to report further to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session. The Commission was requested to review the question at its thirty-ninth session. For the implementation of the resolution, attention is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General, contained in document E/CN.4/1983/17.

B. General Assembly (thirty-seventh session)

4. It will be recalled that the General Assembly adopted at its thirty-sixth session resolution 36/154 in which it noted with satisfaction that consultations had been held with member States of the Asian region with a view to the holding of a seminar at Colombo, to consider appropriate arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, and requested the Secretary-General to organize that seminar in 1982 and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the deliberations of the seminar. For the implementation of this resolution, attention is drawn to paragraph 7 of this report.

5. Pursuant to this resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a report (A/37/422) on the deliberations of the seminar which was held in Colombo from 21 June to 2 July 1982.

6. Following consideration of the Secretary-General's report, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions: 37/171 and 37/172. In the first resolution 37/171, the Secretary-General was requested to transmit the report of the seminar to States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and to invite their comments thereon; he was further requested to submit the report of the seminar, together with the comments received, to the Commission on Human Rights at its fortieth session for its consideration, and to report through the Economic and Social Council to the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The General Assembly also decided to consider the question further at its thirty-ninth session. Secondly, in resolution 37/172, the Secretary-General was requested to compile and to update his reports on the status of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, to include therein a review of the exchanges of experience and information between the United Nations and regional organs and organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as ways and means of furthering those exchanges, and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

II. SEMINARS

7. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/154 and at the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka, a regional seminar on "National and local arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian region" was held at Colombo, from 21 June to 2 July 1982. The report of the seminar, issued as document ST/HR/SER.A/12, is made available to members of the Commission. As mentioned in paragraph 5 above, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the deliberations of the seminar for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

8. At its thirty-sixth session the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/169 concerning the observance of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To celebrate this anniversary the Secretary-General is requested to initiate appropriate activities at the United Nations level, including the organization in 1985 at Geneva of a special international seminar to discuss the experiences of different countries in the implementation of international standards on human rights. Preparations for this seminar, which is tentatively scheduled to be held during the first part of 1985, are now under way.

9. In planning future seminars under the programme of advisory services the Secretary-General will take into account the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and other United Nations bodies dealing with human rights, as well as the suggestions made in this regard by these organs in the course of their deliberations.

III. FELLOWSHIPS AND TRAINING COURSE

A. Fellowships: extent of participation in the 1982 programme, nature of awards and programme for 1983

10. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 926 (X), human rights fellowships are available to qualified candidates nominated by Member States who are planning to study any subject in the field of human rights which is of concern to the United Nations (as defined in the United Nations covenants, declarations and resolutions with regard to universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms) provided, however, that the subject is not one that falls within the scope of other existing technical assistance programmes or one for which adequate advisory assistance is available through a specialized agency. In the selection of candidates, preference is given to persons having direct responsibilities in the field of the implementation of human rights in their respective countries.

11. In 1982, the Secretary-General received 63 governmental nominations for individual human rights fellowships. The Secretary-General has attempted to ensure a broad distribution of the fellowships among the nationalities of the applicants. Within the financial resources available, recommendations were made for the award of 32 individual fellowships to candidates from 32 different countries. In this connection, attention is drawn to the annex to this report.

12. Candidates nominated by Governments in 1982 continued to be of a high level in terms of their qualifications. The recipients of fellowship awards included, in particular, government officials with responsibility for the administration of justice and for drafting legislation, as well as other officials from ministries of justice, of education, of the interior and of foreign affairs, and officials of police departments.

13. In 1983, the Secretary-General will continue to provide human rights fellowships, within the available financial resources, as appropriate.

B. Training course

14. In 1982 no training course was held under the programme.

15. Depending on the availability of funds the Secretary-General will explore with interested Governments the possibilities of organizing regional training courses on human rights in future years, in accordance with resolution 17 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights.

IV. ADVISORY SERVICES OF EXPERTS

16. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 926 (X) the programme of advisory services also provides for the advisory services of experts in the field of human rights. Since the inception of the programme in 1956 only a few Governments have availed themselves of these expert services. The Secretary-General wishes to inform the Commission that, depending on the availability of funds, this component of the advisory services programme is still in existence and that he would welcome the interest of Member States in this regard.

17. During the period under review, in compliance with the request of the President of Equatorial Guinea, the Secretary-General has provided the Government of Equatorial Guinea with two constitutional experts to assist the Government in the drafting of a new constitution. For details on these expert services attention is called to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/CN.4/1983/17.

18. As stated in paragraph 2 of this report, advisory services of experts will be provided to the Government of Uganda.

ANNEX

1982 HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

RECIPIENT COUNTRIES AND THE TOPICS OF STUDY OF
THEIR RESPECTIVE FELLOWS

Country	Topic of study
1. Argentina	Protection of human rights of the indigenous population
2. Australia	Human rights aspects of improperly obtained evidence
3. Bahamas	Human rights of convicted and released offenders and their families
4. China	Education of youth in respect of human rights
5. Cuba	Functions of the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary bodies
6. Cyprus	Protection of human rights in criminal trials
7. Czechoslovakia	Work of the Commission on Human Rights
8. Ecuador	Exploitation of the national resources and its effect on the protection of human rights in the economic and social fields
9. Egypt	Protection of the human rights of immigrants and resident aliens
10. Ethiopia	Freedom of information and human rights
11. Fiji	Protection of human rights of convicted and released offenders and their families
12. Gabon	Protection of human rights in the administration of justice
13. Greece	Protection of the human rights of minorities
14. Honduras	The teaching of human rights as a means of promoting human rights
15. Hungary	The administration of justice in family courts
16. India	Judicial organization and administration in relation to the protection of human rights
17. Israel	Protection of human rights in the administration of justice
18. Italy	Protection of the human rights of refugees and Stateless persons

Country	Topic of study
19. Madagascar	Protection of human rights in the administration of justice, with special reference to penal law and procedure
20. Nepal	Protection of human rights in the administration of justice
21. Papua New Guinea	The promoting of observance of, and respect for, the right to freedom from inhuman treatment on the part of the police and correctional officers
22. Poland	Protection of human rights in the drafting and implementation of economic and social legislation
23. Portugal	Protection of human rights in the administration of justice
24. Senegal	Protection of human rights in the administration of justice with special reference to civil law and procedure
25. Sudan	Protection of human rights in criminal procedure
26. Suriname	Rights of the Child, with particular reference to the protection of the rights of children placed for adoption and children born out of wedlock
27. Tanzania	Protection of human rights in preliminary investigations and pre-trial proceedings with special emphasis on legal representation
28. Thailand	Protection of human rights of refugees, other immigrants and resident aliens
29. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Study of the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights, including standard-setting activities
30. Uruguay	Protection of human rights in the developing countries
31. Viet Nam	Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination
32. Yemen, the People's Democratic Republic of	Protection of human rights in the administration of justice, with special reference to civil law and procedure