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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 13-15

BULGARIA

[13 January 1983]

I. ARTICLE 13: RIGHT TO EDUCATION

A. Principal legislative instruments

1. The principal legislative instruments are the following:
 - (a) Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, articles 3 and 45; 1/
 - (b) Decree on national education; 2/
 - (c) Act establishing a closer link between education and life, with a view to the further development of education in the People's Republic of Bulgaria; 3/
 - (d) Act on higher education. 4/

* E/1983/30.

B. The right to education and the exercise of that right

1. Constitutional bases for national education policy in the People's Republic of Bulgaria

2. The People's Republic of Bulgaria has a comprehensive education policy, which it pursues in a consistent manner. This policy is based on the provisions of the Constitution. According to article 3, paragraph 1, one of the principal tasks to be undertaken by the State is that of "Creating conditions conducive to the continuous improvement of ... public education" and "Ensuring the free development of the individual, guaranteeing his rights and protecting his dignity". State policy with regard to education serves the people, including all citizens, and herein lies its popular and profoundly democratic character. This principal characteristic of national education policy stems from the nature of the prevailing social system and from the far-reaching social changes which have taken place since 9 September 1944. The new social conditions require the spread of knowledge throughout the population and improvement of the educational level of the masses, so as to enable them to participate consciously and knowledgeably in the constructive changes occurring in Bulgaria.

3. National education policy revolves around the right to education, as well as the realization of that right. The Constitution not only recognizes this right, but makes it one of the fundamental rights of the citizen. According to article 45, paragraph 1, "Citizens have the right to education free of charge at all levels and in all categories of educational establishment as prescribed by law". Education is provided free of charge in all educational establishments - primary, secondary, semi-tertiary and tertiary. Education was already completely free of charge long before the entry into force of the 1971 Constitution and the principal instrument in this regard was the Act abolishing school fees, 5/ adopted 22 years ago. Education without charge means that students at all types of educational establishment are exempt from any school fees or similar fees. The entire cost of education is borne by society and financed from the State budget and from funds of economic organizations. One clear trend is noteworthy. As the country's economic potential grows, there is an increase in the funds allocated to education. The table appearing below shows that in 1970 expenditure on education amounted to 513,845,000 leva, out of a total national income of 10,527,400,000 leva. In 1975, the corresponding figures were 787,599,000 leva and 14,288,600,000 leva. In 1980, 1,145,118,000 leva were allocated to education, out of a national income of 20,508,600,000 leva. In 1970, per capita expenditure on education was 62 leva, while in 1975 there was a 50 per cent increase - to 92 leva; in 1980, the amount for the year was 129 leva, or more than double the figure for 1970.

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	1970	1975	1980
National income	10,526,400,000	14,288,600,000	20,508,600,000
Expenditure on education	513,845,000	787,599,000	1,145,118,000
% increase compared with 1970	-	53	123
<u>Per capita</u> education expenditure	62	92	129

4. In accordance with article 45, paragraph 6, of the Constitution, "The State shall promote education ...". This general line of State policy with regard to education is reflected not only in the fact that education is free of charge but also in the obligation of the State to provide all necessary material and moral conditions to enable citizens truly to benefit from this fundamental right to education and to exercise that right. The material expression of this State "promotion" is the resources mentioned above, which the State takes from the national income and allocates to the continuous and dynamic development and further improvement of national education.

2. Right to primary education

5. By virtue of article 45, paragraph 4, of the Constitution, "Primary education is compulsory".

6. Primary education lasts for eight years and consists of two four-year cycles: from class I to class IV and from class V to class VIII (article 4 of the Act establishing a closer link between education and life). It starts when children have completed their sixth year and continues until the age of 16.

7. Most children between the ages of three and six attend kindergarten before entering primary school. Kindergartens are pre-school educational establishments that are part of the country's unified national system of educational establishments (article 4 of the Decree on National Education). The child care provided there is designed to ensure not only healthy physical growth but also a correct intellectual development by means of special programmes suited to that age group and preparing children for school itself. Most of the cost of children's attendance at kindergarten is borne by the State and parents are required to pay only a very small share, in proportion to their means. The following figures are of interest as regards the number of kindergartens, of children attending them and of teachers working there:

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	<u>1965</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>
Kindergartens	7,914	7,550	6,185
Teachers	16,392	24,137	28,996
Children	323,883	392,625	420,804

Source: 1981 Statistical Yearbook, p. 402.

8. The decline in the number of kindergartens is due to the increase in the size of such establishments, as a result of the declining number of urban centres swelled by the migration processes. The significant fact in this connection is the increase in kindergarten attendance, despite the unfavourable demographic changes which occurred, as well as the increase in the number of teachers and the emphasis placed on the kindergartens' role in preparing children for primary school.

9. All children between the ages of 6 and 16 attend primary school. Compulsory primary education, proclaimed by the Constitution, is thus achieved in practice. During the school year 1981/82, total enrolment in primary schools was 713,869. In recent years, a decrease in total school enrolment has been noted, which may be explained by the falling birth rate.

10. Primary education is provided in 2,288 primary schools evenly distributed throughout the country. There is a primary school in almost every inhabited locality, however few the number of school-age children. The minimum number for a class is five children for classes I to IV, five pupils for combined classes from class I to class IV and 10 pupils for classes V to VIII. 6/ Instruction is given by qualified teachers who have received specialized teacher training as well as instruction in the subject-matter being taught. The number of teachers is in general increasing steadily, despite the decline in the number of pupils: 43,056 in 1960, 47,798 in 1970 and 51,648 in 1981. 7/ This demonstrates the determination of the authorities to raise the standard of education by providing the necessary number of teachers for the adequate training of young people. Since 1975, students at primary schools have been given textbooks and notebooks free of charge. 8/

11. Special schools exist for disabled children (slow developers, blind or deaf children, etc.), which are equipped with the necessary apparatus and technical facilities. The instruction provided there is adapted to the particular needs of the children, in accordance with established curricula, and is given by specialized teaching staff. The number of such schools is growing, with the aim of providing appropriate education for all disabled children, in every category. For example, in 1960 these schools numbered 66; there were 116 in 1970 and 129 in 1981. The number of children attending such schools is also on the rise: 7,080 in 1960, 16,870 in 1970 and 17,420 in 1981. This trend is accompanied by an increase in the number of specialized teachers: 881 in 1960, 2,155 in 1970 and 2,373 in 1981. 9/

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3. Right to secondary education

12. The right to secondary education is part of the constitutional right to education of citizens in Bulgaria. Under article 45, paragraph 5, of the Constitution, "the State shall create the necessary conditions to make secondary education available to all". The State devotes much attention to the implementation of this article of the Constitution. "Secondary education available to all" means that all children who complete their primary education are guaranteed the opportunity of pursuing their studies at the secondary level. The duration of secondary education is from three to five years. Considerable progress has been made in this regard: 95 per cent of the children who complete their primary education continue their studies in the various types of secondary schools. The secondary school offers a wide variety of courses and trains middle-level cadres for all sectors of life, in accordance with the requirements of society and the aptitude and preference of the pupil. In 1981, Bulgaria had a total of 741 secondary schools, with approximately 340,000 pupils in all.

13. The main problem which secondary education has tackled in recent years has been its conversion to a polytechnic basis and the linkage of secondary education with production and work of benefit to society. The aim is to ensure not only that pupils receive a general education during this period but also that they acquire work skills, occupational qualifications and the competence, at the end of their studies, to enter a specific sector of the national economy, depending on the occupation and specialization in which they have been trained. Accordingly, as an integral part of secondary education, pupils are required to spend a training period in the workplace, where technicians and engineers supervise their acquisition of the skills and knowledge of a given trade or occupation.

14. The polytechnic secondary school is one of the most important types of secondary school. In addition to receiving a general education, the pupils of such a school acquire the knowledge, competence and practical skills required for working in a specific occupation (e.g., electrical engineering, typing, sewing, etc.). The duration of studies is three years. The number of such schools is constantly increasing: 157 in 1965, 200 in 1975 and 210 in 1981; the number of pupils was 97,089 in 1981. ^{10/} The polytechnic secondary schools include also the language schools, which are secondary schools that teach a foreign language (Russian, French, English, Spanish, German) and which give priority to instruction in the language selected. In 1982, there were 38 language schools in Bulgaria, with a total of 17,695 pupils.

15. Another type of secondary school is the vocation-technical secondary school. This is a specialized school which prepares middle-level cadres for industry, construction, transport, communications, the rural economy and forestry, tourism and so forth. These schools provide, in addition to a general education, fairly extensive technical training for a given occupation in a sector of the national economy. The duration of studies is three years. The number of such schools and that of their pupils is increasing steadily: 41 in 1965 with 15,324 pupils, 196 in 1970 with 83,038 pupils, 297 in 1981 with 149,686 pupils. ^{11/}

16. Other important secondary-level establishments for the training of technical and specialized middle-level cadres are the secondary arts school and the technical school. Studies at the latter last four years, whereas at the secondary arts school their duration is five years. The technical school provides a general education accompanied by technical training in the special field of the school concerned (construction, transport, communications, public catering, etc.), whereas the secondary arts school combines general education with specialized instruction in the field chosen: music, painting and so forth. The number of these schools and their pupils matches national requirements and reflects the interest which they represent. In 1981, Bulgaria had 221 technical schools with 94,320 pupils and 13 secondary arts schools with 3,255 pupils. 12/

17. The two-year technical-vocational school is yet another establishment above the primary level. It prepares skilled workers for specific sectors of the national economy. The number of such schools has declined in recent years and there are now only three establishments of this type. The explanation for this decline lies in the increased number of three-year technical-vocational schools, education at which is of greater appeal.

4. Fight to higher education

18. The right to higher education is part of the constitutional right to education. The means for its exercise are the establishments of advanced studies, universities, institutes, academies and so forth. A prior condition of acceptance is the presentation of a certificate attesting to the completion of secondary studies. Acceptance is also subject to the results of an entrance examination. The latter tests knowledge in a variety of fields, depending on the type of institution of higher education and the specialization selected. The entrance examination is a means of assessing the knowledge and ability of the candidates and selecting the best of them.

19. Higher education lasts from four to six years, according to the specialization. It culminates in a State examination or the defence of a thesis.

20. Since the victory of the Socialist Revolution of 9 September 1944, higher education has shown a remarkable expansion in Bulgaria. In 1939, there were only five institutions of higher education, comprising seven faculties in all, with 10,169 students; in 1965, there were 26 such establishments, with 42 faculties and 84,467 students; in 1981, there were 28 institutions of higher education, 69 faculties and 85,330 students. 13/ Not all these institutions are in the capitals; they are spread among 14 cities, thereby ensuring greater ease of access and enabling young people throughout the country to study at an advanced level. Higher education prepares cadres for all the branches of science and social life: the natural sciences, mathematics, engineering, economics, teaching, medicine, law, agriculture and so forth.

21. The teaching staff in these establishments are highly qualified and their number is steadily increasing to match national requirements. Whereas in 1939 Bulgaria had only 140 full professors, 60 associate professors and 177 lecturers,

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in 1965 it had 471 full professors, 683 associate professors, 3,246 lecturers and 1,505 assistant lecturers, and by 1981 it had 857 full professors, 2,073 associate professors, 6,616 lecturers, and 3,076 assistant lecturers, or a total of 12,622 higher-education staff. 14/

22. The State devotes particular attention to the improvement of the material and living conditions of students. As has already been mentioned, the cost of all education, including higher education, is borne in full by the State and students pay no tuition, laboratory or other fees. A well-tested system for the award of scholarships is in force. It is described later in this document (see sect. 7). In addition, the State has built and organized university halls of residence and hostels, where students are charged nothing or very little for accommodation. The number of places in the halls of residence is increasing steadily. Thus, from 8,500 in 1965, their number had grown to 23,261 in 1980, representing accommodation for 30 per cent of the full-time students. All the students are entitled to eat in the university cafeterias, which provide well-prepared meals, at midday and in the evening, for a modest sum. The difference between the price charged and the real cost of such meals is borne by the State.

23. Bulgaria also has a traditional form of education which is specific to it: semi-specialized higher education. It is available to students who have completed their secondary education and who pass the entrance examination of the institutions of semi-specialized higher education. As the name indicates, the duration of studies is from two to three years. The institutions concerned train teachers for the elementary stage of the primary school (from the first class to the fourth class), cadres for communications, libraries, international tourism and so forth. In 1970, Bulgaria had 70 institutions of semi-specialized higher education with 10,265 students, and in 1981 it had 24 with 14,024 students. Teaching in such institutions is by qualified staff whose number has also increased: from 555 in 1970 to 1,790 in 1981. 15/

5. The right to education in relation to persons who could not be integrated into normal types of education

24. There are various ways in which persons who, for one reason or another, were unable to receive the desired education in the normal manner, i.e., by attending a certain type of school at a certain level and obtaining a diploma, can pursue their studies. They can complete their education later, while working by means of evening classes and correspondence courses.

25. These forms of education are used mainly at the secondary and higher education levels. In 1981, the 23 night schools providing general education at the secondary level were being attended by 3,354 students and the 11 night schools providing vocational training had 9,229 students. In 1981, night schools providing technical education and night schools providing art education at the secondary level had 9,474 students, and 13,657 students were taking correspondence courses. 16/ Evening classes and correspondence courses are provided by many faculties of higher-education institutions. The number of students taking correspondence courses was 24,461 in 1965, 28,608 in 1975 and 19,487 in 1981, and there were 700 students attending evening classes in 1981. 17/

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26. There is another type of education that is typical in Bulgaria and has become extremely common in recent years, aimed at providing specialized secondary education. This type of education takes the form of classes held in vocational study centres in factories and businesses for young people who have not completed their secondary education. Their employers arrange classes for them outside working hours, and the teaching staff come from the regular schools. At present there are 661 centres of this type in the country, with 199 affiliated centres also attended by persons wishing to complete their secondary education.

27. Students attending evening classes and taking correspondence courses enjoy a number of additional rights that enable them to pursue their studies while working. Depending on the level of the institution they are attending, they are entitled to additional paid annual leave of 20 to 50 days, and those attending evening classes are entitled to shorter working hours on days when they have classes. Depending on the type and level of the educational institution they are attending, they are entitled to unpaid annual leave of one to three months for the purpose of preparing for and sitting half-yearly, end-of-year and State examinations or for preparing a thesis. Length of service continues to accrue during such unpaid leave and the persons concerned retain their posts, to which they return following their leave. ^{18/} These rights are important and facilitate study for persons attending evening classes or taking correspondence courses.

28. The opportunities provided by law for persons pursuing their studies while continuing to work are actually taken advantage of by all students who are taking correspondence courses or attending evening classes at Bulgarian institutions providing secondary, further and higher education.

6. Development of the school system at all levels

29. As may be seen from the table below, the school system is undergoing rapid development and is in the process of being restructured.

Types and levels	Number of schools			
	1970	1975	1980	1981
Total schools	4,933	4,485	4,292	4,298
Schools providing general education	4,197	3,747	3,577	3,550
Specialized schools	116	125	129	129
Vocational and technical	132	8	3	3
Vocational-technical at the secondary level	196	307	297	297
Technical and art schools	246	246	234	234
Schools providing further education	20	28	24	24
Schools providing higher education	26	24	28	28

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30. A downward trend is becoming apparent in the total number of schools, which declined from 4,933 in 1970 to 4,298 in 1981. In addition to the expansion and merger of some schools, there are unfavourable demographic phenomena that are resulting in a population decrease in economically less active communities and hence a reduction in the number, or a complete lack, of school-age children in those communities, which is why some schools, mostly general schools, have been closed. The number of general schools declined from 4,197 in 1970 to 3,550 in 1981. The rapid industrialization of the country is also creating a need for highly skilled cadres, which accounts for the drop in the number of vocational-technical schools (from 132 in 1970 to 3 in 1981). Vocational and technical schools provide cadres with two years of post-primary education, whereas vocational and technical schools at the secondary level provide courses of three or four years, after eighth grade. Even more striking is the comparison with 1939, when there were 41,094 pupils attending vocational and technical schools, whereas in 1965 there were 71,008 and by 1970 the number had fallen to 16,870. The number of vocational and technical schools at the secondary level and the number of pupils attending them is growing at the expense of two-year vocational and technical schools. Whereas in 1965 (when the new type of school was introduced) there were 15,324 pupils attending such secondary schools and in 1970 there were 83,038, in 1981 the number of pupils reached the figure of 133,058.

31. The factor responsible for the downward trend in the number of schools is, therefore, the decline in the number of school-age children. In 1939 the total number of pupils was 1,072,250, in 1965 there was a peak of 1,630,741 pupils, and in 1981 the number dropped to 1,478,356. This is typical of the trend in post-war Europe, with a declining birthrate and increasing longevity.

32. At the same time, there was a steady increase in the number of teachers of all types and at all levels. Although in comparison with 1939 the number of pupils had increased by only some 40 per cent by 1981, the number of teachers had risen by over 300 per cent (from 31,889 in 1939 to 99,890 in 1981).

33. The State is making a parallel effort to supply schools with such materials and technical equipment as modern audio-visual materials, laboratories and visual aids, which are helpful to the teaching process and facilitate the pupils' work, and funds are being allocated for this.

34. The increase in the number of teachers in primary and secondary schools, which is greater than the increase in the number of pupils, is leading to a gradual reduction in the average number of pupils per teacher at the primary and secondary levels or, in other words, to an improvement in teaching conditions. For example, in 1970 there was an average of 20 pupils per teacher, whereas in 1981 the figure was 17; in 1970 there were 38 pupils in a class, whereas in 1981 there were 33. 19/

7. Development of the scholarship system

35. In accordance with article 45, paragraph 6, of the Constitution, one way in which the State promotes education is by granting scholarships to pupils. This form of incentive and assistance, whose purpose is to enable citizens to exercise

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their right to education, is well known and widespread and has been developing steadily, particularly in recent years.

36. Scholarships are awarded to pupils at all levels in the general-education sector, both by the public authorities and by the enterprises, departments and organizations concerned. Pupils may obtain a scholarship from a given enterprise or organization by undertaking to work for that enterprise or organization for a certain period of time after completing their studies. The scholarship does not have to be repaid or reimbursed, unless the recipient fails to fulfil his or her undertaking to accept the post offered.

37. The table below shows the number of scholarships compared with the number of pupils at the various types of schools. The number of scholarships for pupils at general schools has also doubled. Although there are now considerably fewer pupils at vocational and technical schools (six times fewer), the number of scholarships awarded to pupils at such schools is only three times lower.

Type and level of school	No. of pupils a/		
	1975	1978	1981
Vocational and technical schools	1842/9708	1662/2690	646/1627
Polytechnical secondary schools	17500/1095791	36746/1075879	31275/1134508
Technical schools	11972/141418	9065/105563	8879/96357
Schools for advanced studies	214111/106055	30291/91303	34398/85056

a/ The first figure represents the number of pupils and the second the number of scholarships.

38. The conditions and procedures for the award, suspension and termination of a scholarship, and the corresponding amounts, are presented by law. 20/ The amount of the scholarship varies according to the level of the educational institution concerned, scholarships for advanced students being higher (from 40 to 80 leva per month) and those for pupils at the secondary and primary levels being lower (from 20 to 40 leva per month). In one and the same educational institution, the amount of a pupil's scholarship may increase as the pupil becomes more senior. All students at higher education institutions with an average grade of more than 5.5 (out of 6) receive scholarships, regardless of their financial situation. All other students and pupils at secondary and primary schools receive scholarships that are based on their parents' income and the grades they have obtained. The granting of a scholarship thus fulfils the dual purpose of assisting those whose parents have low incomes and of encouraging able students.

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8. Material conditions of teaching staff

39. The number of teachers in Bulgaria at the primary, secondary, intermediate and higher levels shows a persistent upward trend and reached the figure of 99,890 in 1981. The State takes great care to improve the material conditions of teachers.

40. The rising scale of salaries for this category of personnel is significant in this connection. Their salaries in the People's Republic of Bulgaria increased in 1980 by more than 145 per cent as compared with 1960.

Indices	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980
Leva	844	995	1,390	1,652	2,072
Percentage increase over 1960	-	17.88	64.69	95.75	145.49

41. Special efforts are made to solve the housing problem of teaching staff. The State plans to build housing for teachers at an accelerated pace. Pursuant to decision 385, adopted by the Council of Ministers on 24 July 1971, supplementary investments were made to accelerate the construction of housing. In 1974, the Council of Ministers instructed the Municipal People's Council of the capital to make land available to the University of Sophia and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for the construction of 5,000 apartments, allocating 50 apartments each year as from 1972 for teachers and scientists.

9. Right to choice of school

42. According to article 45, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, "schools are State institutions". Private schools do not exist in the country. This decision of principle set forth in the Constitution is based on the fact that education is a public activity, for which the State is responsible to society as a whole, and it is the State which should provide education in the institutions organized and maintained by it. Consequently the Constitution does not allow, and the State cannot authorize, private natural and juridical persons to organize private schools which manipulate and assume responsibility for the education and teaching of the young generation.

43. Parents have the right to choose the schools for their children. This situation arises in practice after primary or secondary schooling when young people wish to continue their studies in secondary or higher institutions. These young people are at an age when they have personal interests, wishes, preferences, aptitudes and gifts and the choice is made with their participation. The same applies to the choice of the school in which a student intends to continue his higher studies. The choice is made from among the country's (State secondary and higher) institutions. The range of possibilities is very wide and covers the interests and wishes of the young people.

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44. As regards higher education, young people may also continue their studies in other countries. In past years dozens and hundreds of thousands of young Bulgarians have pursued their higher studies in other countries: in the Soviet Union and in other socialist and non-socialist countries. The figures for the last five years are as follows:

School year	Total	Regular	By correspondence	New	Graduates
1976/77	4,362	3,281	1,081	448	606
1977/78	4,396	3,258	1,138	234	507
1978/79	4,182	3,119	1,063	466	760
1979/80	4,450	3,376	1,074	733	601
1980/81	4,441	3,429	1,012	778	663

45. Our students who go abroad are trained in certain modern specialties for which teaching is not yet organized in Bulgaria or in specialties for which training is uneconomic (for example, an extremely narrow field of specialization; the need for only a few specialists).

II. ARTICLE 14

46. This provision does not apply to the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Bulgaria has no overseas territories under its jurisdiction. The Covenant was ratified by our country in 1970 and entered into force by virtue of article 27 in 1976. The principle of compulsory primary education free of charge is set forth in the First Socialist Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria of 4 December 1947 in article 79, paragraph 1.

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

A. Legislative instruments

47. The legislative instruments are the following:

- (a) Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, articles 3, 26 and 46;
- (b) Act concerning cultural monuments and museums; 21/
- (c) Act concerning copyright; 22/

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(d) Act concerning funds for creative activities; 23/

(e) Statutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; 24/

(f) Decree No. 34 of 24 June 1974 of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Council of Ministers for the future improvement and administration of the cultural front; 25/

(g) Statutes of the Cultural Committee; 26/

(h) Act concerning cultural centres (1945); 27/

(i) Act concerning cinematography; 28/

(j) Decree of 2 August 1968 of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Council of Ministers for the future development of the activities of amateurs;

(k) Decree of 20 January 1970 of the Council of Ministers for improving the general provisions on the organization of a unified network of libraries in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

B. Right to take part in cultural life

1. Cultural policy of the State

48. Under article 3 of the Constitution, the furtherance of culture in all its forms is one of the fundamental duties of the State. To further it is not an end in itself. According to article 46, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, its main responsibility is "to be" at the service of the people, to involve the people in the process of creating cultural activities and to ensure that the great masses of the people enjoy the benefits of culture by making these benefits accessible to them.

2. Management of cultural activities

49. This policy of culture for the masses was given a strong impetus in Bulgaria in the 1960s when the management of cultural activities was made part of the State's public policy. At the first national congress on culture in 1967, in which the most eminent leaders of culture participated and which covered all fields of culture (arts, literature, science, radio, television, book publishing, etc.), the Cultural Committee was elected at the national level. The departmental and municipal councils and the regional cultural councils, elected at departmental, municipal and regional cultural conferences respectively, are the local units of the Cultural Committee and consist of the best-known cultural leaders in the department, municipality or region concerned. The cultural congresses and conferences are held every five years. The Cultural Committee consists of eminent cultural leaders in all fields of culture at the national level. The elected

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bodies have the right to take action and the authority to solve the problems connected with the development of artistic activities.

50. All cultural activity in the People's Republic of Bulgaria is managed by the national body entitled "Artistic creativity, cultural activities and mass media". At the national level the governing body for culture is the Cultural Committee. It reports on its activities to the Council of Ministers and the Bulgarian cultural congresses. The national and regional bodies are governed by State public policy. The Cultural Committee, acting through its bodies, superintends the exhibition, sale and distribution of films and works in the plastic arts, conducts research, studies, conserves and disseminates cultural monuments, administers the activities of museums, galleries and libraries throughout the country, supervises and encourages the creative production and dissemination of musical, theatrical and circus performances and radio and television broadcasts, manages, from the point of view of methodology and organization, the artistic activities of amateurs and monitors compliance with copyrights, etc.

3. Exercise of the right to take part in cultural life

51. All the main cultural institutions are booming - those which create culture and those entrusted with the task of disseminating it.

52. Theatrical art (drama, opera, musical comedy and puppet theatre) is developing apace. There were 36 theatres in Bulgaria in 1965 and 58 in 1980, and the number of theatre seats increased from 4,951 to 6,405. This development of theatrical art is accompanied by an increase in the number of artistes employed - from 4,250 in 1965 to 6,379 in 1980. 29/

53. Musical groups (symphony orchestras, ensembles, etc.) are also on the increase. They numbered 11 in 1965 and 26 in 1980, and the number of concerts performed increased from 806 to 1,434 over the same period. The number of artistes rose from 1,025 in 1965 to 1,886 in 1980. This bolstered concert attendance - from 502,000 to 633,000. 30/

54. Amateur activities are particularly indicative of the popular nature of culture and of the involvement of the people in the creation and dissemination of culture. They represent an original form of development of the art of choreography and music, of the preservation and transmission of musical folklore and dances from generation to generation, with the use of national costumes. Amateur performances are given by workers, peasants and students in their leisure time under the guidance of music teachers and professional choreographers. These groups give artistic performances which sometimes compare favourably with the art of professional performers. In 1965, there were 15,646 amateur groups with 481,513 participants, which gave 72,059 concerts attended by 19,333,000 persons; in 1980, 24,713,000 groups gave 128,511 concerts attended by 38,892,000 persons. 31/

55. The development of the cinema is also significant. In 1980, there were 1,453 cinemas in Bulgaria, which gave 988,376 film showings to 95,851,000 persons. 32/ In 1981 alone, 486 films were made. Apart from Bulgarian films,

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world-famous foreign films, presented at the Cannes or Moscow festivals or awarded "Oscars", are shown in Bulgaria.

56. There is a network of very well-equipped libraries. For 1980, the total number of libraries was 10,191 with 92,807,000 books. In addition to the Kirill i Metodii National Library at Sofia and other libraries in the capital, there are libraries in the large cities and in educational establishments at all levels, as well as in each inhabited locality, each enterprise and organization. Books are thus immediately available where the people live and work.

57. Museums are also expanding rapidly (historical, ethnographic, artistic and other museums). In 1980, Bulgaria had 199 museums (national, departmental and other) with a staff of 2,699. 33/ A National Institute of Cultural Monuments, with branches in the departments, has been established with the task of studying, restoring and preserving cultural monuments. This Institute is becoming well known; it has already accumulated experience and several countries are taking a keen interest in its work.

58. Cultural centres are a specific means of disseminating culture among the population; they have rich historical traditions. The cultural centre is a complete cultural club: all cultural facilities - libraries, reading rooms, dance rooms, cinema, theatre and lecture rooms - are provided under one roof. There is a cultural centre in almost every inhabited locality. In 1980, they numbered 4,256. 34/

59. The growing number of publishing houses also have a rich and varied activity. In 1980, 4,681 titles were published in a total of 64,253,000 copies; 477 newspapers were published, with a total circulation of 902,179,000. In 1981, an average of 6.9 works per person were published. Translated works account for a large proportion of the total number of books published and range from classical Greek literature to nineteenth and twentieth century literature; mention may be made of the works of Pushkin, Tolstoy and Chekhov, Shakespeare, Dickens, Mark Twain, Hemingway and Steinbeck, Hugo, Balzac and Zola, Brecht and Böll, H. Bazin and H. Troyat.

60. World culture is brought to Bulgaria through various cultural events: exhibitions, concerts and galas with famous performers. In 1980, there were large exhibitions of original works and copies of Leonardo da Vinci and Roerich; in May 1982, a World Theatrical Festival was organized, under the auspices of UNESCO, as well as a World Festival of Cartoons and a World Festival of Films of the Red Cross; every other year, an international competition is held in Sofia for young opera singers, as well as an international ballet competition, and many other similar events.

4. Right of citizens to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications

61. Scientific achievements are widely disseminated for the benefit of the people. This is the purpose served by scientific journals and other publications,

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the libraries throughout the country, the organization of various scientific and technical exhibitions, the presentation of public reports, lectures, etc. Bulgarian radio and television play a particularly active role in this connection. They are important aspects of Bulgarian life - 88 radio sets for every 100 households and 75 television sets (figures for 1980). ^{35/} In 1980, there were 43,172 hours of broadcasting over Bulgarian radio, of which 1,025 were devoted to the education process and to instruction and 2,645 hours were devoted to cultural broadcasts. In 1980, the two channels on Bulgarian television were in operation for 5,182 hours, of which 1,128 were devoted to news programmes, 823 were for educational programmes and 167 were for cultural programmes. ^{36/} The Georgy Kirkov Society is engaged in nation-wide activities for the dissemination of scientific knowledge and is doing important work. It has a membership of about 40,000 - scientists, teachers, physicians, engineers and jurists. These highly qualified speakers give lectures throughout the country on various scientific and technical subjects - in schools, factories, in various districts and inhabited localities. The members of the Society give 200,000 lectures and talks each year on scientific and other topics. The Society has its own organization and structure: it has seven sections corresponding to the various branches of human knowledge; councils established in the departments or communes organize the lectures.

5. Protection of moral and material interests of authors of scientific, literary and artistic works

62. The protection of the interests of authors of scientific, artistic or literary works is governed by the 1951 Law on Authors' Rights. In accordance with that Law, the following fundamental rights are granted and guaranteed for authors of such works: authors' rights, right to author's name, publishing rights, right of immutability, right of reproduction and dissemination of the work, right of access to the work (for example, when there is one original of a fine arts work). The legislation also governs the various contracts concerning the transfer of authors' rights: publishing contract, contract for a film scenario, for recording on records or tapes, for performance of the work on radio or television, etc. Authors' rights may be transferred in return for payment of royalties. The amount of the royalties depends on the type of work involved and the transfer is governed by a special tariff approved by the Council of Ministers and reviewed and amended periodically.

63. Authors' rights are protected under civil law, which allows applications for damages, for prohibition and cessation of the use of the work of another person, for establishment of authorship of a work and for prevention of illegal enrichment, and under criminal law, which allows criminal proceedings against plagiarism (see article 173 of the Penal Code).

64. The People's Republic of Bulgaria is actively involved in international co-operation for the protection of the rights of authors. It has ratified the Rome, Stockholm and Paris versions of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and the 1952 Universal Copyright Convention, as amended in Paris in 1971.

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6. Steps taken for the development of science

65. Science is developing rapidly in the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the State is making considerable investments for this purpose. The relative and absolute share of such investments is continually growing. While in 1965 109.7 million leva were allocated to the development of science and to scientific research, in 1980 the figure was 574 million leva, out of a total amount of 77,124.6 million leva, representing the principal resources of the national economy. 37/

66. The promotion of science is reflected in the establishment of a national system of scientific organizations, which numbered 368 in 1980; these include 192 scientific institutes, 20 scientific research units in higher educational establishments, 102 bases for the development and introduction of new ideas and 43 experimental stations. The number of scientists is growing rapidly: from 8,973 in 1965 to 22,601 in 1980. The scientific organizations of the institute and the scientists working there cover all the branches of science: mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, technology, philosophy, history, law, etc. A considerable qualitative improvement is also taking place. In 1980, there were 35 academicians, 33 corresponding members of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 986 professors, 5,576 professors with the agrégation and assistant teachers, 1,103 teachers and 14,968 assistants and research workers. 38/

67. Many of the scientists are at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences - the pilot scientific organization - and in its institutes throughout the country, and at the Kliment Ohrid University, which is the oldest university, with 10 faculties.

68. Particular attention is given to the training and advancement of young scientific workers. The most important aspect of this is the agrégation, which involves three years of regular study or four years of study by correspondence. Candidates for the agrégation must pass a competitive examination for the best young specialists graduating from higher educational establishments and demonstrating an aptitude for scientific work. During the period of the agrégation, the young scientists follow a comprehensive course of thorough training in the relevant branch of science, ending with the presentation of their agrégation thesis, in order to obtain the scientific degree of candidate of science with the agrégation. In the case of a regular course of study, the students receive a State fellowship; for the agrégation by correspondence, during which they continue to work, they are entitled to additional paid leave in order to write and defend their agrégation thesis. As at 1980, there were 2,005 young scientists with the agrégation. 39/

7. Freedom of scientific research and creative activity

69. Freedom of scientific research and creative activity in the People's Republic of Bulgaria is guaranteed by excellent material conditions and a favourable social climate in which those engaged in scientific, artistic and cultural work can realize their full potential.

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70. In order to ensure favourable material conditions, the State allocates substantial financial resources to the promotion of science, art and culture, with the result that individuals active in those areas receive appropriate remuneration, based on their work and qualifications, higher royalties than would otherwise be the case and other special moral and material incentives. The State also expends resources on their work environment - namely, suitable work space, laboratories fitted with modern equipment and so forth. Particular emphasis is placed on training auxiliary scientific personnel and increasing their numbers. Thus, for example, in 1980, of every 100 persons working in the scientific field, 16.8 were scientific personnel, 46.8 were auxiliary scientific personnel including technicians, 11.9 were workers and 11.6 were other service personnel. 40/ Accordingly, the researchers are relieved of the subsidiary technical work, which does not correspond to their level of scientific qualifications, and can concentrate on the substance of the scientific and research work. It should be stated that scientific researchers have recourse to well-endowed libraries specialized in their particular field, while the book exchange and specialized information services of the Scientific Information Centre attached to the Presidium of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Centre of Scientific and Technical Information attached to the State Committee for Science and Technical Progress, which provide specialized information on the latest developments, are also available to them. Special measures are taken to provide adequate facilities, studios and rooms for individual or collective exhibitions of works by painters, sculptors and others. In this regard, the role, activities and valuable support of the creative workers' unions, such as the Painters' Union, the Union of Musicologists and Composers and the Writers' Union are of particular importance. Where necessary, they provide material assistance to their members from the funds created by them under the 1973 Act concerning funds for creative purposes.

71. The favourable social climate, not only in cultural institutes and scientific circles but also outside them, is an important factor in promoting freedom of scientific research and creative activity. The existence of public organizations in the respective institutes is another such factor. To the same end, exhibitions of books and artistic and cultural works are staged and lectures, discussions, public readings are arranged both amongst research workers and through the mass media - newspapers, radio and television. In this way, different viewpoints and considerations can be put forward, discussions can be held on scientific subjects and cultural and artistic issues, and the views of more specialists and non-specialists can be made known than would otherwise be the case. In these discussions each researcher, artist or member of the public can express freely his views and defend his scientific or artistic position and his attitude towards science, literature and art.

8. Encouragement of international contacts
in the scientific and cultural fields

72. The People's Republic of Bulgaria maintains close international contacts with many countries. To date, it has concluded agreements and signed scientific and cultural co-operation programmes with 60 countries with differing political systems in all the continents.

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73. Bulgaria attaches great importance to multilateral co-operation. It has been a member of UNESCO since 1958 and participates actively in UNESCO activities. The Bulgarian Government gives special attention to international conventions in the scientific, artistic and cultural fields, namely:

(a) The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, of 1886;

(b) The Universal Copyright Convention of 1952;

(c) The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, of 14 May 1954;

(d) The Convention concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents, of 3 December 1958;

(e) The Convention against Discrimination in Education, of 14 December 1960;

(f) The Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, of 14 November 1970;

(g) The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 16 November 1972;

(h) The Convention concerning facilities for international exchanges of films for educational purposes;

(i) The UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belong to the European Region, of 1979.

74. Bulgaria has signed the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Protection at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, of 16 November 1972.

75. On a bilateral basis, Bulgaria maintains close cultural contacts with many countries in all areas of art, literature and science. Bulgarian opera singers and the Bulgarian National Opera make very frequent tours abroad, and Bulgarian music ensembles and folklore groups, in particular the children's radio choir and the Bodra Smiana choir, often tour Europe, Asia and Africa. Men of letters and writers also maintain close international contacts. The Bulgarian PEN Club has been a member of International PEN since 1926 and participates regularly in its congresses

76. The Bulgarian Writers' Union has organized at Sofia four meetings of writers from every part of the world, with the motto "Peace - the hope of the world". Those meetings were held in 1977 (129 writers from 41 countries), 1979 (61 writers from 21 countries), and 1980 (154 writers from 57 countries). Famous writers from every region discussed many issues of vital interest to creative literary circles today.

77. The Banner of Peace movement, established on the initiative of Ludmila Zhivkova, is an original means of promoting international contacts in the field

culture. Its purpose is to encourage the development of talents and skills in children everywhere with a view to harnessing their creativity in the interests of peace and human progress. To date, the movement has organized four events: two assemblies (in 1979 and 1982) and two meetings (Sofia, 1980 and 1981). These were attended by thousands of children, from many countries, with outstanding creative abilities in painting, literature, music, science and sport. The honorary patrons of the two assemblies were Todor Zhivkov, President of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of UNESCO. Participating in the first assembly were 1,094 children and 227 monitors from 76 countries and 1,100 Bulgarian children, and in the second 527 children and 143 monitors from 105 countries and 445 Bulgarian children. The letter adopted at the first assembly, which was an appeal from the children of the world, was disseminated as an official United Nations document at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/34/551). Since 1979, 30,921 works of painting, sculpture, literature, music and artistic photography, by children of 101 countries, have been registered in the repository of the "Flag of Peace" Movement. The works of this unique repository of the creativity of children and young people have been shown in 52 exhibitions organized in Bulgaria and abroad (Australia, India, Malta, Mexico, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and other countries), and dozens of albums, catalogues and almanacs have been published. The Ludmila Zhivkova International Foundation was established in 1982; its purpose is to encourage and promote creative events, involving children and young people in particular, in all areas of artistic endeavour.

78. The People's Republic of Bulgaria pursues a consistent policy of active participation in international scientific and technical co-operation, thereby promoting greater freedom of contacts and communication among the scientists of the world.

79. In the past few years alone, Bulgaria has signed more than 800 co-operation agreements with other countries and has established over 140 joint research programmes in science and technology, also with other countries.

80. Within the framework of bilateral and multilateral international co-operation, the country's scientific organizations are participating in study and research concerning more than 2,500 topics. Bulgarian specialists take part every year in over 1,000 international congresses and symposia. During the period 1976-1980, some tens of thousands of Bulgarian scientists and specialists went abroad to pursue their specialization or for consultations.

81. The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is also very active in promoting scientific co-operation. The Academy has signed 26 bilateral co-operation agreements with academies and other scientific institutions abroad (12 agreements with institutions in socialist countries and 14 with institutions in Western countries).

82. Every year the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences organizes some 100 scientific events, on average, on an international basis. Furthermore, scientists from the Academy participate in more than 230 international events in other countries. Two hundred researchers working under the auspices of the Academy attend advanced courses abroad every year.

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Notes

- 1/ Official Gazette, No. 39, of 18 May 1971.
- 2/ Izvestia, No. 90, of 9 November 1954, amended and supplemented, Official Gazette, No. 33 of 1965.
- 3/ Ibid., No. 54, of 7 July 1959, amended and supplemented, Official Gazette, No. 99 of 1963, No. 36 of 1979.
- 4/ Ibid., No. 12, of 11 February 1958, amended and supplemented, Official Gazette.
- 5/ Izvestia, No. 21 of 1961.
- 6/ Ordinance No. 15 of the Ministry of National Education (Official Gazette, No. 76 of 1977).
- 7/ 1981 Statistical Yearbook, p. 406.
- 8/ Ordinance No. 12 of the Council of Ministers, of 26 April 1973 (Official Gazette, No. 39 of 1973).
- 9/ 1981 Statistical Yearbook, p. 404.
- 10/ Ibid., pp. 406 and 408.
- 11/ Ibid., p. 413.
- 12/ Ibid., p. 416.
- 13/ 1960 Statistical Yearbook, p. 299, and 1981 Statistical Yearbook, pp. 421 and 422.
- 14/ 1960 Statistical Yearbook, p. 299, and 1981 Statistical Yearbook, p. 421.
- 15/ 1981 Statistical Yearbook, p. 419.
- 16/ Ibid., p. 417.
- 17/ Ibid., p. 422.
- 18/ Article 55, paragraph 2 (d) of the Labour Code; articles 1, 6, and 8 of Order No. 35 of the Council of Ministers, dated 28 February 1961, on the method of determining leave for persons studying while working (Official Gazette, No. 18, of 3 March 1961, amended and supplemented, No. 57 of 1974).
- 19/ 1981 Statistical Yearbook, p. 418.

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20/ Order No. 75 of the Council of Ministers, of 7 September 1976 (Official Gazette, No. 77), and Order No. 114, of 20 August 1975 (Official Gazette, No. 69 of 1975).

21/ Official Gazette, No. 29, of 11 April 1969, amendments and annexes.

22/ Ibid., No. 92, of 16 November 1951, amendments and annexes.

23/ Ibid., No. 27, of 3 April 1973, amendments; No. 20 of 1979.

24/ Ibid., No. 38, of 15 May 1973.

25/ Ibid., No. 40, of 24 May 1974.

26/ Ibid., No. 75, of 22 September 1978.

27/ Ibid., No. 42 (1945).

28/ Ibid., No. 78 (1948), amendments and annexes; No. 95 (1953), amendments and annexes; No. 65 (1959).

29/ 1980 Statistical Yearbook, p. 430.

30/ Ibid., p. 131.

31/ 1981 Statistical Yearbook, p. 431.

32/ Ibid., p. 435.

33/ Ibid., p. 436.

34/ Ibid.

35/ Ibid., p. 97.

36/ Ibid., pp. 97 and 440.

37/ Ibid., p. 123.

38/ Ibid., pp. 126, 146 and 148.

39/ Ibid., p. 149.

40/ Ibid., p. 156.
