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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 */

[6 December 1988]

1. This report supplements the periodic reports submitted on this subject by the USSR in 1978, 1980, 1981, 1984 and 1986 (E/CN.4/1277/Add.11, E/CN.4/1415/Add.2, E/CN.4/1505/Add.9, E/CN.4/1984/36/Add.10 and E/CN.4/1987/26/Add.3).
2. The Soviet Union has consistently fought against the inhuman policy and practices of apartheid. All forms and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination are deeply alien to Soviet people and to socialist society.

*/ The initial, second, third, fourth and fifth reports submitted by the Government of the USSR (E/CN.4/1277/Add.11, E/CN.4/1415/Add.2, E/CN.4/1505/Add.9, E/CN.4/1984/36/Add.10 and E/CN.4/1987/26/Add.3) were considered by the Group of Three at its 1978, 1981, 1982, 1985 and 1987 sessions respectively.

3. Racial and national equality is a firm principle of socialism. It was enshrined in legislation for the first time in history in November 1917 in one of the first Acts of the Soviet State, the Declaration of the Rights of the Peoples of Russia, and has unswervingly been applied at all stages of the development of the Soviet State.

4. In the USSR there is a well-developed legislative system designed to ensure the effective equality of rights of citizens of different races and nationalities, and to create a durable legal basis for the further development of all peoples and nationalities within a free union of equal republics. This has been described in detail in the periodic reports already submitted by the USSR.

5. Since the submission of the fifth periodic report, fundamental changes have occurred in Soviet life. Now the development and consolidation of socialist democracy and the improvement of the system of Soviet citizens' rights and freedoms and of the machinery for their realization are governed by the policy of perestroika that is being pursued under the guidance of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The process of perestroika is intended fully to develop the humanitarian nature of socialist society in all of the latter's decisive aspects, i.e. in its economic, socio-political and moral aspects. The purpose of perestroika is the restoration of the incontestable primacy of the working man with his ideals and interests and the genuine affirmation of humanitarian values. "As a result of perestroika, socialism can and must fully realize its potential as a system of genuine humanitarianism that serves and elevates the human being. That means a society for people - for the blossoming of their creative labour, well-being, health and physical, cultural and intellectual development - a society of which the individual feels and in fact is a full and equal master." 1/

6. In the period 1986-1987, work continued in the USSR on the implementation of the programme elaborated by the XXVIIth Congress of the CPSU. This programme, which is realistic and all aspects of which have been well weighed, provides for action in the political, economic and cultural spheres, the further democratization of Soviet society, the consolidation of socialist popular self-government, and the realization of the chief objective of the CPSU's international strategy: the securing for the Soviet people of the possibility of working in conditions of lasting peace and freedom. Both the CPSU and the Soviet State give priority in the implementation of this programme to the further development and improvement of ethnic relations, meaning the strengthening of the fraternal friendship, co-operation and mutual cultural and intellectual enrichment of the peoples of the Soviet Union and of the comprehensive development of the country's nations.

7. The Programme of the CPSU as adopted in 1986 at the Party's XXVIIth Congress, a fundamental political document for the life of Soviet society, is of great importance for the further free economic, social and cultural development of all the peoples that inhabit the USSR. This Programme sets

1/ M.S. Gorbachev, Oktyabr i perestroika: revolutsia prodolzhaetsya 1917-1987 (October and perestroika: the revolution continues, 1917-1987), M. Politizdat, 1987, p. 32.

out, inter alia, the present-day tasks as regards the building-up of nationalities and harmonizing of intercommunal relations. Those tasks include:

Constant concern for the further enhancement of the role of the Union and Autonomous Republics and the Autonomous Regions and Areas in the resolution of public issues and for the active participation of workers of all nationalities in the work of organs of authority and management;

Enhancement of the material and cultural and intellectual potential of each Republic within the framework of an harmonious national economy;

Development for the Soviet people, on the basis of the best achievements and distinctive, progressive traditions of the peoples of the USSR of a harmonious culture that is multiform in its national expressions and internationalist in spirit. The Programme of the CPSU emphasizes that "the nationalities question, a relic from the past, has been successfully resolved in the Soviet Union. Ethnic relations in our country are characterized both by the further development of the nations and nationalities and by their steady rapprochement, which is proceeding on the basis of free will, equality and fraternal co-operation. Neither artificial incitement nor the curbing of mature, objective trends of development is admissible in this regard. The development will bring with it in the long term the full unity of the nations".

8. When problems arise in the area of intercommunal relations, they are resolved on the basis of the Constitution of the USSR in the interests of further rapprochement, in the interests of the entire Soviet people.

9. The policy regarding nationalities was further developed in the decisions of the February 1988 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. In these, particular attention was given to the equal right of all citizens of the USSR to use a native language.

10. The well-developed legislative system designed to ensure the effective equality of the rights of citizens whatever their race or nationality, to preclude discrimination and to create a durable legal basis for the further development of all peoples and nationalities within a free union of equal republics continues to function successfully. This point has been discussed in detail in the period reports already submitted by the USSR.

11. In the period 1986-1987, several legislative instruments containing provisions designed to achieve the aims listed in the preceding paragraph were adopted in the USSR.

12. On 31 March 1986, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted a decision "On the tasks of Soviets of People's Deputies deriving from the decisions of the XXVIth Congress of the CPSU" (Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR (Official Gazette of the USSR Supreme Soviet), 1986, No. 14, p. 230). Paragraph 5 of this decision provides that Soviets of People's Deputies must make political and cultural work among the population, particularly young people, and the promotion of Soviet patriotism and internationalism their special concern. The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet pointed to the

need to devote constant attention, consistent with the proven principles of Leninist policy on nationalities, to the development and consolidation of fraternal friendship among the peoples of the USSR, to the enrichment of national cultures, and to the employment of all that is best in the cultural and intellectual heritage and traditions of each of the Soviet Union's peoples.

13. On 25 March 1987, the Committees on Youth Issues of the Council of the Union and Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet held a joint meeting in the Kremlin. This meeting reviewed the work of the Soviet of People's Deputies in Kazakhstan's Mangyshlak Region in promoting social awareness and consolidating a socialist lifestyle among young people. Among other things, the Committees discussed and issued to the Executive Committee of the Region's Soviet of People's Deputies specific recommendations on strengthening the internationalist and patriotic education of young people (Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR, 1987, No. 13, p. 177).

14. On 30 June 1987, at the seventh session of its eleventh convocation, the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted the USSR Act "On the national discussion of important issues in State life" (Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR, 1987, No. 26, p. 387). In article 6 of that Act there is, as a guarantee of the securing to USSR citizens of free participation in the discussion of important issues in State and public life, a provision banning all direct or indirect limitation on the grounds of racial or national origin of the rights of USSR citizens to participate in such discussion. Furthermore, article 11 of the Act states that persons who hinder a citizen of the USSR in the free exercise of that right shall bear the liability provided for by law.

15. Displays of the ideology and practices of apartheid and racial discrimination are profoundly alien to the Soviet State and the Soviet people. The position of the USSR on this matter was confirmed in the resolutions of the XXVIIth Congress of the CPSU (1986), at which a proposal was made for the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security having as one of its fundamental elements in the humanitarian sphere "the eradication of genocide, of apartheid and of the advocacy of fascism or any other form of racial, national or religious exclusiveness or discrimination against people on this basis".

16. The Soviet Union has consistently opposed the South African racist régime's policy of terror and mass repression of the indigenous African population and the extension of that policy through the illegal occupation of Namibia and acts of aggression against independent African States. It considers that the principal reason for the persistence of a dangerous hotbed of tension in southern Africa is that, despite the numerous United Nations resolutions, the South African racist régime is being given direct support by the Western countries that have proclaimed the policy of "constructive engagement" with Pretoria and are blocking the application against it of the comprehensive mandatory sanctions provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

17. Concerning the continuing oppression of the South African population by the racist authorities in Pretoria, one of the things that the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers said in their joint greetings to the twenty-third session of the Assembly of Heads of States or Government of countries members of the Organization of African Unity was that "The Soviet Union, together with the African countries, is firm in demanding

the immediate granting of independence to Namibia on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, the unconditional halting of Pretoria's aggressive raids against the front-line States, the early abolition of the inhuman system of apartheid and the establishment of a free, non-racial democratic State in the south of the continent".

18. The USSR supports and implements all the resolutions and recommendations of international bodies aimed at combating racism and apartheid, including the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In 1986 and 1987 respectively, it was one of the first States to sign and to ratify the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports and it complies strictly with the provisions of that instrument and favours the accession to it of more States.

19. Soviet representatives participate actively in the work of the United Nations bodies dealing with the problems of decolonization and the combating of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid: the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Council for Namibia and the Special Committee against Apartheid. In 1988, the USSR participated in the Global Consultations on the Combating of Racism and Racial Discrimination, held in Geneva.

20. Organizations representing the Soviet public make an important contribution to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Thus, in full conformity with appeals by the international community and decisions by the United Nations and, in particular, the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa (SCSCAA) provides assistance and extensive support to national liberation movements in southern Africa - the African National Congress (ANC) and the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) - and to the front-line States in the region. This work is of a humanitarian nature and includes material aid, training (on SCSCAA fellowships) at higher and secondary educational institutions, moral and political support in the international arena, the organization of popular events and activities in the Soviet Union to show solidarity, and measures to inform the Soviet public about the struggle in southern Africa.

21. The efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination were given new impetus in November 1986, when ANC leaders were received in the USSR at the highest level, and in 1987, when ANC and SWAPO opened permanent missions in Moscow. Accreditation of these missions to SCSCAA and the establishment of closer contacts with the leadership of the liberation movements has helped to make the assistance to the struggling peoples of southern Africa more effective.

22. Every year the USSR makes a contribution of up to \$20,000 to the OAU fund for informing international public opinion about the situation in southern Africa. All material aid comes from the Soviet Peace Fund, which is made up of voluntary contributions from Soviet people wishing to show their practical support for the liberation movements.

23. Dozens of ANC and SWAPO activists are receiving tuition in the USSR, in such fields as economics, engineering, law, health, medicine and arts subjects. In addition, it has been decided to increase the number of fellowships awarded to national liberation movements and social and political organizations in a number of front-line States.

24. The Soviet Union takes an active part in the international movement for solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa. It co-operates with international governmental and non-governmental organizations in this area. Thus, it is constantly expanding its collaboration with the United Nations Special Committee and Centre against Apartheid and the Council for Namibia. In 1988 it participated in a conference to review the situation of refugees and stateless persons in southern Africa.

25. Representatives of the Soviet Union take part in international manifestations of solidarity organized by the United Nations and national solidarity organizations. There is, for example, active co-operation with the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), the International Committee against Apartheid, Racism and Colonialism in southern Africa and the International Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes of Racist and Apartheid régimes (CICSA) in southern Africa.

26. The USSR engages in a wide-ranging exchange of views with organizations and movements opposed to apartheid in west European and north American countries.

27. The Soviet public supports the endeavours of the peoples of southern Africa and Namibia to preserve their national culture. In 1985 the ANC Amandla company visited the Soviet Union, and in 1987 the Soviet firm Melodiya issued 5,000 copies of a record of the company's performances.

28. Posters on the liberation struggle are regularly issued, as are stamps and artistic stamped envelopes expressing support for the peoples of southern Africa in their struggle.

29. Support for the front-line States in southern Africa is of great importance. Delegations are exchanged. The USSR assists representatives of these countries with their travel to international events relating to the South African situation and with material aid in the form of food, clothing and other goods needed to compensate for the consequences of the activities of the racist Pretoria régime.

30. In co-operation with the ANC representative in Moscow, the Soviet Union provided the necessary assistance with the preparation and organization of the international conference of the peoples of the world against apartheid and for a democratic South Africa (Arusha, 1-4 December 1987), in which Soviet representatives also took part.

31. The Soviet trade unions are consistent advocates of the abolition of the shameful system of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa and firmly condemn the Pretoria régime's campaign of mass repression and violence against that country's workers and population. In July 1986, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (VTSPS) issued a statement expressing

heartfelt solidarity with the just struggle of South African workers for national and social liberation and with the calls for the repeal of the state of emergency, an end to oppression, and the release of arrested trade-union leaders and activists. VTSPS played a constructive role in the adoption by the eleventh World Trade Union Congress in September 1986 of a resolution on solidarity with the workers and peoples of South Africa. In February 1987, the XVIIIth Congress of USSR Trade Unions also adopted a resolution reaffirming Soviet trade unions' firm support for the South African patriots in the struggle against racism and apartheid.

32. Explaining the present-day situation in southern Africa to workers, acquainting them with the just struggle of South African trade unions for the vital interests and rights of African workers and exposing the accomplices of the Pretoria régime are a constant part of the activity of Soviet trade unions. They pursue these ends through trade-union journals and other mass media and active participation in the organization and conduct of popular events, especially the annual Week of Solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa.

33. Despite fierce opposition from the South African authorities, Soviet trade unions co-operate with the independent proponents of progress in South Africa. VTSPS welcomed the foundation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the country's largest progressive multi-racial trade-union federation. Contact has been established between miners' trade unions in the USSR and South Africa. Close co-operation is continuing with the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) and the National Union of Namibia Workers (NUNW). The USSR trade unions provide them with moral and political support and financial and other assistance.

34. On the initiative of Soviet public organizations, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March) and African Liberation Day (25 May) are observed each year in the Soviet Union, and the Week of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Peoples of Southern Africa is held in the USSR from 25 to 31 March, at which time the public organizations of our country organize rallies and meetings of solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa and Namibia and hold exhibitions and seminars. The International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (16 June), South Africa Freedom Day (26 June), the Day of Solidarity with the People of Namibia (26 August), the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October) and South African Heroes Day (16 December) are widely observed by the Soviet public. These important days are the occasion for meetings, film shows and press conferences in Moscow, Leningrad and other Soviet cities.

35. The international community must adopt immediate measures to eliminate the most loathsome manifestation of racism - the system of apartheid in southern Africa. In order to tackle this pressing task, it is necessary to achieve a further increase in the number of States parties to the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and ensure the strict implementation by all States of its provisions as well as of the United Nations decisions aimed at the elimination of racism and apartheid.