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GENERAL

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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sixth session

OLD AGE RIGHTS

(Memorandum by the Secretary-General)

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to draw the attention of the Commission on Human Rights to resolution 213 (III) of the General Assembly and resolution 198 (VIII) of the Economic and Social Council concerning the question of old age rights.

2. General Assembly resolution 213 (III) reads as follows:

"The General Assembly

"Decides to communicate the draft declaration of old age rights submitted by the Argentine delegation (A/C.3/213/Rev.1) to the Economic and Social Council in order that the latter may make a study thereof and report thereon to the General Assembly at one of its future sessions."

3. Economic and Social Council resolution 198 (VIII) reads as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered General Assembly resolution 213 (III) on the draft declaration of old age rights,

"Requests the Secretary-General

"1. To prepare, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation and other appropriate bodies, a summarized documentation on the subject, concerning in particular:

"(a) The basic features of measures, legislative and otherwise, for the benefit of aged persons, especially in countries with comprehensive old age security schemes including old age pension schemes;

"(b) The effect of such measures on their standard of living;

"2. To submit to the Social Commission and to the Commission on Human Rights at an early session the documentation prepared; and

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"Requests these Commissions to report on the subject to a future session of the Council."

4. In a memorandum (E/CN.4/163) submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifth session, the Secretary-General suggested that the consideration of the question of old age rights should be postponed to its sixth session, when the documentation on this subject would have been completed.

5. The Secretary-General has now the honour to present to the Commission on Human Rights a summarized documentation on measures for the benefit of aged persons and on their standards of living. This documentation is being issued as document E/CN.4/362/Add.1.

6. The question of old age rights is also on the agenda of the sixth session of the Social Commission; the item is "Welfare of the aged". It may be noted that, in a memorandum (E/CN.5/200), the Secretary-General has suggested to the Social Commission a draft resolution recommending that the Economic and Social Council "request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the interested specialized agencies, to submit an integrated work programme of research, studies and actions to be undertaken for promoting the welfare of aged persons and defer any action on a draft declaration of old age rights until completion of the necessary preparatory studies and reports".
