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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR THE
RIGHT OF PEOPLES AND NATIONS TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in resolution 637 C (VII) of 16 December 1952, had requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue preparing recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination and to submit its recommendations through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly (E/CN.4/676).
2. The above resolution was transmitted to the ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights by the Economic and Social Council by resolution 472 (XV) of 1 April 1953 (E/CN.4/676/Add.1). The Commission included the item "Recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination (General Assembly resolution 637 C (VII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 472 (XV))" in the agenda of its ninth session, but it did not have time to consider it at that session (E/2447, chapter 11). In connexion with its work on the Covenants on Human Rights, however, it had decided at its eighth session to include in both draft covenants a substantive article on self-determination (article 1 of both draft covenants), and it, therefore, drafted at its ninth session and included in the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights an article (article 48 in E/2447, annex I, section B, part IV) which contains special provisions relating to the implementation of that right.

3. At its eighth session the General Assembly adopted resolution 738 (VIII) as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 637 C (VII) of 16 December 1952 and Economic and Social Council resolution 472 (XV) of 1 April 1953 inviting the Commission on Human Rights to make recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination,

"Recalling also General Assembly resolution 648 (VII) of 10 December 1952,

"Considering that the Commission on Human Rights had been unable due to lack of time to prepare such recommendations at its ninth session,

"Considering the importance of the observance of and respect for the right of self-determination in the promotion of world peace and of friendly relations between peoples and nations,

"1. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to give due priority at its tenth session to the preparation of such recommendations;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission on Human Rights the summary records of the debate on this matter."

4. The debate on the above resolution took place at the 525th to 527th meetings of the Third Committee held on 17 and 18 November 1953 (A/C.3/SR.525-527). A brief summary of the discussion may be found in the Report of the Third Committee (A/2573, paras. 93-100). Reference to the question of self-determination was also made by several representatives in the course of the general debate on Chapters IV and V of the Report of the Economic and Social Council which took place in the Third Committee at its 503rd to 511th meetings on 22, 26 to 30 October and 2, 3 November 1953 (A/C.3/SR.503-511).

5. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolution 742 (VIII) adopted by the General Assembly on 27 November 1953, by which it approved a list of factors to be taken into account in determining whether a territory has or has not attained a full measure of self-government. This list supersedes the list of factors provisionally approved by the General Assembly in resolution 648 (VII) of 10 December 1952 which has been referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 738 (VIII).