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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirteenth Session
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

YEARBOOK ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Note by the Secretary-General

The resolution adopted by the Commission at its eleventh session

1. At its eleventh session (April, 1955) the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution I on the Yearbook on Human Rights (E/2731, para. 28), in which it decided inter alia (i) that the Yearbooks for 1955 and 1956, respectively, were to include statements of governments concerning the application and, so far as necessary, the evolution of the rights set forth in article 9 and in article 25, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (ii) that the Yearbook was to include bibliographical material on human rights; and (iii) that the Secretary-General should study the possibility of publishing the Yearbook in as many official languages of the United Nations as possible with a view to ensuring a wider circulation.

Statements on the application and evolution of the right set forth in article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

2. Governments were requested to furnish statements on the application and, so far as necessary, the evolution of the right set forth in article 9 of the Universal Declaration. Fifty-six such statements have been received up to the present time, and will appear in the Yearbook on Human Rights for 1955, which, following the usual operating timetable of the Yearbook, will be published in the first half of 1958.

Statements on the application and evolution of the right set forth in article 25, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

3. Governments have been invited to furnish statements on the application and, so far as necessary, the evolution of the right set forth in article 25, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration, for publication in the Yearbook on Human Rights for 1956.

Bibliographical material on human rights

4. During its consideration of the Report of the eleventh session of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, at its twentieth session, took up the question of the inclusion in the Yearbook of bibliographies of work and studies relating to human rights and adopted resolution 590 B (XX), in which it endorsed a proposal of the Secretary-General "to make available in the United Nations Headquarters Library bibliographical material on works and studies relating to human rights" and requested the Secretary-General "to suspend action on the preparation of a bibliographical index to the Yearbook on Human Rights pending consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the availability of bibliographical material on that subject and to report to the Council at its twenty-second session on the outcome of those consultations."

5. The report requested by the Council was circulated as document E/2820.

6. At its twenty-second session the Council adopted the following resolution 630 D (XXII):

"The Economic and Social Council,

1. Notes with appreciation the report by the Secretary-General on bibliographical material on works and studies relating to human rights;

2. Invites States Members of the United Nations and correspondents of the United Nations Yearbook on Human Rights, as well as the specialized agencies, as appropriate, to furnish the Secretary-General with titles of significant current publications in the human rights field;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to include these titles, as appropriate, in the United Nations Yearbook on Human Rights."

7. The Secretary-General has issued the invitations mentioned in the Council's resolution and has received certain bibliographical contributions.

Publication of the Yearbook in as many official languages as possible

8. Up to the present time, the Yearbook has been published in English and French. To publish the Yearbook in Chinese, Spanish and Russian also would require additional expenditure (an estimate of which will appear as an addendum to the present document) in respect of the services of additional translators, stenographers and editorial staff and additional printing.

Consideration by the Commission of the agenda item "Yearbook on Human Rights"

9. At its eleventh session, the Commission decided that the item "Yearbook on Human Rights" would be placed on the provisional agenda of the thirteenth session of the Commission. This decision was taken to "enable the Commission to assess how far the Yearbook had improved as a result of the decisions taken at the eleventh session". When taking this decision the Commission was aware, however, of the fact "that the time allowed was possibly too short for the Commission to obtain all the necessary data". (E/2731, para. 43). From what has been reported above, it appears that the Yearbook for 1955 containing the statements on the application and evolution of the right set forth in article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will not be available to the Commission at its thirteenth session. Nor will the Commission be in a position to evaluate the decisions taken concerning bibliographical material. The Commission may therefore wish to postpone the consideration of this item to its fourteenth session.
