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PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Reports by the Specialized Agencies

1. In pursuance of resolution 624 B (XXII) of the Economic and Social Council the Secretary-General, on 12 October 1956, invited the ILO, UNESCO, WHO, FAO, ITU and UPU to transmit reports covering the years 1954-6, summarizing information received from their Member States, for submission to the Commission on Human Rights at its fourteenth session (see E/CN.4/757, paragraphs 6 and 9).
2. Reports were received from the ILO and UNESCO and are issued as Addenda 1 and 2 to this document.
3. The replies of the WHO and the ITU are summarized below.
4. The Director of the Universal Postal Union, in a letter of 29 October 1956 stated that, of the rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration only the right to inviolability of correspondence (article 12), which was implicitly mentioned in the Universal Postal Convention, was of any concern to the Union: there appeared therefore to be little justification for submitting a report.

World Health Organization

5. The Director-General of the World Health Organization in a letter of 19 February 1957 stated that "the WHO endeavours to reach progressively its objective which is 'the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health', and thereby works toward the implementation of one of the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, the Organization, not being entrusted with safeguarding legal rights, is not in

a position to take a share in a report describing developments and progress achieved during the years 1954-6 in the field of human rights and measures taken to safeguard human liberty".

6. The Director-General stated further that reports received from Member States of the WHO since 1954 have been carefully reviewed in order to ascertain whether they contained any information of interest, but none of them did.

7. The Director-General points out that the Ninth World Health Assembly invited Member States of the Organization (resolution WHA 9.27) to prepare reports covering the period 1954-6 in order to enable the Director-General to prepare for the Eleventh World Health Assembly in 1958 a first report on the world health situation.

8. The Director-General stated that he would communicate to the Secretary-General any information drawn from the reports received which would be relevant to the provisions of paragraphs 1 or 3 of resolution 624 B (XXII) of the Council.

International Telecommunication Union

9. The Assistant Secretary-General on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Union stated, in a letter of 10 January 1957 that "none of the rights enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would appear to come directly within the field of activity of the Union".

10. He pointed out that article 19 was of some indirect concern for the Union in so far as it contemplates freedom "to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers".

11. Article 28 of the International Telecommunication Convention recognizes the right of the public to use the international telecommunication service. Under articles 29 and 30 of the same Convention Members and Associate Members of the Union reserve certain rights concerning stoppage of telecommunications and suspension of services. In this connexion the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU held at Buenos Aires in 1952 adopted a recommendation (No.2) which took cognizance of the Universal Declaration and of the articles of the Convention mentioned above and recommended that "Members and Associate Members of the Union facilitate the unrestricted transmission of news by telecommunication service".

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12. In its resolution 522 B (XVII) the Economic and Social Council took note of the recommendation of the Plenipotentiary Conference and invited the ITU to report on the action taken by Members and Associate Members.

13. The Assistant Secretary-General points out that this report (document E/2681), submitted to the Council at its nineteenth session in 1955, constitutes a development during the three years which are under review.
