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PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN RESPECT OF FUTURE  
PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In resolution 624 B (XXII) the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, requested States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to submit to the Secretary-General, every three years, a report on human rights, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a brief summary of the reports on a topical basis for the Commission on Human Rights.
2. The first series of periodic reports covered the years 1954-1956; the second series 1957-1959. Governments have now been requested to prepare reports covering the years 1960-1962. In his note to Governments, the Secretary-General has requested them "to concentrate on reporting developments of particular significance and explaining why they are significant, rather than attempting to report developments relating to all the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration" (Economic and Social Council resolution 888 B (XXXIV), paragraph 8). Governments are **requested** to submit reports by 30 June 1963. The Secretary-General has also requested the specialized agencies to submit reports on rights which fall within their purview.
3. At its last session the Commission decided (E/3616/Rev.1, paragraph 311) to consider at its present session the procedure to be followed in respect of future periodic reports on human rights, including the question of establishing a committee on periodic reports (see chapter IV of the report of the Committee on Periodic Reports on Human Rights, E/CN.4/831).
4. According to the present schedule, the Secretary-General will submit a summary of the periodic reports to the Commission at its next session

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in 1964. The Commission might wish then to appoint a committee to examine the periodic reports.

5. In respect of the first and second series of periodic reports, the Secretary-General summarized all information from reporting Governments relating to a particular right or freedom under an appropriate heading. In this form of summary, the developments in any particular country in the field of human rights as a whole could not be easily understood and appreciated. It might be preferable if, in the next series of periodic reports, the information from each country were summarized, on a topical basis, in a separate section devoted to each country reporting. In this way, the developments reported by each country would appear in better perspective and each country would have a better opportunity of telling its own story.

6. It will be recalled that the report of the Committee (E/CN.4/831), which was appointed to examine the second series of periodic reports, contained a general survey of the developments in human rights during the years 1957-1959, as well as certain suggestions and recommendations. If a committee is established to examine the third series of periodic reports, it could prepare, on the basis of the Secretary-General's summary and the reports of the specialized agencies, a general survey, as it did for the period 1957-1959, and draft such suggestions and recommendations as it deems appropriate.

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