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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Letter dated 20 February 1984 from the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the study of human rights and scientific and technological development: principles, guidelines and guarantees for the protection of persons detained on grounds of mental ill-health or suffering from mental disorder, addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights at its fortieth session

By letter dated 8 February 1984, the Assistant Secretary General, Centre for Human Rights, Mr. Kurt Herndl, has informed me of the decision of the Commission on Human Rights, taken at the 2nd meeting of the present session on 7 February 1984, whereby the report on "Human rights and scientific and technological development: principles, guidelines and guarantees for the protection of persons detained on grounds of mental ill-health or suffering from mental disorder", contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1983/17 and Add.1, which I have prepared in my capacity as Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission, should "be presented to the Commission with a covering letter from /me/".

I, therefore, have the honour to submit herewith, and through you, my report to the Commission in accordance with the aforementioned decision thereof.

As indicated in its preface, it is my sincere hope that the aforementioned report will contribute to providing a source of guidance for all those interested in the acute, complex and tragic problems of persons diagnosed as "mentally ill" or "suffering from mental disorder", which exist practically everywhere nowadays, the protection of the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the above-mentioned persons and the abolition of psychiatric and psychological abuses; and will also lead to the adoption and implementation of United Nations standards for the care, treatment and effective protection of persons diagnosed as "mentally ill" or "suffering from mental disorder" or of every person detained on grounds of "mental ill-health".

I wish to take this opportunity to recall that the Sub-Commission adopted by consensus resolution 1983/50 by which it recommends to the Commission for adoption draft resolution XVII on the subject matter of my report. (See the report of the Sub-Commission, document E/CN.4/1984/5 pp. 105, 106 and 14 and 15).

(Signed) Eric Irwin A. DAES
Special Rapporteur

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