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THIRTY YEARS OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR THE PROMOTION AND
OBSERVANCE OF CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL RIGHTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/123 of 16 December 1977, in which it, inter alia, invited Member States, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to take appropriate measures to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and requested the Secretary-General to initiate appropriate activities at the United Nations level to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration, including the organization of a special seminar within the programme of advisory services on national and local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, the report of which should be forwarded to the Assembly; and decided to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session an item entitled "Thirty years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: international co-operation for the promotion and observance of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights", and recommended that the item should be considered in plenary meeting. It also decided to hold a special commemorative meeting to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration, and requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary preparations for the programme of the meeting.

2. It may be recalled that, at its thirty-third session, the Commission on Human Rights, by resolution 3 (XXXIII), had recommended to Member States, the specialized agencies and all international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, concerned with the protection and promotion of human rights to take appropriate measures to ensure that the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the occasion of special efforts to promote international understanding, co-operation and peace as well as the universal and effective respect for human rights, more particularly by laying stress on the educational approach both within and outside formal school systems. The Commission also invited all concerned to report to it at its thirty-fifth session on efforts made with a view to marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

3. By a note dated 26 April 1978 the Secretary-General transmitted General Assembly resolution 32/123 to Member States and to the organizations mentioned in the resolution. The Secretary-General drew attention in this note to Commission resolution 3 (XXXIII).
4. It may also be recalled that, in the preamble to its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, the General Assembly stated that the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be marked by an over-all analysis of existing problems in the field of human rights and by increased efforts in finding appropriate solutions for the effective promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, taking into account the experiences and contributions of both developed and developing countries. The Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights, inter alia, to undertake this over-all analysis of the subject and to submit a progress report to the Assembly at its thirty-third session and a report containing conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council. The report was submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, 1978. 1/
5. In compliance with the requests contained in resolution 32/123, arrangements have been made for commemorative concerts to take place on 10 December 1978 at United Nations Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Geneva.
6. A special seminar on National and Local Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was organized at Geneva from 18 to 29 September 1978, within the programme of advisory services. The report of the seminar will appear in document ST/TAO/HR.51.
7. Arrangements have also been made for the selection and award of human rights prizes as envisaged in recommendation C of the annex to resolution 2217 (XXI) of 19 December 1966. In this connexion, it is expected that the presentation of the prizes will take place during the special commemorative meeting which the Assembly decided to convene on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration.
8. A symbol for use in connexion with the observance of the anniversary was also prepared and distributed.
9. Updated versions, in all official languages, of the publication entitled "Human Rights: a Compilation of International Instruments of the United Nations"2/ have been issued. The publication "United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights" has been revised and updated and will be submitted for reproduction shortly. A revised edition of the booklet "United Nations and Human Rights" has been prepared in co-operation with the Office of Public Information of the Secretariat and has been sent for printing.

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Second Regular Session, 1978, Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/34).

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.XIV.2.

10. In paragraph 3 of resolution 32/123, the Assembly had welcomed the decision of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to organize in 1978 an international conference on the teaching of human rights and had appealed to all States to facilitate the participation of qualified experts in the conference. An International Congress on the Teaching of Human Rights was held at Vienna from 12 to 16 September 1978, in collaboration with the Austrian Government. The Congress adopted a Final Document containing programmes, recommendations on teaching materials, methods and structures pertaining to the teaching of human rights.

11. In paragraph 4 of resolution 32/123, the General Assembly had also invited UNESCO to take appropriate measures to consult the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-fourth session on the elaboration of a programme of action designed to develop education on human rights. In pursuance of that request, UNESCO submitted a provisional report to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-fourth session in 1978 (E/CN.4/1274). A further report is expected to be submitted to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session in 1979.

12. In accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 32/123, the Secretary-General is undertaking preparations for the programme of the special commemorative meeting of the Assembly to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These preparations will be communicated to the General Assembly in due course.
