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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE
SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID

Reports submitted by States parties under article VII
of the Convention

Addendum

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[17 March 1978]

Soviet Ukraine and the Ukrainian people resolutely condemn the inhuman apartheid system and consistently demand its earliest complete and unconditional abolition. All manifestations of the ideology and practice of apartheid, profoundly alien as they are to our socialist society, are regarded in the Ukrainian SSR as criminal anti-human acts. Genuine equality of all citizens of the Ukrainian SSR irrespective of nationality or race, which became a reality as a result of the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the establishment of Soviet power in the Ukraine, is an unshakeable law of the Republic's public life. The principle of the equal rights of all members of society without distinction of nationality or race expresses the democratic essence of a socialist State such as the Ukrainian SSR, and fully guarantees the realization and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. This principle is reflected in the Constitution and laws of the Ukrainian SSR.

Thus, in article 103 of the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, it is stated that "Equality of the rights of citizens of the Ukrainian SSR irrespective of their nationality or race in all branches of economic, State, cultural, social and political life is an indefeasible law". The same article provides that "any direct or indirect limitation of the rights of citizens or establishment of direct or indirect privileges on grounds of race or nationality, and any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness, hostility or contempt, are punishable by law".

Article 115 of the Basic Law of the Ukrainian SSR, which regulates the system of participation of citizens in elections to Government bodies, states that "all citizens of the Ukrainian SSR over 18 years of age have the right to vote in elections of deputies and to be elected, regardless of their race, nationality, educational qualifications, length of residence, social origin, property status and past activity, with the exception of persons who have been legally certified insane".

The principle of the equality of rights of citizens regardless of their race or nationality is steadfastly applied in the daily activity of all Government bodies of the Ukrainian SSR and of all public organizations of the workers, and is fully embodied in the laws of the Ukrainian SSR governing the most widely varying aspects of social relations. Thus, the constitutional provision of national and racial equality is fully applied and put into effect in the sphere of labour relations. The Labour Code of the Ukrainian SSR and in particular its articles 22 and 94, prohibits "... any direct or indirect restriction of rights ... according to sex, race, nationality or attitude to religion in connexion with admission to employment ..." and provides for equal remuneration of labour according to its quantity and quality, and the prohibition of any restrictions or direct or indirect privileges, particularly on grounds of race or nationality. In Labour collectives, which are important cells of socialist society, the workers are daily educated in a spirit of internationalism and refusal in principle to tolerate any manifestation of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. In the sphere of marriage and family relations, too, the principle of genuine equality of citizens without distinction of race or nationality is consistently applied and developed. Thus, article 4 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR provides that "all citizens, irrespective of their nationality, race or attitude to religion, have equal rights in family relations ...". The same article prohibits "... any direct or indirect restrictions or the establishment of direct or indirect privileges according to nationality, race or attitude to religion upon entry into marriage or in family relations ...".

It should also be noted that justice in the Ukrainian SSR is administered on principles of equality of citizens before the law and the court "... irrespective of their social, property and official status, nationality, race and religion ..." (Act concerning the judicial system of the Ukrainian SSR, article 5). The same provisions recur in more detailed form in article 16 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and article 6 of the Code of Civil Procedure of the Ukrainian SSR.

The socialist social and economic structure of the Ukrainian SSR and many years of unwavering and consistent practical application of the principle of full equality of rights of all citizens irrespective of race and nationality exclude all political, economic or social grounds for national antagonisms or manifestations of racism and apartheid. Nevertheless, pursuant to our Republic's international obligations, the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR (article 66) characterizes as crimes against the State "... propaganda or agitation for the purpose of arousing hostility or dissension between races or nationalities, and any direct or indirect restriction of rights of citizens or the establishment of direct or indirect privileges on grounds of race or nationality ...". We note with satisfaction, however, that in the Ukraine there neither is nor has been a single case of criminal prosecution for violation of national and racial equality or for acts of racism and apartheid.

Guided by Leninist principles of foreign policy, the Ukrainian SSR always consistently and steadfastly defends the principle of equal rights of peoples and resolutely opposes all forms and manifestations of racism and apartheid. Adhering to this position of principle, it has become a party to many international agreements aimed at the unconditional eradication of colonialism, racism and apartheid. The Ukrainian SSR was among the first to become a party to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, whose provisions we fully support and approve. The Ukrainian SSR has always fully implemented, and is fully implementing now, all decisions of the United Nations and other international organizations on the application of diplomatic, economic and other sanctions against the criminal racist régimes in the Republic of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. This position of principle of the Ukrainian SSR has been stated repeatedly by delegations of the Ukrainian SSR at sessions of the General Assembly, its subsidiary bodies and other international organizations, and at international conferences devoted to the problem of the eradication of racism and apartheid.

Much attention is devoted in the Republic to giving political, moral and material assistance to fighters against apartheid, racism and colonialism. Under the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, events are organized every year in the Ukraine on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, African Independence Day, the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Southern Africa, and the Day of Solidarity with Political Prisoners of Southern Africa. In particular, in 1977 public meetings were held in the Ukrainian SSR with the participation of representatives of public organizations, workers, eminent scholars, cultural workers and artists and foreign students studying in the Republic's educational establishments, including representatives of the indigenous population of Southern Rhodesia, the Republic of South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. All these events were widely reported by the Ukrainian Press, radio and television. In 1978 it is also intended to organize certain events in connexion with the proclamation of 1978 as International Anti-Apartheid Year.

The Ukrainian SSR, a consistent and irreconcilable opponent of racism, colonialism and apartheid, will continue in future to take an active stand against the inhuman system of apartheid and racial discrimination which has come into being in Southern Africa and for the immediate eradication of racism and apartheid in all its forms and manifestations.
