



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1982/3/Add.29
2 May 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

First regular session of 1984

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)
by States Parties to the Covenant, concerning rights covered by
articles 13 to 15

GUYANA 1/

[30 April 1984]

ARTICLE 15: RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN CULTURAL LIFE AND TO ENJOY THE
BENEFITS OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND THE PROTECTION
OF THE INTERESTS OF AUTHORS

A. The right to take part in cultural life

(1) Principal laws

Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, No. 2, 1980, Section 35
states on the subject of national culture:

"The State honours and respects the diverse cultural strains which enrich the
society and will seek constantly to promote national appreciation of them at
all levels and to develop out of them a socialist national culture for Guyana."

(2) Practical measures

(a) The Official Gazette and the news media advertise regularly national and
overseas training programmes devised by the Government and administered by the
Public Service Ministry;

(b) The Department of Culture is an administrative installation for the
nation-wide management of cultural activities, as well as for servicing cultural
exchange agreements with foreign countries. The Department administers a Museum of

Natural History, a Museum of Anthropology, a School of Fine Arts and a School of Dance, as well as a National Cultural Centre containing 2,000 seats.

The Ministry of Information in its annual budget provides for administration of the National Library, the National Archives, two radio stations and a film centre;

(c) The Government of Guyana provides national holidays in respect of Hindu, Muslim and Christian religions and historical observances, honours public benefactors of diverse racial origins, such as the Italian malariologist Dr. George Giglioli, the black labour leader Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow and the Indian political leader Dr. J. T. Lachmansingh;

(d) The Hindu Deepavali and Phagwah religious festivals are celebrated nationally in Guyana as well as the Moslem Eid-Ul-Azha;

(e) The Film Centre and Mobile Film Unit of the Ministry of Information produces six to eight new documentary/feature titles per year based on regional news and cultures. Travelling photographic exhibitions and local talk-shows integrate the ten administrative regions of the country;

(f) The National Trust was incorporated by statute in 1972 for the preservation of the national heritage, notably the timber-framed architecture of the nineteenth century.

The Department of Culture sponsors a weekly radio programme, The National Heritage;

(g) The Laws of Guyana (No. 2, 1980, section 40(1)) state:

"Every person in Guyana is entitled to the basic right to a happy, creative and productive life, free from hunger, disease, ignorance and want. That right includes the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, that is to say, the right, whatever his race, place or origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest, to each and all of the following, namely -

(a) Life, liberty, security of the person and the protection of the law;

(b) Freedom for the privacy of his home and other property and from deprivation of property without compensation."

(h) The Ministry of Education administers professional training in Fine Art and Dance through

(i) The E.R. Burrowes School of Art;

(ii) The Department of Creative Arts, University of Guyana;

(iii) The National School of Dance.

/...

(i) Publications of the Ministry of Education distributed locally and overseas include a journal of anthropology, an annual review of the arts, an annual memorial lecture series and various musical recordings.

There is participation in the biennial Guyfesta, the Guyana National Festival of the Arts.

(3) Factors involved and difficulties encountered

Cultural administration in a multi-ethnic developing country is inevitably hampered by logistic problems in communication and transport. As a result, cultural installations currently benefit urban populations at the expense of the rural. The administration is conscious of this problem whilst being limited in its means of redressing it.

Severe foreign exchange difficulties operate against acquisition of professional tools and implements, literature and art materials.

B. Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications

(1) Principal laws

The National Scientific Research Council was established by Act No. 26 of 1974 with the following objectives:

(a) To assist in the formulation of, and to advise the Government on, a National Scientific Policy;

(b) To determine priorities for scientific and technological activities in Guyana;

(c) To promote research and to ensure the application of the results of scientific and technological activities to the development of agriculture, industry and social welfare in Guyana.

The Council has recently been restructured and has also established a unit for the collection, storage and dissemination of scientific and technological information.

In common with so many other developing countries in the third world, Guyana has a limited resource base of trained science personnel, finance and equipment, so that science and technology is still in an embryonic stage of development. The country has nevertheless been able to ensure that all citizens enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application.

/...

C. Protection of moral and material interests of authors

(1) Principal laws

The Laws of Guyana (No. 2, 1980, section 146(1)) state:

"Except with his own consent, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of expression, that is to say, freedom to hold opinions without interference, freedom to receive ideas and information without interference, freedom to communicate ideas and information without interference and freedom from interference with his correspondence."

Notes

1/ The present document contains the report of Guyana concerning rights covered by article 15 of the Covenant. For the first part of the report of Guyana, concerning rights covered by articles 13 and 14, submitted on 31 August 1981, see document E/1982/3/Add.5.
