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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
 FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF
 WORK OF THE COMMISSION; ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS
 WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE
 ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption
 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. SUMMARY OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Mauritius

The Government of Mauritius informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to issue a cover with special cancellations using a definitive postage stamp to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Uruguay

In connexion with the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Government of Uruguay informed the Secretary-General that by Legislative Act No. 14842 adopted by the Council of State, December 1978 was proclaimed the "Month of the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

On 24 November 1978, the Council of State of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay also adopted a message which outlined in detail the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its influence on national constitutions and laws in many countries of the world. It went on to state that in the Declaration, the principle of human rights was closely linked to the autonomy that underlined national sovereignty, an essential element in the development of friendly relations between nations.

The significance of the message for the Government was emphasized in the light of the country's ongoing institutional revolutionary process. It recalled that the whole history of Uruguay, strengthened by the feeling of nationhood which had already emerged with Artigas in their homeland, offered an example of true reverence for human rights, both in the constitutional period and in the institutional law of the ongoing revolutionary process. It was thus a dynamic force that moved steadily and inexorably towards the targets planned for the future.

The message also outlined, in brief, documents of the Artigas period, the instructions of Year XIII, the Constitution for the Eastern Province of Uruguay and the "Draft Federal Constitution" both dated from 1813, to show that the enunciation and the observance of human rights were inseparable parts of the entire doctrine expounded by Artigas.

The message referred to Uruguayan legislation "Institutional Act No. 5" which caters for the burning need of today's world namely the establishment of the rules and procedures to protect human and individual rights against persons and groups that violate them in order to achieve their own aims. That is particularly true, it noted, of subversion and terrorism which in themselves constitute a fundamental attack on the basic rights of the individual.

It was due precisely to Uruguay's concern for human rights that it enacted laws which made a distinction between human rights and the rights of the individual. According to this distinction, the letter and the spirit of Uruguayan institutional law embodies integral protection by the State which ensures the human rights of every person and the free exercise of his rights as an individual.

The message concluded that the Uruguayan nation had displayed its faith in human rights and considered it a duty to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

The Bill adopted by the Council of State decreed December 1978 the "Month of the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and entered into force on promulgation by the Executive Power. For the purposes of compliance with the provisions of the Act, it was directed that during December 1978 official documents of State bodies should head their ordinances and communications with the reference: "Month of the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

Venezuela

In commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Venezuela organized a seminar on "Universalism and regionalism in the international promotion of human rights" which was held on 4 September 1978 under the auspices of UNESCO, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Simón Bolívar University and opened by the President of the Republic of Venezuela.

The Government also issued Decree No. 2,804 providing for the celebration of the anniversary throughout the country as well as the celebration of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. A ministerial committee was appointed to supervise the implementation of the Decree.

The Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reproduced for the public the texts of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A reproduction of the American Convention on Human Rights or "Pact of San José" as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would also be published.

II. SUMMARY OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Category I

International Federations of Resistance Movements

At its Eighth Congress meeting held in Minsk in May 1978, the International Federation of Resistance Movements decided to associate itself with the celebration of the anniversary. To that end the Federation issued a statement in which it restated its active and continuing commitment to human rights as one of its inalienable principles for which members of resistance movements fought during the Second World War and for which the people of the world had made so many sacrifices.

The Federation observed that disregard and contempt for human rights had resulted in barbarous acts which had outraged the conscience of mankind.

Following the defeat of fascism, the peoples of the world had reaffirmed, in the United Nations Charter, faith in fundamental human rights, dignity and worth of the human person, and expressed their wish to build their life on new foundations of social justice, peace and freedom.

The Federation appealed to all its members, ex-servicemen, victims of war and fascism and to their national associations to: act to ensure that their countries, if they had not done so, accede to and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; ensure respect for the universal importance of human rights and

fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference; work for the noble objectives of the United Nations and for the universal application of the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

At its meeting held in Vienna on 16 and 17 November 1978, the Federation dealt with the problems connected with nazism and fascism. Special attention was devoted to the problem of the non-application of a period of limitation to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It expressed its full support for the United Nations Convention on the Non-Application of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crime against Humanity which it regards as a general norm of international law. It also adopted, on behalf of the victims of fascism, a number of declarations condemning and firmly rejecting moves of any kind aimed at the application to these crimes of a period of limitation.

In view of what it considered as a resurgence of neo-nazi activities in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Federation said that its former members were following discussions on the problem with the greatest attention.

Category II

World Federation of Democratic Youth

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Proclamation of the Declaration of Human Rights, the World Federation of Democratic Youth adopted a declaration in which it inter alia observed that the adoption of the Universal Declaration was an important landmark in the long and difficult struggle of the peoples for the recognition of fundamental human rights; the right to life, to freedom and security, to work, to culture, to equality before the law, and other rights; at the same time that document has become a precious instrument in the struggle for peace, democracy, national independence and social progress.

The principles laid down in the Universal Declaration have inspired international conventions as well as the constitutions and legislations of many countries. Today one can perfectly appreciate the great value of this outstanding document and its powerful impact on international life.

The struggle for the defence, respect and promotion of human rights has not come to an end. On the contrary, the realities of the world today underscore the urgency and need to redouble efforts for the respect and concrete implementation of fundamental human rights as a whole.

Starting out from this clear conception, WFDY has constantly given an important place in its activities to the promotion of human rights and has denounced violations of human rights in all cases. It laid particular stress on the defence of youth rights, especially the right to work, to education and vocational training, to culture and sports. It has helped to mobilize international youth opinion against all kinds of violations of human dignity.

WFDY launched an appeal to all member and friendly organizations, to all men and women who cherish peace and progress to redouble their efforts for the respect, spread and implementation of the noble principles laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a contribution to the struggle of mankind for peace, justice and progress.