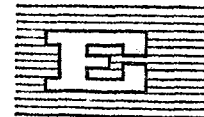


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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirty-fifth session
Item 11 (a) of the provisional agenda

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS; INCLUDING: (a) 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

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The Commission, at its thirty-fourth session, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 32/127, adopted resolution 24 (XXXIV) on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights. ^{1/} In paragraph 1 of the resolution the Commission requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of arranging suitable regional seminars under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights in those regions where no regional commission on human rights exists at present, for the purpose of discussing the usefulness and advisability of the establishment of regional commissions on human rights. In paragraph 2 of the resolution the Secretary-General was further requested to take appropriate steps to give the Organization of African Unity, if it so requests, such assistance as it might require in facilitating the establishment of a regional commission on human rights for Africa. In paragraphs 3 and 4 respectively, the Commission decided to give due attention to this question at its thirty-fifth session and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at that session on the steps taken to implement this resolution.

2. With regard to the implementation of operative paragraph 1 the Secretary-General would like to draw the attention of the Commission to his report (A/33/219) concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/127 which deals with the same subject. In this report, which was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of the financial difficulties involved in the implementation by the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, including the holding of seminars on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights as requested in General Assembly resolution 32/127, consequent upon a drastic cut in the budgetary allocation for the programme of the biennium 1978-1979. Because of these financial difficulties the Secretary-General felt bound to inform the Assembly that, unless special funds were provided, it would be

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 4 (E/1978/34), resolution 24 (XXXIV).

very difficult to implement resolution 32/127 concerning the regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights during the biennium 1978-1979, concurrently with a substantial implementation of the other mandates of the programme. The Secretary-General also informed the General Assembly that the possibility of holding the required seminars after 1979 would depend on the budgetary allocation for the programme in the years to come.

3. Following consideration of the report of the Secretary-General referred to above, the General Assembly adopted resolution 33/167 by which it reiterated its appeal to States in areas where regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not exist to consider arrangements with a view to the establishment within their respective regions of suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights. The Secretary-General was once again requested, under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to give priority to the consideration, in regions where no regional commission on human rights exists, of seminars for the purpose of discussing the usefulness and advisability of the establishment of regional commissions for the promotion and protection of human rights and that at least one such seminar should be organized during 1979. The Secretary-General was further requested to report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session and also to include in his report to the Commission on Human Rights, in accordance with paragraph 4 of its resolution 24 (XXXIV), such information as he may already possess on the implementation of that same Assembly resolution.

4. In connexion with the adoption of resolution 33/167 the Secretary-General submitted a statement concerning the administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/33/101) to the General Assembly in respect of the necessary funds to be provided for the holding of a seminar in 1979.

5. With regard to the implementation of paragraph 2 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 24 (XXXIV), the Secretary-General, on 12 May 1978, addressed a note verbale to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), calling the latter's attention to the resolution and informed him that the Division of Human Rights was at the disposal of the OAU, if it so requests, to discuss appropriate steps which could be taken to assist the OAU in facilitating the establishment of a regional commission on human rights for Africa. The Secretary-General wishes to inform the Commission that consultations regarding the matter under consideration continue with the OAU and other organizations concerned, and that no final decision has yet been taken.
