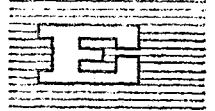
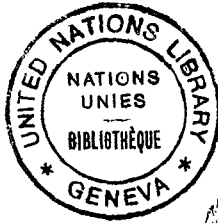


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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on Prevention of  
Discrimination and  
Protection of Minorities  
Thirty-second session  
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL  
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE  
TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Written statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union,  
a non-governmental organization in consultative status,  
category I

[13 August 1979]

A. Human rights of parliamentarians

1. In 1976, the Inter-Parliamentary Council, a plenary body currently composed of representatives of 80 Parliaments, set up a "Procedure for the examination and treatment, by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, of communications concerning violations of the human rights of parliamentarians". This procedure entered into force on 1 January 1977; it is described in the Annex.
2. A Special Committee of five members \*/ is the body mainly responsible for the examination and treatment of communications received. It meets in camera twice each year.
3. At its sessions in February and June 1979, the Special Committee examined some forty individual cases. It reported to the Inter-Parliamentary Council on some of these cases; others have been kept on the agenda for further confidential study; some communications were considered inadmissible.

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\*/ At the present time, the Special Committee is composed as follows:  
Mr. A. Chandernagor (France), Chairman; Mr. C. Canache Mata (Venezuela); Mr. Derikoye Tita Avungara (Zaire); Mr. B. Osolnik (Yugoslavia); Mr. S.N. Sinha (India).

4. At its 124th session, held at Prague on 21 April 1979, the Inter-Parliamentary Council took note of the Special Committee's report and adopted resolutions on 25 parliamentarians from 8 countries: Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, Indonesia, Kenya, Singapore and Uruguay.

5. The Inter-Parliamentary Council will hold its next session on 12 and 21 September at Caracas. It will then have before it a report of the Special Committee on 26 parliamentarians in 8 countries: Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Indonesia, Singapore and Uruguay.

6. In the case of detained parliamentarians, the policy generally followed by both the Special Committee and the Inter-Parliamentary Council consists of requesting that the parliamentarians in question either be brought to trial as soon as possible at a trial offering all the guarantees set out in the international juridical instruments on human rights, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, or that they be released immediately.

7. Specific recommendations are addressed to the National Inter-Parliamentary Group of the country concerned, as appropriate, or to the Government of the country, as well as to all the Union's member National Groups.

When the Procedure came into force, the Inter-Parliamentary Council adopted a resolution which specifies various types of possible action by the Union's members and which is of a permanent nature. The resolution reads as follows:

"The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

"Considering that the action it undertakes for the defence of the human rights of parliamentarians will be all the more effective if it is amplified and supported by the National Groups,

"Calls on the National Groups to take all such measures as they may deem suitable for the support of the decisions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in this matter and to inform the Organization's Secretariat of their initiatives and the results obtained;

"Recalls that these measures include:

- Oral or written approaches by the National Groups, their Presidents or their members to their Governments and to the Speakers or Bureaux of their Parliaments, with a view to action by the latter directed towards the authorities of the countries concerned;
- Use of the mass media for the dissemination of the reports of the Special Committee and the decisions of the Council;
- Direct material and legal aid in appropriate forms to the victims."

In several cases since the adoption of the Procedure, the bilateral intervention of the Union's members on behalf of a particular parliamentarian whose case had been the subject of a resolution by the Council has proved to be most effective.

8. In some cases, the Council has provided for on site missions.

In this way, a mission of two members (one member of the Special Committee, Mr. S.N. Sinha (India) and the Secretary General) went to Singapore in May 1979 to complete on the spot the establishment of the file on Mr. Lee Tee Tong, a former parliamentarian of Singapore who has been detained without trial since 1963.

Likewise, the Inter-Parliamentary Council has requested the Uruguayan authorities for authorization to send an observer to the public hearing of the Supreme Military Tribunal which is to review the sentence handed down, in camera after a written procedure, against four Uruguayan parliamentarians.

9. The 7th session of the Special Committee will be held at Geneva from 4 to 7 February 1980. The Special Committee will submit a report to the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 126th session to be held at Oslo on 12 April 1980.

The Special Committee will also hold a short extraordinary session during the Union's Conference in Caracas next September.

B. The human rights situation in Latin America, particularly in Argentina, Chile, Nicaragua and Uruguay

At its 124th session, held at Prague on 21 April 1979, the Inter-Parliamentary Council set up a Special Committee entrusted with submitting to the Council, at its session in Caracas on 12 and 21 September, an exceptional report on the human rights situation in Latin America, particularly in Argentina, Chile, Nicaragua and Uruguay.

This Special Committee is composed of representatives of the following five National Groups of the Union: Belgium, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Senegal and Mexico. The latter Group was unable to appoint a representative on account of the general elections in Mexico on 1 July 1979.

The Special Committee met at Geneva from 10 to 13 July under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Madrigal Nieto, of Costa Rica, and appointed Mr. I.M. Wane, of Senegal, as Rapporteur to the Council's 125th session in Caracas.

The authorities of the four countries specifically mentioned in the Special Committee's mandate (Argentina, Chile, Nicaragua and Uruguay) were invited to make known in writing and orally their views on the human rights situation in their country; only the Argentinian authorities provided a memorandum. The Special Committee also received written and oral information from several international organizations (UN Human Rights Commission; UN High Commission for Refugees; International Labour Organisation; Organization of American States, Amnesty International; International Commission of Jurists) and from exiled parliamentarians from the countries considered (Senator Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen and Deputy Anibal Augusto Iturrieta, of Argentina, Senator Luis Valente Rossi of Chile and

Senators Wilson Ferreira Aldunate and Enrique R. Erro, of Uruguay); two other personalities invited to give evidence on the human rights situation in their country were unable to accept the invitation: The Archbishop of Managua and Senator Renan Fuentealba, of Chile.

The report drawn up by the Special Committee is in five parts: one part on the human rights situation in Latin America in general and one part on each of the four countries specifically considered. Each of these parts is divided into findings and recommendations. The Special Committee first gives a description of the situation and then goes on to recommend to the Council to make certain requests to the Governments of the countries concerned, as well as to the Union's National Groups and the Secretary General.

The Secretary General will inform the UH Commission on Human Rights at its 36th session in February 1980 of the action taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Council on this report.