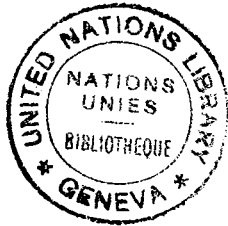


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Reports on economic, social and cultural rights, for the  
period 1 July 1969 - 30 June 1973, received from Governments  
under Economic and Social Council resolution 1074 C (XXXIX)

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

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/17 April 1974/

I. During the period 1969-1973, the Soviet Union scored major successes in all the main sectors of Communist construction. The socialist economy took another big step forward, and there was a spirit of confidence in the expanding agricultural sector. As a result of intensive efforts by the entire Soviet people, new frontiers were reached in scientific and technological development and increasing use was made of the latest advances in that field. The period under review was marked by extensive and extremely varied activities aimed at further strengthening the Soviet State and improving the entire political organization of society. These activities have been and continue to be oriented primarily towards the further development of socialist democracy. "The transition to communism," says the Programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, "implies the all-round development of the personal freedom and rights of Soviet citizens. Under socialism, the workers have been granted and guaranteed the broadest rights and freedoms. Communism brings the workers significant new rights and opportunities."

The Programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union also notes that the period of transition to communism affords increasing opportunities for educating a new man who harmoniously combines within himself spiritual richness, moral purity and physical perfection. The conditions for the comprehensive development of the personality in the USSR have been created as a result of historic social advances - the liberation of man from exploitation, from unemployment and poverty, and from discrimination on the basis of sex, origin, nationality and race.

During the period under review, a number of important events in the Soviet Union served as a demonstration to the entire world of the triumph of socialist democracy and of the unvarying respect and protection accorded to all the rights of the Soviet people, including economic, social and cultural rights.

On 22 April 1970, the entire Soviet people and all of progressive mankind solemnly observed the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Soviet State, the great Lenin. The celebration of this historic date provided a new demonstration of the achievements of Soviet democracy and of the unshakable fraternal friendship, unity and solidarity of the entire Soviet people.

In the spring of 1971, the Twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union approved guidelines for the ninth five-year plan for the economic development of the USSR, which covers the period 1971-1975. Fulfilment of the vast new five-year plan will mean that by the year 1975 the Soviet Union will be an even mightier industrial Power, the material well-being and cultural level of the Soviet people will show further growth, and the construction of a communist society will be proceeding at an ever swifter pace.

The Congress also adopted the majestic Programme of Peace, which, inter alia, appealed for full implementation of the United Nations decisions on the elimination

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of the remaining colonial régimes and for universal condemnation and boycott of manifestations of racism and apartheid.

December 1972 marked the passage of 50 years since the formation of the USSR. In the history of our State, the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a milestone in terms of its political significance and socio-economic consequences. The creation in the USSR of history's first developed socialist society was an important advance in fraternal co-operation among the peoples which are joined together in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

II. During the period under review, all the legislative and other legal norms which are designed to ensure the recognition, implementation and protection of the constitutional rights of Soviet citizens in the economic, social and cultural spheres were strictly observed and carried into effect in our country. The attention of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government was also focused on the legislative regulation of such matters as improving the public health protection, strengthening the family, further improving work relationships, ensuring the conservation of nature and the rational utilization of natural resources, and developing and improving the system of public education. Specific legislative enactments relating to various aspects of the implementation of human rights in the Soviet Union will be cited in the appropriate sections of this report.

In 1973, the Soviet Union ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which are highly important instruments of international law relating to the protection of human rights. This action by the Soviet Union is further proof of the importance which has always been attached to the implementation and protection of human rights in our country and of the consistent manner in which those objectives have been pursued.

As in the past, the USSR is in the forefront of the struggle against all violations of international legality, particularly in cases where the basic principles of international law and human rights and freedoms are being flouted.

### III. The right to work.

1. Right to free choice of employment. The preamble to the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation, approved by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 15 July 1970, states as follows:

"In the USSR, scientific and technological progress goes hand in hand with full employment and is used for the purpose of greatly easing the conditions of work, reducing the work week and eliminating arduous physical labour and unskilled labour of every kind. Increasing scientific and technological progress is accompanied by a gradual process of organic coalescence of mental and physical work in productive activities. Specialized and vocational education, which is provided free of charge on a broad scale, guarantees the free choice of work and an occupation with due regard for the interests of society."

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The right to free choice of work and an occupation is also ensured by the freedom to conclude a contract of employment and by the prohibition of unjustified refusal to give employment.

The Constitution of the USSR prohibits any direct or indirect restriction of rights or the establishment of any direct or indirect privileges in admitting a worker to employment on the basis of sex, race, nationality or attitude towards religion (article 9 of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation).

On the other hand, a manual or non-manual worker has the right to annul a contract of employment concluded for an indefinite term provided that he gives the management two weeks' notice in writing.

2. Right to just and favourable conditions of work. Article 2 of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation treats the right to healthy and safe working conditions as one of the basic principles of Soviet Labour Legislation.

Terms of contracts of employment offering conditions for manual and non-manual workers which are inferior to those provided by the Labour Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics or which are otherwise at variance with that legislation are considered null and void.

The Fundamental Principles as well as the new labour codes of the Union Republics contain a special chapter entitled "Industrial safety" which gives the fullest possible expression to the right of manual and non-manual workers to healthy and safe working conditions.

3. Right to protection against unemployment and underemployment. As is pointed out in the preamble to the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation, in the USSR "scientific and technological progress goes hand in hand with full employment".

Article 2 of the Fundamental Principles repeats the provision of the Constitution of the USSR stating that the right of citizens of the USSR to work is ensured by the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment. These economic guarantees of the right to work are supplemented by a number of effective legal guarantees (the prohibition of unjustified refusal to give employment, the prohibition of dismissal of manual and non-manual workers on the initiative of the management on grounds not provided for by law and without the prior consent of the trade union committee, etc.).

Article 26 of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation provides that, on taking up employment or at any time subsequently, a manual or non-manual worker may enter into an agreement with the management that he will work on a daily or weekly part-time basis, remuneration being calculated in proportion to the time actually worked or the output. However, part-time employment in the USSR, where there is a shortage of labour, has nothing in common with underemployment. Provision is made for part-time employment in the interests of persons who have

children or incapacitated members of the family to take care of and persons with reduced working capacity who are unsuited to full-time work. Regulations to govern these situations were enacted because of the fact that Soviet legislation normally prohibits any changes, by agreement between the management and a worker, in the State rules relating to the hours of work.

Part-time work does not entail any limitation on manual and non-manual workers' annual leave, on the calculation of their employment period or on their other labour rights.

4. Right of everyone who works to just and favourable remuneration ensuring a decent living for himself and his family. In article 2 of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation, the right of manual and non-manual workers to a wage or salary guaranteed by the State in proportion to the quantity and quality of labour contributed is treated as one of the most important principles of Soviet labour legislation.

The monthly earnings of manual and non-manual workers may not be lower than the minimum rate fixed by the State.

Pursuant to article 37 of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation, wage standardization is carried out by the State with the participation of the trade unions.

The work of manual workers is remunerated on the basis of tariff rates (monthly salaries) fixed in a centralized manner. The management of the enterprise, acting in agreement with the works, factory or local trade union committee, classifies jobs in accordance with different tariff categories and workers according to categories of skill in conformity with the provisions of the tariff (wage rates) and skills handbook.

The work of non-manual workers is remunerated on the basis of salary rates fixed in a centralized manner. The salaries of non-manual workers are fixed by the management of the enterprise, institution or organization on the basis of the post they occupy and their skills.

Persons employed in arduous or unhealthy work or in places with difficult climatic conditions are entitled to higher rates of remuneration.

5. Right of everyone, without discrimination of any kind, to equal pay for equal work. Pursuant to the Constitution of the USSR, the work of manual and non-manual workers is remunerated according to quantity and quality. It is illegal to pay reduced rates on account of sex, age, race or nationality.

6. Right to rest, leisure and reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay. Under article 2 of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation, manual and non-manual workers have the right to leisure and rest in conformity with the laws on the working day and working week and on annual paid leave.

The normal hours work for manual and non-manual workers employed at enterprises, institutions or organizations may not exceed 41 a week. As economic and other essential conditions are created, the length of the work-week will be reduced. Reduced hours of work apply in the case of certain categories of workers (minors, manual and non-manual workers employed in jobs where the conditions of work are detrimental to health, teachers, doctors and others).

Pursuant to article 32 of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation, all manual and non-manual workers are entitled to annual leave during which they retain the right to their employment and average remuneration.

Manual and non-manual workers are entitled to annual leave of at least 15 working days, which is gradually increased. The duration of the annual leave is calculated in the manner specified by Soviet legislation.

Manual and non-manual workers under 18 years of age are entitled to one calendar month's leave per year.

Certain categories of workers (those employed under unhealthy conditions, those employed in certain sectors of the national economy and having an extended period of service with the same enterprise or organization, those employed in regions of the Far North and in localities assimilated thereto, etc.) are entitled to additional paid leave.

7. Right to form trade unions and to join the trade union of one's choice. The right of manual and non-manual workers to associate to form trade unions is guaranteed by the Constitution of the USSR.

The trade unions act in conformity with the rules and statutes which they themselves adopt and are not required to be registered with any State body.

Under article 95 of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation, State bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations are required to give trade unions all possible assistance in their activities.

8. Right to strike. Soviet legislation does not contain any provisions prohibiting strikes. There is no need for special legal regulation of the right to strike since there are virtually no strikes under the conditions existing in the USSR.

The right to social security, including social insurance in the event of unemployment, sickness, widowhood or old age

Social security in the Soviet Union, which is an integral part of the Programme of the Communist Party and the Government for raising the material and cultural living standards of the entire people, developed during the period under review in accordance with the decisions of the Twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and on the basis of the existing system for

providing a wide variety of social services to all categories of workers, i.e. manual and non-manual workers and collective farm members (or members of peasant co-operatives), and other segments of the population.

The main characteristics of the unified system of Soviet social security are its State-operated character, its complete coverage of all disabled persons, the high level of material benefits, the democratic nature of the system and its universality. These characteristics are reflected in the fact that aged and disabled persons are, in all necessary cases, granted pensions, allowances and other types of social assistance and services from State and social funds without the payment of insurance premiums by workers from personal income, including wages, and without taxation of the sums paid as material assistance.

In the USSR, old-age pensions are awarded at a relatively early age: at the age of 60 in the case of men and 55 in the case of women. For many categories of workers employed under unfavourable conditions in terms of the climate or other factors, this pensionable age is lowered by 5 years in the case of men and by as much as 10 years in the case of women; in addition, these categories of workers are in many cases paid a higher pension.

Workers of any age who have suffered a prolonged loss of working capacity as a result of an industrial accident, an occupational disease or ordinary illness are paid a disability pension regardless of when the condition arose (before, during or after the worker's period of employment). A family which has lost its breadwinner receives a pension for all disabled family members regardless of the cause of the breadwinner's death.

At the present time, the number of pensioners in the USSR is 43 million, which shows the high level of eligibility for pensions and allowances.

All workers, including collective farm members, are paid an allowance of from 50 to 100 per cent of earnings in case of temporary loss of working capacity.

The universality of social security coverage in the USSR affords extensive opportunities for receiving many other types of social assistance and benefits.

In addition to the pensions, allowances and free medical care available to all Soviet citizens, workers suffering prolonged loss of working capacity may, in necessary cases, be granted free treatment at sanatoria and spas, accommodation at nursing homes with all expenses paid by the State, special transportation, including an automobile for personal use, and, where the person concerned can continue to work and wishes to do so, placement in a suitable job and vocational training and retraining.

During the period under review, the expansion of the social security system proceeded at the accelerated rate provided for in the plans for national economic development and was made possible by the steady growth of the economy. In the years 1971-1972 alone, Soviet national income increased by 10 per cent; social

consumption funds, which are used for payments and benefits over and above wages, rose by 14.1 per cent, and disbursements from those funds for pensions alone increased by 25 per cent during a period when the number of pensioners rose by 7.5 per cent.

The huge increase in the State funds allocated for social security has made it possible to effect further improvements in the social security system in recent years.

The significant upward trend in the level of social security is reflected, inter alia, by the above-mentioned increase in monetary payments to pensioners and the relatively high pensions paid in relation to earnings. During the period referred to, minimum old-age pensions were substantially increased: by 50 per cent for manual and non-manual workers and by 67 per cent for collective farm members. The minimum pensions paid to collective farm members in case of disability or loss of a breadwinner were also increased.

This upward trend in the over-all level and minimum amounts of pensions will continue in the period ahead. Pensions to families of military personnel which have lost a breadwinner were increased by 20 per cent in 1973, and pensions paid to all categories of disabled persons as well as those paid to the families of manual and non-manual workers for the death of a breadwinner will go up an average of 30 per cent this year. This will produce increases in almost 8 million pensions. In addition, disability and old-age pensions are being brought into a more rational correlation. Thus, the pensions paid to persons suffering from a severe type of disability will be as great as or greater than old-age pensions.

At the same time, there will be substantial increases in the minimum and maximum pensions for disability and loss of a breadwinner as well as in the supplementary pension payments for the care of disabled persons and for their dependants.

A significant step was taken towards bringing the conditions and level of social security for manual and non-manual workers and collective farm members closer together when the separate schemes for the payment of benefits from collective farm funds to collective farm members suffering temporary loss of working capacity, which had existed up to 1970, were replaced by a unified system of State social insurance providing the same coverage for collective farm members as for manual and non-manual workers.

Since 1971, there has been further equalization of social security; the method of calculating pensions established for manual and non-manual workers has been made applicable to collective farm members, with the result that pensions have been recomputed at new, higher rates for 12 million members of peasant co-operatives.

One of the most important trends in the development of social security in the USSR is the introduction of improvements in the system of social services for disabled persons.



Restoration of the disabled person's health and working capacity (social-labour rehabilitation), which enables him to engage in socially useful labour and derive moral satisfaction from the knowledge that he is useful to society, is an important responsibility of the State in the Soviet Union and is regulated by a number of legislative and government enactments.

The provision of various types of social assistance to persons suffering loss of working capacity is often dependent on expert decisions by special boards of experts on industrial diseases and accidents. During the period under review, much attention was given to the problem of further improving these boards, providing them with qualified personnel, applying scientific advances and new, advanced working procedures, and improving the quality of expert decisions and labour recommendations.

The extensive measures being taken to prevent disability and restore the working capacity of disabled persons together with the steady rise in the living standards and culture of the Soviet people, improved working and living conditions, and the efforts made to protect the health of Soviet citizens have brought about a further decline in disability. In 1972, for example, the incidence of first disability per 10,000 manual and non-manual workers showed a drop of 19 per cent from the figure for 1969.

Other significant factors in reducing the incidence of disease and disability have been the high rate of technological progress, the introduction of new technology, the comprehensive mechanization of heavy labour and the improved sanitary and hygienic conditions in industry. These factors have also provided new opportunities for bringing larger numbers of pensioners into the labour force.

Attention should also be drawn to the importance of material incentives in inducing pensioners to go on working. In the Soviet Union, all working old-age pensioners who are directly employed in physical production, commerce, public services, the communications industry and certain other lines of work and disabled persons employed in all sectors of the national economy receive both a wage and a full or partial pension.

In 1973, the Government adopted a decision which called for making wider use of the residual working capacity of pensioners without impairing their health by expanding the system of specialized enterprises and shops at which disabled persons work a shorter day while being paid for a full working day and are given extra leave and other benefits.

At these enterprises, which are specially designed for the employment of pensioners, work is organized in the most comfortable, convenient and efficient manner possible and the sanitary and hygienic conditions and medical care are of the very best.

The various Ministries responsible for social security measures for disabled persons administer 68 vocational schools and secondary technical schools with boarding facilities at which 12,000 disabled persons receive 2 to 4 years of training with all expenses paid by the State, including free meals, clothing, housing and social and cultural amenities. Disabled persons can also receive an education and vocational training in the regular school system.

A major factor in the success which has been achieved in placing disabled persons in employment is the State prosthesis service, consisting of 100 prosthetic-orthopaedic enterprises, five research institutes, a design office and many other institutions, which in the last three years have substantially increased the production of new models of functionally improved devices created with the aid of recent scientific and technological advances, including bio-electrically controlled artificial limbs, improved miniature hearing devices, etc.

During the period under review, a wider range of housing and other communal benefits and services has been made available to pensioners. A greater number of people are now entitled to free transportation, the fare has been reduced for all types of public transportation during certain parts of the year, and pensioners living at home receive more extensive services in terms of public feeding and other communal facilities.

In recent years, measures have also been taken to meet the material and spiritual needs of pensioners by substantially expanding the network of fully equipped nursing homes. At the present time, there are 1,490 such institutions in the USSR. The development of this type of social security, which is financed entirely with State and social funds, is characterized by ever-increasing specialization and emphasis on preventive care, in accordance with the inmate's age and health, the nature of his illness, and the possibility of giving him work therapy and training.

#### The right to an adequate standard of living

Under Soviet labour legislation, manual and non-manual workers are entitled to a guaranteed wage or salary in proportion to the quantity and quality of labour contributed. At the present time, wages and salaries are the main source of workers' income. The average monthly monetary remuneration of manual and non-manual workers employed in the national economy was 135 roubles in 1973, and the total including payments and benefits from social consumption funds was 182 roubles. The wages and salaries of manual and non-manual workers employed in the national economy showed an increase of almost 11 per cent over the figure for 1970.

Under existing legislation, the monthly earnings of manual and non-manual workers may not be lower than the minimum rate fixed by the State.

The Twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union adopted a far-reaching programme for improving popular living standards. The Congress guidelines call for gradually increasing the monthly minimum wage to 70 roubles on a district-to-district basis over the period 1971-1975 and simultaneously increasing the tariff rates (monthly salaries) of middle-income workers. During the period 1971-1973, 31 million manual and non-manual workers, or one-third of the total number, received pay increases. Increases in pensions, stipends and allowances and other social measures brought higher income to another 23 million persons.

In addition to the increase in the minimum wage, taxes are no longer levied on manual and non-manual workers with monthly earnings of up to 70 roubles and the tax rates on earnings of up to 90 roubles have been lowered.

The Constitution of the USSR provides that manual and non-manual workers are to be paid for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality. Article 36 of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation states as follows: "It is illegal to pay reduced rates on account of sex, age, race or nationality."

Of tremendous importance in improving the material well-being of the people are the payments and benefits received from social consumption funds, which amounted to 78,000 million roubles in 1973 as compared with 63,900 million in 1970.

Social consumption funds are used to finance free education, free medical care, the payment of allowances, pensions and other types of social security and social insurance, leave payments, stipends, the provision of free and reduced-rate passes to sanatoria and vacation homes, the operation of kindergartens and crèches, and other types of social and cultural services.

The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable  
standard of physical and mental health

1. Today, as in the past, the Soviet State regards the protection of the health and life of children as one of its most important responsibilities.

There are more than 4 million births in the USSR every year. An extensive network of therapeutic and prophylactic institutions for children - children's hospitals, children's sections in general hospitals, and children's health centres and outpatient clinics - has been developed to protect the health of Soviet children. All children in the USSR are under constant clinical observation.

Between 1969 and 1972, the number of paediatricians increased by 14,000 to a total of 88,800, and the number of hospital beds for children increased by 57,000 to a total of 469,000, representing 70 beds for every 10,000 children up to the age of 15. Special attention is given to the medical care of children under one year of age so as to ensure the early detection and prevention of disease.

Thanks to the concern shown by the Soviet State and the improvements made in medical care, the mortality rate for children under the age of one year in 1972 was one-eleventh of what it had been before the Revolution; the figure was 24.7 deaths per 1,000 children under the age of one year.

2. The policy of the Soviet State regarding protection of the human environment is based on the principle that not only persons now alive but future generations as well must be permitted to enjoy all the blessings of nature.

The environment is recognized in the USSR as an extremely important element in the material well-being of the population. The task of meeting people's needs

for clean air, optimum hygienic conditions, and land, water, forests, etc. which are fit for humans is considered just as important as meeting people's needs for food, clothing, housing and cultural amenities.

Environmental protection is not regarded in the USSR as a suddenly emerging problem or an unforeseen consequence of the growth of production forces but rather as a normal prerequisite of social progress and an integral part of the whole complex of measures being taken by the Soviet people to carry out the tasks of building communism.

Accordingly, the Soviet Union consistently and purposefully applies a comprehensive policy aimed at preserving, restoring and improving an environment which is livable and conducive to the development of material production and culture.

The most effective possible measures of environmental protection are therefore taken in conjunction with the exploitation of natural resources.

Soviet legislation on protection of the environment consists of an extensive body of legal regulations which are enacted by the legislative organs of the USSR and the Union and Autonomous Republics.

This legislation is supported by a large body of legally binding regulations issued by local Soviets of Working People's Deputies and by Ministries and other government departments, which deal with the use and protection of natural resources and define the rights, duties and liability of enterprises, organizations, institutions and citizens.

The legal régime for environmental protection is based on the Constitution of the USSR, which states that the land and its mineral wealth, waters and forests belong to the whole people and must be used on a planned basis with the aim of increasing public wealth and steadily raising the material and cultural living standards of the population.

The Soviet environmental protection legislation based on the Constitution of the USSR is taking shape through the establishment of universally applicable environmental protection standards and the enactment of bodies of relevant legislation by the USSR and the Union Republics.

Among the most important laws relating to environmental protection are the Fundamental Principles of the Health Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics (1969), the Fundamental Principles of the Water Resources Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics (1970) and the Fundamental Principles of the Land Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics (1968).

According to the Fundamental Principles of Health Legislation, protection of the health of the population is an obligation of all State agencies, enterprises, institutions and organizations. Protection of the health of the population in the

USSR is ensured by a system of socio-economic and public health measures, including measures designed to improve environmental hygiene and to ensure the sanitary protection of bodies of water, the soil and the atmosphere.

The Fundamental Principles of Health Legislation attach great importance to prophylactic measures in the field of sanitation and epidemic control. For that purpose, they impose a number of environmental protection requirements in connexion with communal construction and the organization of productive activities and of rest and leisure.

The directors of enterprises, institutions, and planning, construction and other organizations and the management of collective farms are required, when designing, constructing, reconstructing and operating enterprises and communal facilities, to draw up and implement measures to prevent pollution of the atmosphere, bodies of water, ground water and the soil and are held responsible for non-compliance with these obligations under the legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics.

It is illegal to bring into operation new or reconstructed enterprises, shops, production sections and other installations which do not have facilities for effectively purifying, neutralizing and eliminating harmful waste products and refuse.

The organs of the sanitation and epidemiology service are empowered to forbid or suspend the operation of existing installations which are apt to cause damage to health with waste products and refuse.

The Fundamental Principles of Water Resources Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics, approved by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in December 1970, establish the most important rights and obligations of water users, the procedure and conditions for authorizing the use of hydraulic installations and the manner in which they are to be operated.

Since most industrial and other enterprises directly or indirectly affect the condition of rivers, lakes and other bodies of water, the Fundamental Principles impose requirements regarding the location, designing, construction and entry into operation of such enterprises. It is illegal to bring enterprises into operation if they are not properly equipped to purify waste water. Furthermore, irrigation, water supply and drainage systems and water collection and other hydraulic installations may not be brought into operation unless they have equipment which ensures the rational utilization of water resources and their protection.

All enterprises, institutions and organizations are required to take measures to halt the discharge of polluted waste water through improved technical processes, by reducing the consumption of water, by introducing technology not requiring the use of water, by means of closed water supply cycles, etc.

As is pointed out in the Decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on Measures for Further Improving Nature Conservation and for the Rational Use of Natural Resources, adopted at the eighth session on 20 September 1972, "At a time

of rapid development of industry, transportation and agriculture, the intensification of the scientific and technological revolution, and the expansion of the many-sided material and cultural needs of the Soviet people, conservation of nature and the rational use of natural resources become one of the most important tasks of the State and must be dealt with if the national economic plan is to be successfully fulfilled and the well-being of present and future generations ensured. The solution of this problem is, in a socialist society, inextricably bound up with health protection and with the creation of conditions which will permit the Soviet people to engage in fruitful labour and leisure activities."

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR stated that all organizations must take measures aimed primarily at:

- Improved planning directed towards the rational use of natural resources and nature conservation, bearing in mind that projected nature conservation measures must be an integral part of long-term and annual plans for national economic development;

- The assumption of greater responsibility by Ministries and other government departments, enterprises and organizations for all aspects of the utilization of minerals and mineral raw materials at the extraction and processing stages and for strict compliance with legislation designed to ensure a genuinely economical approach to land, forest and water resources and to their protection, as well as the assumption of greater personal responsibility by citizens for the protection of the environment;

- The assumption of greater responsibility by Ministries and other government departments, enterprises and organizations for implementing measures to prevent soil pollution by industrial waste products and chemical poisons, water pollution by industrial and communal waste water, and atmospheric pollution by industrial waste products and automotive exhaust fumes, as well as for strict compliance with sanitary and hygienic rules and regulations;

- Action to prevent harmful discharges into the atmosphere and the discharge of polluted waste water, the timely construction of purification installations and the improvement of their quality, the planning and production of new types of equipment for gas purification and dust collection, biological purification of bodies of water, and the introduction of new technical production processes and improvement of existing ones;

- Increasing the production of machinery, equipment, measuring devices and automated instruments which permit more effective nature conservation;

- The formulation of town planning standards which ensure the healthiest possible environment in industrial and administrative centres.

An important document in the field of environmental protection is Decision No. 898 of 29 December 1972 of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR on Strengthening Nature Conservation and Improving the Utilization of Natural Resources.

Of great importance in enforcing requirements in the construction of industrial enterprises and in evaluating the condition of the atmosphere are the national air quality standards which have been applied in the USSR since 1951.

As regards the task of improving all aspects of industrial hygiene, developments in the USSR during the period from 1 July 1969 to 30 June 1973 contributed greatly to the further successes which have been achieved in creating optimum working conditions for Soviet industrial and agricultural workers.

The Fundamental Principles of the Labour Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics formulate and develop rules which guarantee workers not only the right to work and to rest and leisure but also conditions which cannot adversely affect their physical and mental health. These include limitation of the working day, special privileges for women, adolescents, nursing mothers, etc., and measures designed to ensure the most favourable possible working conditions. The Fundamental Principles call for compliance with work safety requirements in the construction and operation of industrial buildings, installations and equipment and prohibit the entry into operation of enterprises at which these requirements are not complied with. Ever-increasing sums of money are allocated for work safety, and these funds may not be spent for any other purpose. The Fundamental principles of Labour Legislation deal with the liability of enterprises for payment of damages in the event of any impairment of the worker's health arising out of his work obligations. This is in keeping with the basic concept enunciated in the Principles that "protection of the people's health is one of the most important responsibilities of the Soviet State".

At a time of scientific and technological progress, economic development, increased labour productivity, the use of more intensive methods in industry and agriculture, the application of new technological processes and methods, and the introduction of advanced types of tools and appliances, the tasks of the State sanitary inspection organs are becoming ever more complex. In May 1973, new regulations were approved for sanitary inspection.

Among the main responsibilities of the State sanitary inspection organs is that of supervising the implementation of sanitary and hygienic measures designed to ensure healthy working conditions for persons employed in the national economy. The new Regulations governing State Sanitary Inspection in the USSR have broadened the labour hygiene functions of sanitary engineers in carrying out State sanitary inspection at industrial enterprises and installations and in agriculture.

3. Within the territory they serve, the organs and institutions of the sanitary and epidemiological service carry out State sanitary inspection to ensure compliance by State agencies, enterprises, institutions and organizations, government officials and citizens with the legislation of the USSR and the Union and Autonomous Republics and decisions of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies relating to sanitary and epidemiological matters as well as compliance with hygienic and epidemic-control rules and regulations. Under the new regulations, proposed standards and technical specifications for new types of raw materials, industrial products, building materials, polymers and other synthetic

materials, and chemical substances used to stimulate the growth of agricultural plants and animals must be approved by the State sanitary inspection organs. Approval must also be obtained for new technological process, equipment, tools and appliances which may adversely affect human health. Chemical substances and pesticides may not be used if they present a health risk.

The first legal regulations have been adopted to ensure the implementation of measures for noise control and reduction, and the State sanitary inspection organs are responsible for maintaining supervision in this regard.

Increasing attention is being given in sanitation studies to chemical factors which affect man simultaneously through the air he breathes at his place of work, through the atmosphere and through the use of contaminated food and water. It is extremely important to proceed with studies along these lines so as to take account of the possibility of this kind of combined effect.

The prevention and cure of occupational diseases is one of the most important tasks of Soviet prophylactic medicine.

Occupational diseases and a number of ordinary illnesses are subjected to clinical study so as to permit early diagnosis, observation of the course of the disease, treatment and, most important of all, prevention through improved working conditions and therapeutic and clinical measures.

In the USSR, all therapeutic and prophylactic measures are carried out by a broad network of medical and sanitary units and specialized hospitals which work closely with town and district sanitary and epidemiological services. Extensive research is carried on and regular methodological assistance provided by the Work Hygiene and Occupational Disease Institutes. The Advanced Medical Training Institute and the Work Hygiene and Occupational Disease Institutes provide regular basic and advanced training to physicians specializing in that field, who offer regular therapeutic and prophylactic care to workers at all industrial enterprises.

Workers taking up employment at industrial enterprises undergo a preliminary medical examination designed to detect diseases for which work in a particular occupation is contra-indicated, to determine whether the person concerned is fit to perform the work, and to permit preventive measures against occupational diseases. An order by the Minister of Health of the USSR made these preliminary examinations compulsory in certain industries and occupations.

Workers at industrial enterprises who are exposed to harmful working conditions undergo periodic medical examinations.

Regular examinations are helpful in detecting early subclinical forms (or symptoms) of occupational diseases. They also permit early detection of ordinary illnesses, which is followed up by clinical observation and preventive treatment.

Free medical care and treatment are provided by medical and sanitary units (on both an out-patient and an in-patient basis) and at health centres and clinics



In the USSR, wide use is made of prophylactic centres and sanatoria where workers at industrial enterprises receive free therapeutic and prophylactic care in order to protect them against illness and increase their general body resistance. A great deal of attention is given to on-the-job gymnastics, including therapeutic exercises conducted under the supervision of medical specialists.

4. Soviet health services are a socialist system of State and public socio-economic and medical measures whose purpose is to prevent and treat disease, to ensure healthy conditions at work, in daily living and in leisure activities, and to promote a high level of work capacity and long life. The fact that Soviet health services are State-operated provides a solid material base for their development and ensures the rational allocation of material resources for health care and the proper distribution of medical personnel and of the network of therapeutic and prophylactic institutions so that people's medical needs are met as effectively as possible.

The Soviet State regards health protection as one of its main tasks and obligations under the Constitution of the USSR, article 120 of which states: "Citizens of the USSR have the right to maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness or disability. This right is ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of manual and non-manual workers at State expense, free medical services for the working people, and the provision of a wide network of health resorts for the use of the working people."

Under the Constitution of the USSR and the constitutions of the Union Republics, responsibility for administering health services lies with the higher organs of State power and organs of State administration of the USSR, the Union Republics and the Autonomous Republics as well as the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

In the USSR, medical care is provided to all citizens free of charge. When they are ill, manual and non-manual workers and collective farm members receive, in addition to free medical care, a temporary disability allowance of up to 100 per cent of their wage or salary which continues until they fully regain their working capacity. When temporary loss of working capacity is due to an industrial accident or occupational disease, the allowance amounts to 100 per cent of the wage or salary.

Medical care is provided to the population of the USSR by an extensive network of therapeutic-prophylactic and sanitary institutions. Measures to protect and strengthen the health of the population rest on a solid material and technological base and on the advances of medical science. The Act approving the Fundamental Principles of the Health Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics was adopted in 1969. In accordance with the Fundamental Principles, the main tasks connected with health protection in the USSR are accomplished by:

- Carrying out extensive health-improvement and prophylactic measures, particular attention being paid to the health of the younger generation;

- The creation of appropriate sanitary and hygienic conditions in industry and everyday life and the elimination of the causes of industrial accidents and occupational diseases and of other factors having an adverse effect on health;
- Carrying out measures designed to improve environmental hygiene and to ensure the sanitary protection of bodies of water, the soil and the atmosphere;
- The planned development of a network of health institutions and medical industry enterprises;
- Satisfying the needs of the population for all forms of medical care, free of charge; improving the quality and standards of medical care; gradual extension of the system of referral for clinical observation; and the development of specialized medical services;
- The free supply of therapeutic and diagnostic products within the framework of in-patient care, with a gradual extension of the free supply of therapeutic products (or their supply on favourable terms) in other forms of medical care;
- Extension of the network of sanatoria, prophylactic centres, rest homes, boarding houses, tourist establishments and other institutions for the treatment of workers and for their recreation;
- The physical and hygienic training of citizens, and the development of physical culture and sport on a mass scale;
- The development of science, the planned conduct of scientific research, and the training of scientific personnel and highly qualified specialists in the health field;
- The utilization of the achievements of science, technology and medical practice in the activities of health institutions, and the provision of the latter with the latest equipment;
- The formulation of scientific and hygienic principles for the nutrition of the population;
- The broad participation of public organizations and of teams of workers in the health protection of the population.

The guidelines adopted by the Twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union for the five-year plan for the economic development of the USSR for the period 1971-1975 call for measures aimed at further improving the country's health services, providing the population with qualified specialized care, and continuing the construction of large specialized and multipurpose hospitals, health centres and clinics.

During the period of Soviet rule, major successes have been achieved in reducing the incidence of a number of diseases and eliminating some of them. Plague and smallpox have been eliminated, there are no cases of relapsing fever and the incidence of malaria is almost nil. Between 1969 and 1972, the incidence of diphtheria was reduced by three fourths, that of whooping cough was reduced by 36 per cent, and that of acute poliomyelitis was brought down to a level where only isolated cases were recorded.

Prophylaxis forms the basis of Soviet health measures aimed at controlling epidemics and infectious diseases, protecting mothers and children, and safeguarding the health of manual and non-manual workers and collective farm members. Mass prophylactic examinations carried out at enterprises, collective and State farms, institutions and educational establishments enlist the services of cancer and tuberculosis specialists, therapists, obstetricians, gynecologists and other medical specialists. In the year 1972 alone, more than 102 million people underwent periodic prophylactic examinations. These examinations permit more complete and earlier detection of diseases. Persons found to be suffering from a disease are placed under clinical observation in specialized clinics and therapeutic-prophylactic institutions. There are more than 29 million persons under regular clinical observations.

A great deal of attention is given and will continue to be given to the task of improving the system of preferential medical and sanitary care for industrial, construction and transport workers, to the organization of shop services, and to the search for methods of disease prevention, particularly the prevention of occupational diseases and industrial accidents. By the end of 1972, there were 1,444 medical and sanitary units, with 1,043 hospitals and a total of 197,800 beds, at large enterprises and construction sites. Between 1969 and 1972, the incidence of temporary loss of working capacity among manual and non-manual workers dropped 13 per cent in terms of the number of cases and 7 per cent in terms of the total number of days lost.

The population of the USSR receives better medical care with each passing year. During the period 1969-1972, the number of doctors in all specialities increased by 114,000, or 18 per cent. At the present time, the USSR has 732,000 doctors, representing more than one fourth of the world-wide total of over 2.6 million. During the above-mentioned period, the number of intermediate medical personnel increased by 326,000, or 17 per cent, to a total of 2,270,000, while the number of hospital beds went up 306,000, or 12 per cent, to a total of 2,793,000. The doctor-population ratio increased from 26 per 10,000 inhabitants in 1968 to 29 in 1972, and the corresponding figure for intermediate medical personnel rose from 81 to 91. The number of hospital beds per 10,000 inhabitants rose from 104 in 1968 to 112 in 1972.

The right of the family, motherhood and childhood  
to protection and assistance

1. Right of the family to protection and assistance.

The welfare of the Soviet family, in which the social and personal interests

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of citizens are harmoniously combined, is one of the main concerns of the Soviet State.

In the Soviet Union, the most favourable possible conditions have been created for strengthening the family and permitting it to flourish. The Fundamental Principles of the Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics on Marriage and the Family, approved by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in 1968, state that "the purposes of Soviet legislation on marriage and the family are: the further strengthening of the Soviet family based on the principles of communist morality; the building of family relations on the basis of the voluntary union of men and women in marriage" (art. 1).

The legal regulation of marriage and family relations in the USSR is exercised exclusively by the State. All citizens, irrespective of their nationality, race or attitude towards religion, have equal rights in family relations. Marriages are annulled only by judicial proceedings, and they may be dissolved during the lifetime of the spouses only by divorce, which is also granted on the basis of judicial proceedings. In addition, in declaring a marriage dissolved the court, when necessary, takes steps to protect the interests of minor children and of a spouse who is incapable of working.

A major role in ensuring the family's right to protection and assistance in the Soviet Union is played by public opinion and by the moral standards and principles prevailing in Soviet society.

## 2. Right of mothers to special care and assistance.

In the USSR, motherhood is protected and encouraged by the State.

The protection of maternal and child health is ensured by the organization of an extensive network of women's consultation centres, maternity homes, sanatoria, and rest homes for expectant mothers and mothers with children, crèches, kindergartens and other children's establishments. Women are granted maternity leave with payment of a social insurance allowance, nursing mothers are allowed time off during work to enable them to nurse their children, and provision is made for the payment, in accordance with established procedures, of a grant on the occasion of the birth of a child and of allowances to compensate for absences from work while a sick child is cared for. The employment of women in arduous occupations or occupations dangerous to health is prohibited. Pregnant women are transferred to easier work without any reduction in their average wage or salary. State and public assistance is also provided to the family by other measures as laid down by the legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics.

Article 5 of the Fundamental Principles of the Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics on Marriage and the Family, which is entitled "Protection and encouragement of motherhood", also provides legal guarantees of special protection and assistance for mothers.

## 3. Right of children to special care and assistance.

Medical care for children and adolescents in the USSR is provided by therapeutic

and prophylactic establishments and by establishments for convalescence, rehabilitation and rest, i.e., children's health centres, hospitals, sanatoria and other health institutions.

Accommodation in children's sanatoria is free of charge. Children and adolescents are kept under regular clinical observation.

Children who are being brought up in children's institutions and are attending school are assured the necessary conditions for maintaining and improving their health and for acquiring proper hygienic habits. The children's scholastic work-load and the general nature of their curriculum are determined in consultation with the Ministry of Health of the USSR.

Supervision of children's health protection and of the implementation of sanitary measures at children's institutions and schools is exercised by the health organs and institutions in conjunction with the educational organs and with the participation of public organizations.

The basic cost of keeping children in crèches, kindergartens and other children's establishments is met out of the State budget and from the resources of enterprises, institutions, organizations, collective farms, trade unions and other public organizations.

Children with developmental defects of a physical or mental nature are accommodated, at State expense, in infants' homes, children's homes and other specialized children's establishments.

Mothers of hospitalized infants below the age of one year, and mothers of older children who are seriously ill and in the opinion of the physician require maternal care, are given an opportunity to stay with their child at the therapeutic establishment and are entitled to payment of a social insurance allowance in accordance with established procedures.

If it is impossible to admit a sick child to a hospital or if there are no indications for in-patient care, the mother or another member of the family looking after the child may be released from work and paid a social insurance allowance in accordance with established procedures.

#### 4. Right of parents to determine the number of their children.

In the USSR, the question of how many children a family is to have is decided by the family itself.

In accordance with article 122 of the Constitution of the USSR, motherhood is encouraged by State protection of the interests of mother and child, State aid to mothers with large families and unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, crèches and kindergartens.

In the interests of protecting their health, women have the right to decide

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for themselves whether or not to accept motherhood (Fundamental Principles of the Health Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics, art. 38).

Women who wish to avoid pregnancy may employ contraception, and those who wish to terminate a pregnancy may have an abortion performed at a medical establishment.

#### The right to education

1. Every member of Soviet society is afforded an equal opportunity for creative work and education. Everyone is guaranteed equally a free choice of occupation and field of specialization with due regard for the interests of society. As the amount of time devoted to productive labour declines, greater opportunities are afforded for developing capacities, skills and talents in industry, science, technology, literature and the arts.

During the period from 1969 to 1973, a great deal was accomplished in broadening the opportunities for Soviet people to receive an education and to achieve all-round development and spiritual growth. At the present time, there are 10 million children attending permanent pre-school establishments and some 49 million students attending general education schools. An extensive network of extra-scholastic children's establishments has been created. More than 2.6 million people are learning a trade at vocational schools, and there are more than 9 million students at secondary specialized and higher educational establishments.

In the Soviet Union, the opportunity to obtain an education is guaranteed not only to the younger generation but to all citizens without discrimination, irrespective of their racial or national origin, sex, religion, or property or social status. This is made clear by the following provisions from the school statutes:

"All school-age children shall attend a general education school. Schooling is free of charge. Students requiring it shall receive material assistance from the school out of the resources of the universal primary education fund.

"Students are afforded an opportunity to receive instruction in their native language. Parents or persons acting in their stead are entitled to choose the child's school as well as the appropriate language of instruction. Students may, in addition to the language of instruction, choose to study the language of another people of the USSR."

In order to guarantee the Soviet citizens an education, ensure implementation of the Compulsory Eight-year Education Act and provide universal secondary education, the requisite network of schools has been established in the USSR (secondary general education schools, industrial education schools, extended-day schools, boarding schools, evening (shift) and correspondence schools for working

youth, schools for physically and mentally handicapped children, woodland school-sanatoria and special schools).

The problem of the geographical accessibility of schools is dealt with by drawing school district lines as effectively as possible, providing free transportation to and from school for rural children and making well-equipped boarding facilities available at schools. The building of individual elementary, eight-year and secondary schools is determined by local conditions, the unified character and continuity of the various levels of general secondary education being preserved. Certain students receive material assistance from the universal primary education fund. Starting in 1972, students in the ninth and tenth grades have also been receiving this aid.

To assist them in the education and upbringing of their children, parents whose job requires them to be at work after their children's school hours can take advantage of extended-day schools and groups, which have a total enrolment of more than 6 million children.

Boarding schools and children's homes educate and rear children and adolescents who lack parental supervision or the necessary conditions for a home upbringing. There is also an extensive network of woodland school-sanatoria and special schools for children who, for health or other reasons, cannot attend a regular general education school. In 1973, virtually all children with a physical or mental developmental deficiency were attending special schools. On 20 June 1972, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a Decision on Completion of the Transition to Universal Secondary Education of Young People and the Further Development of the General Education School, providing for a number of measures designed to ensure the successful completion during the present five-year plan period of the transition to universal secondary education, which is an important prerequisite for the further social, political and economic development of our socialist society.

In 1973, the number of students receiving a secondary education at various educational establishments amounted to more than 3.7 million, representing 75.3 per cent of all children who had attended the first grade in the appropriate year.

2.3. All Soviet citizens with a secondary education, regardless of how they acquired it (at a day-session secondary school, a secondary vocational school, a secondary specialized educational establishment, an evening school or a correspondence school or as external students), are equally entitled to enter a higher educational establishment. In August 1972, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a Decision on Measures for Further Improving the Country's Higher Education which gave a great deal of attention to the problems of improving the training of specialists, modernizing curricula and syllabi, raising the level of qualification of teaching staff, and increasing the amount of research work by students in order to foster a creative approach to the acquisition of knowledge and equip future specialists with good research habits.

In 1969, preparatory departments were set up at higher educational establishments in order to create the necessary conditions for the admission of young industrial and farm workers. By the end of the first half of 1973, such departments were operating at 540 higher educational establishments and had a total enrolment of 74,000.

In July 1973, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted the Fundamental Principles of the Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics concerning Public Education.

The Fundamental Principles gave concrete legislative form to the basic concepts relating to pre-school, universal secondary, vocational, secondary specialized and higher education. Of exceptional importance are the genuinely democratic principles of Soviet public education formulated in this enactment, i.e. the equality of all citizens of the USSR in obtaining an education, compulsory general education for all children and adolescents, freedom to choose the language of instruction (instruction in one's native language or in the language of another people of the USSR), free education at all levels, provision of stipends to students, unified instruction and communist upbringing, the scientific nature of education and the constant improvement of education on the basis of the latest advances in science, technology, culture and the arts, a unified system of public education and continuity of all types of educational institutions which afford an opportunity to proceed from lower to higher levels.

The Fundamental Principles enumerate the material and legal guarantees which enable students to complete their education successfully and participate in public activities. Graduates of vocational, secondary specialized and higher educational establishments are guaranteed employment suited to their specialized training and qualifications.

The Fundamental Principles protect the rights of parents in the education and upbringing of their children and provide means by which they participate in the activities of educational institutions.

#### The right to participate freely in cultural life

1. Right to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.

Under the Constitution of the USSR Soviet citizens are entitled to participate in the cultural, social and political life of the country irrespective of their nationality or race. Citizens are guaranteed freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings, and freedom of street processions and demonstrations.

In keeping with the interests of the workers and with a view to promoting organized independent activity, Soviet citizens are accorded the right to join together in cultural, scientific and technological societies. The State and the trade unions organize an extensive network of clubs, lending and other types of



libraries, cinemas, theatres and other cultural establishments which are used by broad segments of the population. In order to ensure all-round development of students' abilities and inclinations, to foster an interest in work, science, technology, the arts and sport, to promote cultural leisure activities and to strengthen students' health, there is an extensive network of extra-scholastic institutions (pioneer centres and clubs, young technicians' and naturalists' clubs, pioneer camps, etc.).

At the beginning of 1973, the USSR had a total of 129,000 lending libraries, 133,000 clubs, 156,000 cinema theatres and other types of cinema installations, and 4,000 pioneers' and students' centres. In 1972, more than 14 million people participated in the activities of amateur artistic groups at clubs sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of the USSR and in the activities of cultural and educational institutions affiliated with trade unions and collective farms.

In the USSR, women have equal rights with men in all spheres of governmental, cultural, social and political life.

For example, women make up 50 per cent of the students attending higher educational establishments, 53 per cent of those attending tekhnikums and other types of secondary specialized educational establishments, and more than 39 per cent of all scientific workers.

2. Right to the protection of the moral and material interests arising out of scientific, literary or artistic work.

The main legal enactments which define the right to the protection of the moral and material interests arising out of intellectual property are the Fundamental Principles of Civil Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics, approved by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 8 December 1961, and the Civil Codes of the Union Republics. Article 3 of the Fundamental Principles assigns responsibility to the USSR for the regulation of relationships arising out of discoveries, inventions and rationalization proposals. However, the relationships arising out of copyright are regulated jointly by the USSR and the Union Republics: a number of basic principles are laid down by legislation of the USSR, and they are defined in greater detail, expanded and supplemented by the legislation of the Union Republics.

During the period under review, the most significant changes in Soviet copyright law were those resulting from the accession of the USSR to the Universal Copyright Convention (the instrument of accession was deposited with the Director General of UNESCO on 27 February 1973, and the Convention entered into force in respect of the USSR on 27 May 1973).

By Decree of 21 February 1973 of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, changes and additions were made in a number of articles of part IV of the Fundamental Principles. Among these changes may be mentioned the rule requiring the consent of the author or his legal successor for translation of his work into another language for purposes of publication, the change made in the effective period of copyright, etc.

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In August 1973, the All-Union Copyright Office was established in the USSR with the status of a public organization.

During the period under review, there were no significant changes in the legal provisions affecting rights arising out of discoveries, inventions and rationalization proposals. There have been a number of changes subsequent to that period as a result of the approval by the Council of Ministers of the USSR on 21 August 1973 of the Regulations concerning Discoveries, Inventions and Rationalization Proposals, which replaced the regulations previously in force.

These changes do not in any way affect the moral and material interests of the authors of scientific, literary or artistic works, of discoverers, of inventors or of the authors of rationalization proposals. Such non-property rights as copyright and the right of an author to have his name mentioned and such property rights as the right to remuneration remain completely intact. Furthermore, the changes that have been made are intended to broaden a number of these rights.

IV. The equality of all Soviet citizens in the exercise of their rights is an absolute principle of the utmost importance which is embodied in various legislative enactments.

Article 123 of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the USSR states as follows:

"Equality of rights of citizens of the USSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity, is an infeasible law.

"Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or, conversely, the establishment of any direct or indirect privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, are punishable by law."

This constitutional provision as well as the principle of the equality of all citizens of the USSR, irrespective of their sex, religion, social origin or property status, are fully reflected in the relevant sections of all the laws cited above, which are intended to ensure the exercise by Soviet citizens of their economic, social and cultural rights.

V. No difficulties or obstacles were experienced in ensuring the enjoyment of the rights referred to in section III of this report.

The Soviet Union is in the forefront of the struggle to build a communist society and to create a new human being in that society. In the process of building communism in the USSR, there has emerged a new type of fully developed Soviet man who enjoys constitutionally guaranteed economic, social and cultural rights and actively exercises those rights in every sphere of contemporary Soviet society.

VENEZUELA

/Original: Spanish/

/20 May 1974/

With regard to freedom of information, it should be noted that in the National Constitution, article 43 provides that every person shall have the right to the free development of his personality, subject to no limitations other than those deriving from the rights of others and from the public and social order. It is also expressly stated in article 66:

"Every person shall have the right to express his thoughts orally or in writing and to make use of any means of dissemination, without previous censorship; notwithstanding the above if any person makes a statement which constitutes an offence he shall on conviction be liable to the penalty laid down by law.

Anonymity shall be forbidden. Propaganda in favour of war shall be prohibited and likewise propaganda offensive to public morality and propaganda for the purpose of inciting to disobedience of the laws; nevertheless analysis or criticism of legal principles shall not be repressed."

The constitutional principle concerned served as the basis for a special law known as the Act on the Exercise of the Profession of Journalism, which entered into force on 23 August 1972, and the attendant Regulations, dating from 27 June 1973, governing the profession of journalist and the exercise thereof. They establish the duties inherent in the practice of journalism, particularly those related to a professional code of conduct, the observance and defence of human rights, peace between peoples, freedom of expression at the service of truth and objectivity of information. Penalties are also provided for violations of the professional code, and rights are laid down for those exercising that profession.

Economic rights

With regard to economic rights, the country has undergone a radical change, particularly in terms of the increase in the prices of oil and oil by-products on the international market, bringing about a situation where the country enjoys an increasingly fair participation in the profits obtained.

With regard to the agricultural development of the country, the Government has promulgated several decrees regulating and providing for the technical development of agriculture, with a view to achieving higher output and better quality. On 21 August 1970, the Agricultural Marketing Act entered into force; it regulates the planning, promotion, control and evaluation of each commercial stage in the marketing of agricultural products and of the agricultural inputs designed to stimulate the country's development.

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### Social rights

The Civil Service Careers Act, published on 4 September 1970, regulates the rights and duties of public employees in their relations with the national civil service by instituting a system of personnel management which will make possible the establishment, technically and on the basis of merit, of all rules and procedures relating to the legal and administrative status of public employees, without any discrimination on political, social, religious or any other grounds.

On 31 December 1973, new regulations for the Labour Act were published; they contained measures representing the greatest progress possible within existing legislation.

The Adoption Act published on 21 June 1972 regulates all matters relating to that topic.

The Organic Act of Identification of 25 August 1971 regulates matters relating to the identification of natural persons. It establishes the identification certificate as the main identification paper. It covers all questions relating to the identification of Venezuelans by birth or by naturalization, and resident aliens.

### Cultural rights

On 8 September 1970, a completely revised text of the University Act was published; it empowered the Executive to set up national pilot universities for the purpose of trying out new policies and structures in higher education, and authorizing the operation of university colleges or institutes.

On 25 May 1970, the Act approving the Andrés Bello Agreement on the integration of education, science, and culture in the countries of the Andean region was published. The Agreement had been signed in Bogotá on 21 January 1970, by the Governments of the Republics of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. It is called the Andrés Bello Agreement in recognition of the work of the celebrated American humanist and in homage to his memory. Its basic purpose is to accelerate the integral development of the signatory countries through joint efforts in education, science and culture, so that the benefits derived from such cultural integration may ensure the harmonious development of the region and the conscious participation of the people as an active partner and a beneficiary in that process.

The above is merely a summary of the progress achieved in Venezuela in matters relating to human rights, and it should be noted that the State has maintained and maintains an attitude of protecting and observing human rights and fundamental freedoms in terms of economic, social and cultural rights. It can also be affirmed that one of the State's basic aims is to stimulate development through production, and the benefits of wealth, culture, science, social progress in general and other advances made by man.

## YUGOSLAVIA

/Original: French//24 May 1974/

Between 1 July 1969 and 30 June 1973, progress in the field of economic, social and cultural human rights was reflected in the continuous work of constitutional reform, which led to the adoption on 21 February 1974 of the new Constitution.

This whole period was devoted to the consideration of constitutional amendments. The first 19 amendments were adopted before the end of 1968 and the 23 others during the period under consideration. The most sweeping changes were introduced by the "workers" amendments (XXI to XXIII) adopted in 1971, which confirm the major role of workers in society, by introducing the concept of primary organization of associated labour as the most direct form of self-management. The amendments have been incorporated into the new Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The discussion of the draft Constitution involved the massive and creative participation of all working people to the point where it could be said: "Never before had the adoption of a document been subject to such broad and all-embracing public discussion". <sup>1/</sup> Although the new Constitution was promulgated only at the beginning of 1974, its provisions represent the culmination of efforts made throughout the three previous years as the logical outcome of the amendments phase (up to 1971). That is why elsewhere in this report the provisions of the new Constitution are referred to whenever appropriate.

Man holds a central place in the Yugoslav concept of socialist self-management social relations. For this reason, there is no question of considering human rights, freedoms and duties in general, and economic, social and cultural rights in particular, as rights conferred by the State; rather, they are rights which man has himself acquired, which are his as a result of the efforts made by all the progressive forces in Yugoslav society to provide the worker with a better life, one rich in substance. Along similar lines of thought, it can be said that practically all the activity in the period under consideration has been directly or indirectly linked to efforts to improve by every possible means the situation of people in every area, particularly at the economic, social and cultural levels. Moreover, rights in these areas are so closely linked to other processes within Yugoslav society that they cannot be divorced from other rights, primarily political rights and freedoms, since they can be fully exercised only in conjunction with the latter. In this respect, Yugoslav practice is based on the theory that all rights and freedoms must be dealt with as a whole, as an inextricable dialectic entity designed to ensure a full, complete and free life for the workers and other members of society. This principle is laid down in the introductory part of the new Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (section V):

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<sup>1/</sup> Report by Mijalko Todorović, President of the Federal Assembly and Chairman of the Joint Constitutional Commission of all the Chambers of the Federal Assembly, made at the session of the Chamber of Nationalities held on 22 January 1974.

"The freedoms, rights and duties of man and the citizen, as spelled out by the present Constitution, are an inseparable part and expression of democratic socialist self-management relations in which man is becoming liberated from any form of exploitation and arbitrariness and with his labour is creating conditions for the all-round and free expression and protection of his personality and respect for human dignity. The freedoms and rights of man and the citizen shall only be restricted by the equal freedoms and rights of others and by the interests of socialist society. Socialist society shall ensure conditions for the fullest possible realization and protection of the freedoms and rights laid down by the present Constitution. Any activity infringing the freedoms and rights of man and the citizen shall be contrary to the interests of socialist society."

The basic aim of the constitutional reform on which, as has already been pointed out, efforts were concentrated during the period under consideration was to ensure, to a greater and more significant extent than before, that the means of production belong to the workers in associated labour, to put an end to labour alienation, to enable the producers to become the masters of both the conditions and the results of such labour. This aim has been achieved more fully than ever before by introducing many innovations which should be mentioned for a better understanding of the whole scope of the revolutionary changes instituted during the period under review.

In the first place, constitutional reform introduced major changes in the socio-political system. Self-management, an inalienable, unique, inviolable, socio-political and individual right guaranteed by the 1963 Constitution was extended and consistently applied in all areas and at all levels of the socio-political body. It covers today the whole of the socio-economic system from the basic organizations of associated labour to the Federal Republic and the Federation, passing through, at a lower level, the territorial administrative units. The assemblies at all levels, including the Federal Assembly, have become self-management parliaments where they directly exercise their rights including, of course, economic, cultural and social rights. In this respect, the most significant innovation has been the introduction of the system of delegation into parliamentary life, thereby breaking with conventional parliamentarianism and implementing with practical results the system of self-management of associated labour at the highest possible level. It was essential to ensure that workers should not only resolve their problems in the organizations of associated labour and other self-management associations, but that they should have a decisive influence on the whole political system in the commune, the province, the Federal Republic and the Federation.

The above-mentioned reforms have resulted in the comprehensive protection of the economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the appropriate international instruments of law to which Yugoslavia has acceded, particularly those instruments adopted under the auspices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. They have also made it possible to improve on the minimum standards laid down by these instruments or to regulate entirely new rights which have not yet been included at the international level.

## II

Yugoslavia abides by all the instruments of international law adopted within the framework of the United Nations and the specialized agencies provided that it has acceded to them and that they have been ratified or approved in any other way by the competent Yugoslav authorities. All the international treaties and conventions are applied in Yugoslavia "as of the day they enter into force, unless otherwise specified by the instrument of ratification or by an agreement concluded on the authority of the competent agency" (article 210 of the Constitution). It should be noted that the Yugoslav courts directly apply the international conventions which are published. This also holds true, of course, for the international instruments containing provisions on the protection of human rights, adopted under the auspices of the United Nations and other related international organizations of which Yugoslavia is a member, as indicated in our previous report.

The Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and many other documents, adopted either within the framework of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies or other international agencies and organizations associated with the United Nations, have been taken into consideration by the Yugoslav bodies in their revision not only of the Federal Constitution but also of the Constitutions of the Provinces and the Republics.

During its intense efforts to prepare the draft Constitution, Yugoslavia took into account not only the provisions of international instruments adopted within the United Nations framework, which are binding on Yugoslavia, but, in seeking to protect human rights to the full, it adopted, wherever possible, higher standards than those required by international law. In this respect, of course, the first solutions applied were those recommended in various United Nations documents of a non-compulsory character, which had been adopted by the General Assembly or by other United Nations bodies, or by international conferences arranged by the world organization. The best example for the period covered by this report is provided by the documents adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in June 1972, particularly the United Nations Declaration on the Human Environment. A new human right - the right to a healthy environment - advocated by the Conference as one of the rights which should be protected to the full both at the international and the national levels, was introduced into the new Yugoslav Constitution. Thus, Yugoslavia has become one of the first countries in the world to have implemented the recommendations adopted at the above-mentioned Conference.

## III

A. The right to work

In the period under consideration, the legal regulation and implementation of the right to work and the rights deriving from work were studied in detail in Yugoslavia. As mentioned above, these are not rights conferred by the State in order to ensure that the working class and other working people enjoy minimum

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standards in this area. In Yugoslavia, they represent one of the bases of the whole socio-political system and cover a much wider field than that provided for by instruments of international law. Article 10 of the Constitution states that the socialist socio-economic system of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is based "on freely associated labour and socially-owned means of production, and on self-management by the working people in production and in the distribution of the social product in basic and other organizations of associated labour and in social reproduction as a whole".

It should be said that the simultaneous treatment of the right to work and the right to manage work, namely to dispose of its results, is one of the main characteristics of the regulation of such rights. The primary organization of associated labour, whereby workers can immediately exercise their right to self-management, represents the basic concept underlying and the practical means of implementing the fundamental right in working relations: the right to work with the socially owned means of production. This right is stated concisely in article 13 of the Constitution:

"Workers in associated labour working with socially-owned resources shall have the inalienable right to work with these resources to satisfy their personal and social needs and to manage, freely and on an equal footing with other workers in associated labour, their labour and the conditions and results thereof.

"The rights, obligations and responsibilities concerning the disposal, utilization and management of social resources shall be regulated by the Constitution and statute, in line with the nature and purpose of these resources."

Consequently, it is not only the right to work which is guaranteed in Yugoslavia, but also all the other rights deriving from it. All workers in associated labour working with socially-owned resources are guaranteed "the right in the basic organizations of associated labour in which they work and in any other forms of pooling of labour and resources, together and on equal footing with other workers, to manage the work and business of the organizations of associated labour and the affairs and resources in the totality of relations of social reproduction, to regulate mutual relations in labour, to decide on income realized through various forms of pooling of labour and resources, and to earn personal income." (article 14, first paragraph of the Constitution).

The rights deriving from work must not however be regarded only from the point of view of the basic organization of associated labour. These rights have a comprehensive character in Yugoslavia and are closely related to the exercise of all other rights (and to the fulfillment of the duties) of all workers. In other words, being responsible for the management of their basic organization of associated labour, the workers control, both directly and through their delegates, all social affairs, including the highest organs of power. Thus, the ideal of the direct exercise of power from the base upwards, from the level of certain basic organizations up to the supreme power of the State, passing through all other levels is realized to the fullest possible extent. "Work becomes the legal title which authorizes self-management for the worker himself, for labour organizations

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dealing with matters of common concern and for bodies handling affairs of State. State. Work reigns supreme". <sup>2/</sup> Hence, it may be said that the constitutional reforms introduced for the most part during the period under consideration embodied the most progressive and comprehensive solutions ever known to the problem of regulating the right to work. These solutions have found highest expression in certain amendments and in the text of the new Constitution.

All the rights mentioned expressly in the questionnaire have been regulated in the following manner:

1. Right to free choice of employment

Article 160 of the Constitution, which regulates this right, states:

"Freedom to work is guaranteed.

Everyone shall be free to choose his occupation and job.

Every citizen shall have access, on equal terms, to every job and every function in society.

Forced labour is prohibited".

2. Right to just and favourable conditions of work

Article 161 of the Constitution states: "Working people shall have the right to such working conditions as ensure their physical and moral integrity and security". The earlier Constitution contained similar provisions. As for working conditions, the Constitution and the pertinent legislative acts contain many provisions guaranteeing established conditions of work and committing the social community to their constant improvement.

3. Right to protection against unemployment and underemployment

Article 159 of the Constitution provides for "the right to relief during temporary unemployment ... subject to conditions spelled out by statute". The same article states: "A worker may be dismissed from his job against his will only under conditions and in the way specified by statute". In this area, too, the independent organization of associated labour is assigned the most important

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<sup>2/</sup> Dr. Nikola Balog, article dealing with the labour situation and the organization of associated labour, Arhiv za pravne: drustvene nauke, Nos. 2-3, Belgrade, 1973, p. 221.

role. "An organization of associated labour alone or in agreement with other organizations of associated labour, shall, in keeping with the principles of reciprocity and solidarity, ensure resources for the employment, retraining and the realization of the acquired rights of workers, if their work is no longer needed in their organization of associated labour, or if an organization operating within it has ceased to operate." (art. 32, third paragraph). The next paragraph in the same article provides that no worker may lose the status of worker in a basic organization of associated labour if his job is made redundant as a result of technological innovations deriving from automation or other technical and scientific advances. The basic organizations of associated labour are obliged to find the worker a new job "which corresponds to his abilities and qualifications" either within the organization, or outside the organization by allocating resources to the creation of new jobs.

4. Right of everyone who works to just and favourable remuneration ensuring a decent living for himself and his family

It has already been mentioned in the introduction that this problem is tackled in Yugoslavia in a way that is essentially different from that adopted in most countries. Everyone who works in a basic organization of associated labour or in other types of associations of labour and resources has the right to manage his work in accordance with the self-management agreement carried out with other workers freely associated in the organization of associated labour. Thus categories such as "salary", "wage", "daily rate", and so on are eliminated for the simple reason that workers themselves manage overtime. The Constitution guarantees every worker in associated labour working with social resources "a personal income of an amount and volume that ensure his economic and social security" (art. 22, first para.).

The level of his guaranteed personal income and the volume of other guaranteed rights, i.e. the manner of their realization, are not decided by administrative measures covering the whole country or covering certain branches of activity as is the case in certain other countries. The Constitution therefore provides that they must be established by "self-management agreements, social compacts and statute, depending on the general level of productivity of total social labour and of the general conditions prevailing in the environment in which the worker lives" (art. 22, second para.).

5. Right of everyone, without discrimination of any kind, to equal pay for equal work

In the basic organizations of associated labour, income is shared according to the principle of "work performed". In accordance with this principle, every worker is entitled, from the income of his basic organization of associated labour, to a personal income "for the satisfaction of his personal, common and general social needs, according to the results of his labour and his personal contribution made to the increase in the income of the basic organization with his current and past

labour" (art. 20 of the Constitution). In the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia discrimination on any grounds whatsoever is prohibited in the field of labour relations as in any other (art. 154 of the Constitution). Some classes of people (young people, women and disabled persons are entitled to special protection at work.

6. Right to rest, leisure and reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay

Article 162 of the Constitution provides that workers are entitled to limited working hours which may not exceed 42 hours a week, unless the nature of the work or exceptional circumstances so require. Daily and weekly rest and an annual holiday are guaranteed. The latter may not be less than 18 working days, i.e. 4 days more than the annual holiday guaranteed by the 1963 Constitution (art. 37 of that Constitution provided for 14 working days).

7. Right to form trade unions and to join the trade union of one's choice

The freedom of association, of gathering and public assembly is guaranteed in Yugoslavia (art. 167, first para. of the Constitution). The right of workers and other working people to form trade unions derives from this right. It should be added that trade unions in Yugoslavia at present play a very important role. The new Constitution provides that workers may organize in trade unions as "the broadest organizations of the working class" through which they shall strive to "realize the constitutionally defined status of the working class; achieve socialist self-management relations and the decisive role of the workers in the management of social reproduction; realize the interests and self-management and other rights of workers in all fields of work and life, ensure equality among workers in the pooling of labour and resources, the acquisition and distribution of income and the determination of common scales for distribution according to the results of labour; ensure self-management linkage and integration of various fields of social labour; further the development of the productive forces of society and the raising of labour productivity; guide self-management adjustment of individual, common and general social interests; take care of the education of workers and their training for the performance of self-management and other social functions; ensure democratic proposition and determination of candidates for delegates to managing bodies in organizations of associated labour and other self-managing organizations and communities, and of candidates for delegations in these organizations and communities, and for delegates to the assemblies of the socio-political communities; ensure the broadest possible participation of workers in the exercise of the functions of power and management of other social affairs; realize the interests of the working class in cadre policy; protect workers' rights; ensure workers social security, the development of their standard of living, and the development and strengthening of solidarity and the raising of the class consciousness and responsibility among self-managers.

"Trade unions shall initiate self-management agreements and social compacts and take direct part in their negotiation; they shall submit proposals to the managing bodies of self-managing organizations and communities, the assemblies of the socio-political communities and other State and social agencies concerning the solution of questions relating to the economic and social position of the working class." (Constitution, Introduction, section VIII).

#### 8. Right to strike

This right is not regulated either by the Constitution or other legal provisions. In a system based on self-management and socially-owned means of production, workers and other working people are able to achieve their interests in full without having recourse to strikes. The interests of society are also those of the workers.

#### B. The right to social security, including social insurance in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond one's control

In Yugoslavia these rights were regulated by the Constitution and other relevant legal provisions immediately after the Second World War, and they were supplemented later both in quantity (covering a greater number of rights and a wider range of interested parties) and quality (by the creation of better material conditions ensuring their enjoyment together with the strengthening of the forces of production). In the 1974 Constitution, these rights are regulated by, among others, article 163 that reads as follows:

"The right of workers to social security shall be ensured through obligatory insurance based on the principles of reciprocity and solidarity and past labour, in self-managing communities of interest, on the basis of contributions collected from workers' personal incomes and contributions collected from income of organizations of associated labour, or contributions collected from resources of other organizations or communities in which they work. On the basis of this insurance the workers shall have, in conformity with statute, the right to health care and other benefits in the case of illness, childbirth benefits, benefits in the case of diminution or loss of working capacity, unemployment and old age, and other social security benefits, and for their dependants - the right to health care, survivors' pensions, and other social security benefits.

"Social security benefits for working people and citizens who are not covered by the compulsory social insurance scheme shall be regulated by statute on the principles of reciprocity and solidarity."

#### C. The right to an adequate standard of living

As was stated in the report for the previous period, every possible attention is given to these matters in Yugoslavia. The creation of better living conditions

for all the working people of the country is one of the fundamental objectives of the development of the socialist self-management Yugoslav society. Since the means of production are not alienated from the worker and since the associated worker has become the direct master both of the conditions and the results of his labour, working people have the best possible opportunity to take decisions concerning the means available to them and to influence the improvement of their standard of living. The first paragraph of article 32 of the Constitution states that workers in organizations of associated labour shall, in line with the principles of reciprocity and solidarity, jointly and on an equal footing ensure continuous improvement in the living conditions of workers by allocating and pooling resources for this purpose, and in other ways.

With regard to the previous report, one essential innovation should be mentioned, namely, the introduction of the new human right to a healthy environment. By introducing this provision, the Yugoslav Constitution has become one of the first in the world to provide for this right. Article 192 of the Constitution, which provides that man "shall have the right to a healthy environment" together with other provisions regulating this problem (for example, arts. 193, 114 and 117) are, on the one hand, the expression of the desire to ensure a healthier and richer life for all citizens of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and, on the other, the result of the action initiated a few years ago in the United Nations. This action culminated in the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in June 1972, in which Yugoslavia played an active part.

D. The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Article 186 of the Constitution states: "Everyone shall be entitled to health care." The law establishes the conditions in which citizens, who for any reason whatsoever are not covered by the general health insurance system, shall be entitled to health care from social resources. Concerning improvements in working conditions, hygiene and safety, the Constitution guarantees that "workers shall have the right to health and other kinds of care and personal safety in work", (art. 162, fifth paragraph). The right to social security is enjoyed by the largest possible number of citizens, and there is a marked determination to extend this right to all citizens in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, wherever material and other conditions so permit. Article 163 of the Constitution, which deals with the right to social security, has already been mentioned under B.

E. The right of the family, motherhood and childhood to protection and assistance

In Yugoslavia this right is protected as comprehensively as possible. The family enjoys social protection (art. 190, first para. of the Constitution) while mothers and children are given special care (art. 188 of the Constitution). Children receive special protection: in the second paragraph of article 188, the Constitution provides for special care for minors abandoned by their parents. It also provides that "children born out of wedlock shall have the same rights and duties as children born in wedlock" (art. 190, fourth para.).

A provision concerning the human right "freely to decide on family planning" (art. 191) has been introduced into the new Constitution. The right of a woman to an abortion can only be refused for health reasons (second para. of the above-mentioned art.).

F. The right to education

In Yugoslavia, education is not only a right but also a duty. Compulsory schooling lasts eight years and is free. All citizens have the right "under equal conditions required by statute, to acquire knowledge and vocational training at all levels of education, in all kinds of schools and other institutions of education" (art. 165 of the Constitution). This article provides that the resources to be allocated for the operation of educational institutions are ensured through "the principles of reciprocity and solidarity among working people, organizations of associated labour and other self-managing organizations and communities and socio-political communities". It is the parents' right and duty to supervise the care and upbringing of their children, which includes education.

G. The right to participate freely in cultural life

In Yugoslavia, "scientific, scholarly and artistic creation shall be free", (art. 169, first para. of the Constitution). Authors of scientific, scholarly and artistic works and of scientific discoveries and technical inventions have all "moral and material rights to their achievements" without, however, being entitled to use such rights in a way contrary to society's interest (second para. of the above-mentioned art.)

IV

Action with a view to ensure that the rights referred to under III above are enjoyed by increasing numbers of the population and without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status

Ever since the establishment of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, all the rights and obligations of citizens have applied to all its citizens. All citizens are "equal in their rights and duties regardless of nationality, race, sex, language, religion, education or social status" (art. 154 of the Constitution).

V

Difficulties experienced in ensuring the enjoyment of the rights referred to under III above, and methods and measures applied to overcome such difficulties

Every effort is made in Yugoslavia to ensure that the human rights guaranteed

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by the Constitution are exercised and regulated by the pertinent legal provisions. Despite unquestionable successes, difficulties are none the less encountered. These are due mainly to a history of economic under-development in some regions -- and in some cases are the outcome of over-rapid or unbalanced development. Speedy industrialization and urban development, which is closely related to it, involve many social and other problems. This and other factors have been the cause of major population movements not only within Yugoslavian frontiers but also to other countries, where many Yugoslavs now work. Despite the effort made to educate the broader layers of the population and despite the results obtained, there are still problems in this field. One particular source of concern is the high rate of illiteracy and the large number of people who have not completed primary education. With regard to the protection and promotion of the environment, many problems have also arisen particularly in the large towns; such problems are peculiar to countries undergoing intense industrialization, as is the case of Yugoslavia. The under-development of certain regions also raises difficulties, for example, in family planning, where much more satisfactory results have been obtained in the towns and developed regions than in smaller and less developed regions. The fact that a great many abortions were carried out during the period under consideration shows that birth control efforts have not been sufficiently effective, which is also confirmed by the data on the number of abandoned or homeless children and on similar problems.

For the solution of the problems mentioned and of other problems arising in the field of human rights, Yugoslavia co-operates to the full both with other countries bilaterally (particularly concerning social security and the protection of the other interests of Yugoslav workers temporarily employed abroad) and with many international organizations, particularly those of the United Nations family.

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