

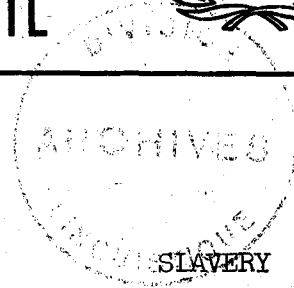
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Item 15 (b)



Supplementary report submitted by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Economic and Social Council the text of the additional reply of the Government of the Argentine Republic<sup>1/</sup> to the questionnaire on slavery and servitude.<sup>2/</sup>

ARGENTINA

Note dated 4 March 1954 to the Secretary-General from the Permanent Delegation of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations

"The Permanent Delegation of the Argentine Republic presents in compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and takes pleasure in referring to the latter's note SOA/321/02/(1) of 13 July 1953 accompanied by a questionnaire on slavery as provided in Economic and Social Council resolution 475(XV).

"In this connexion, the Permanent Delegation is pleased to transmit herewith a reply to this questionnaire, prepared by the appropriate organ of the Argentine Government."

1/ The texts of previous replies from the Government of the Argentine Republic have been circulated as documents E/AC.33/10/Add.25 and E/AC.33/10/Add.97.

2/ The text of the United Nations questionnaire on slavery and servitude will be found in the report of the second session of the ad hoc Committee on Slavery (E/1660, paragraph 12).

QUESTIONNAIRE ON SLAVERY AND SERVITUDE

REPLY

1. No.

2. No. The Sovereign Constituent Assembly of 1813 at its meeting of 27 March 1813 proclaimed that persons born in the country and slaves brought into the country should be free and emancipated many of the slaves. On 14 November 1835 Argentina concluded with Great Britain a protocol for the suppression of the slave trade and on 24 March 1839 a treaty for its abolition. Great Britain denounced the latter instrument in 1921.

Article 15 of the 1853 Constitution abolished slavery completely and declared that any buying or selling of persons was a crime against humanity, a principle confirmed by article 27 of the Constitution now in force which says: "In the Argentine nation there are no slaves. Any slaves which may in any manner be brought into Argentina shall be free by the mere fact of setting foot in the territory of the Republic."

3. No. The Sovereign Assembly at its meeting of 20 March 1813 ratified the Decree issued by the Provisional Junta on 1 September 1811 respecting the elimination of tribute and the abolition of involuntary service, serfdom and personal service by Indians. Article 15, first paragraph, of the present Constitution states that "the State does not recognize the freedom to threaten freedom."

Article 140 of the Penal Code provides that "anyone who reduces a person to servitude or any similar condition and anyone who receives a person in a state of servitude with a view to keeping him in that condition shall be liable to a penalty of three to fifteen years' rigorous imprisonment or imprisonment."

(a) Does not exist. On the contrary, Argentina's policy is based on concepts which are preeminently social and humanistic. Nos. 12,636 and 13,995 are designed to enable the rural worker to acquire ownership of the land.

(b) Does not exist.

(c) Does not exist.

(d) Does not exist.

(e) Does not exist. Act No. 13,252 which introduced adoption as an element of Argentine law is based on the modern social concepts advocated by the present Chief of State which put it on a par with the best adoption legislation in force in other countries and are incorporated in the Civil Code as an additional legal institution.

In addition to the family bond which this Act establishes between the adopter and the person adopted, it regulates in detail the legal safeguards that are necessitated by the great variety of circumstances which arise in practice. It prescribes a minimum age of forty years for the adopter and provides that married couples without children must have been married for more than eight years. The adopter must in all cases be at least eighteen years older than the person adopted.

The Act guarantees the proper administration of the adopted person's property and his position as heir of the adopter. It establishes eighteen years as the maximum age-limit for adoption, requires guarantees of the moral and material qualifications of the adopter and specifies the obligations arising out of the new family bond.

(f) Does not exist. Act No. 11,357, entitled Women's Civil Rights Act, places women on a footing of equality with men.

(g) Does not exist. The exploitation of women for purposes of prostitution is severely punished under Acts No. 4,189 and 9,143 which provide penalties of imprisonment or rigorous imprisonment for terms ranging up to fifteen years and are incorporated in the Penal Code now in force.

4. The reply has already been given in the preceding paragraphs.
5. Favourable.

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