

# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



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Concise summary of the information supplied in accordance with resolutions 238 (IX), 276 (X), 388 (XIII), 475 (XV) and 525 A (XVII)

Rapporteur: Mr. HANS ENGEN (Norway)

SLAVERY

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Note by the Secretary-General

On 4 April 1955, the Secretary-General received the following letter from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations:

"4 April 1955

"No. 115

"The USSR delegation to the United Nations has received the official text of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China in the Chinese language, together with the official translation of the Constitution from Chinese into English, prepared at Peking.

"In forwarding the aforementioned official texts of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China in the Chinese and English languages, I should be glad if you would arrange to have the text of the excerpts from the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (articles 1, 2, 9, 16, 85, 86, 87, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, and 96) which are attached to the letter dated 23 March 1955, No. 97, from the USSR delegation to the United Nations (E/2708) brought into conformity with the official text of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China.

(Signed) A. Sobolev

Permanent Representative of the USSR . to the United Nations."

The extracts from the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, attached to the above letter, are as follows:

55-11091

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## "CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Adopted on September 20, 1954 by the First National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, at its first session

#### CHAPTER ONE

#### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

## Article 1

"The People's Republic of China is a people's democratic state led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and peasants.

#### Article 2

"All power in the People's Republic of China belongs to the people. The organs through which the people exercise power are the National People's Congress and the local people's congresses.

"The National People's Congress, the local people's congresses and other organs of state practise democratic centralism.

#### Article 9

"The state protects the right of handicraftsmen and other non-agricultural individual working people to own means of production according to law.

"The state guides and helps individual handicraftsmen and other non-agricultural individual working people to improve their enterprise and encourages them to organize producers', and supply and marketing co-operatives voluntarily.

#### Article 16

"Work is a matter of honour for every citizen of the People's Republic of China who is able to work. The state encourages citizens to take an active and creative part in their work.

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#### CHAPTER THREE

#### FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CITIZENS

#### Article 85

"Citizens of the People's Republic of China are equal before the law.

# Article 86

"Citizens of the People's Republic of China who have reached the age of eighteen have the right to vote and stand for election whatever their nationality, race, sex, occupation, social origin, religious belief, education, property status, or length of residence, except insane persons and persons deprived by law of the right to vote and stand for election.

"Women have equal rights with men to vote and stand for election.

#### Article 87

"Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of procession and freedom of demonstration. The state guarantees to citizens enjoyment of these freedoms by providing the necessary material facilities.

#### Article 89

"Freedom of the person of citizens of the People's Republic of China is inviolable. No citizen may be arrested except by decision of a people's court or with the sanction of a people's procuratorate.

#### Article 91

"Citizens of the People's Republic of China have the right to work, To guarantee enjoyment of this right, the state, by planned development of the national economy, gradually creates more employment, and better working conditions and wages. E/2708/Add.1 English Page 4

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# Article 92

"Working people in the People's Republic of China have the right to rest and leisure. To guarantee enjoyment of this right, the state prescribes working hours and holidays for workers and office employees; at the same time it gradually expands material facilities to enable working people to rest and build up their health.

# Article 93

"Working people in the People's Republic of China have the right to material assistance in old age, and in case of illness or disability. To guarantee enjoyment of this right, the state provides social insurance, social assistance and public health services and gradually expands these facilities.

#### Article 94

"Citizens of the People's Republic of China have the right to education. To guarantee enjoyment of this right, the state establishes and gradually extends the various types of schools and other cultural and educational institutions.

"The state pays special attention to the physical and mental 'development of young people.

Article 96

"Women in the People's Republic of China enjoy equal rights with men in all spheres of political, economic, cultural, social and domestic life.

"The state protects marriage, the family, and the mother and child."