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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The following communication concerning resolution 6(XVII) of the Commission on Human Rights on a Freedom from Prejudice and Discrimination Year and Day has been received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville).

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE)

"The idea of observing a Freedom from Prejudice and Discrimination Year is fully approved, as is also the proposal thereafter to observe a day for that purpose every year.

The term "discrimination" should be construed in the widest possible sense, if it is to get as close to the truth as possible. For a sociologist, in fact, racial discrimination, as found between different races or two different peoples, is not strictly speaking the only form of discrimination. Prejudices exist also between social groups or classes within one nation. Years of strenuous effort will therefore be required to eradicate these prejudices.

For the colonized peoples, the observance of a Freedom from Prejudice and Discrimination Year constitutes an important psychological argument in favour of the general movement towards liberation from the colonial yoke. A careful examination of the facts will soon show that racial discrimination, based on a great many prejudices, is undoubtedly a characteristic feature of the colonial system. The Freedom from Discrimination Year will also have the effect of hastening the achievement of independence by countries still living under the colonial yoke.

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The Ministry is of the opinion that 1962 might be chosen as the Freedom from Prejudice and Discrimination Year, having regard to the strenuous efforts now being made by some countries to attain independence. If the date is too far distant, the desired results are not likely to be obtained.

In order to achieve some uniformity in the ideas to be developed and in information media, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade suggests that the general subjects to be dealt with in leaflets, films, radio programmes and educational talks ..... should be studied and disseminated by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. As regards educational films, it would be desirable for the United Nations to produce some for Member States."