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CONTENTS

<i>Agenda item 38:</i>	
<i>Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>	
<i>Report of the Third Committee</i>	
<i>Agenda item 48:</i>	
<i>Draft International Covenants on Human Rights</i>	
<i>Report of the Third Committee</i>	
<i>Agenda item 79:</i>	
<i>Designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights</i>	
<i>Report of the Third Committee</i>	
<i>Agenda items 40, 41, 42, 44, 45 and 46:</i>	
<i>Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages: report of the Economic and Social Council</i>	
<i>Measures to accelerate the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms: report of the Economic and Social Council</i>	
<i>Manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance: report of the Secretary-General</i>	
<i>Draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance</i>	
<i>Draft Declaration on the Right of Asylum</i>	
<i>Freedom of information:</i>	
<i>(a) Draft Convention on Freedom of Information;</i>	
<i>(b) Draft Declaration on Freedom of Information</i>	
<i>Report of the Third Committee</i>	

Page

1

AGENDA ITEMS 40, 41, 42, 44, 45 AND 46

Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages: report of the Economic and Social Council

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- (a) Draft Convention on Freedom of Information;
- (b) Draft Declaration on Freedom of Information

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/5667)

1. Mrs. REFSLUND THOMSEN (Denmark), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: I have the honour to present first to the General Assembly three reports of the Third Committee, on items 38, 48 and 79 of the agenda.

2. In the report of the Third Committee [A/5643] on item 38 "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", a brief summary is given of the High Commissioner's introductory statement at the opening of the debate and of the general debate in the Committee on the report. There was general appreciation of the work of the High Commissioner's Office. Particular satisfaction was expressed with the manner in which the High Commissioner was discharging his duties on behalf of new refugees, especially in Africa, on the basis of his over-all humanitarian and non-political approach to refugee problems.

3. The report of the Third Committee on this item contains two draft resolutions [A/5643, para. 34] recommended to the General Assembly for adoption. Both these draft resolutions were adopted unanimously by the Third Committee.

4. Draft resolution I deals with the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. The draft resolution proposes an enlargement of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme to thirty members.

5. Draft resolution II requests the High Commissioner for Refugees to continue his work on behalf of refugees and invites Member States and members of the specialized agencies to continue to lend their support to the alleviation of refugee problems.

President: Mr. Carlos SOSA RODRIGUEZ
(Venezuela).

AGENDA ITEM 38

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/5643)

AGENDA ITEM 48

Draft International Covenants on Human Rights

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/5655)

AGENDA ITEM 79

Designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/5660)

6. The second report of the Third Committee [A/5655] concerns agenda item 48, the Draft International Covenants on Human Rights. The Draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which are two of the most significant instruments which the United Nations has undertaken to prepare, have been before the General Assembly since its ninth session in 1954. Prior to the present session the Third Committee has adopted the preamble, article 1, and nearly all of the general provisions and substantive articles of both draft covenants. At its present session the Third Committee has been able to advance further its work on the draft covenants. It has adopted the remaining articles of part II of the general provisions, namely articles 2 and 4 of the Draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, an additional substantive article concerning the right of the child to be included in that Covenant, and an additional provision relating to freedom from hunger for inclusion in the Draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Third Committee has thus completed its work on the general provisions and all the substantive articles of each of the draft covenants.

7. The Third Committee also began consideration of the measures of implementation of the draft covenants. The discussion was confined mainly to a general exchange of views on the problem of implementation. There was a feeling in the Committee that the question of implementation of the covenants was a vital one, not only for the completion of the adoption but also for their effective application. In view of the increased membership of the United Nations, it was felt that ample opportunity should be given to all Members, especially the new Members, to review the problem and to express their views on the issues involved. The Committee also felt strongly on the need for it to make a special effort to complete, at the next session, the adoption of the draft covenants. It has accordingly recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly [A/5655, para. 124].

8. The third report [A/5660] of the Third Committee concerns agenda item 79, the designation of 1968 as the International Year for Human Rights. There was general agreement in the Committee to the designation of 1968, the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as the International Year for Human Rights. In the Committee's discussion, most delegations emphasized the importance of strengthening activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights during the intervening years between 1963 and 1968, and stressed the importance of practical measures to achieve the desired goals in this field. The draft resolution [A/5660, para. 9] reflects the Committee's views on this item.

9. I will take advantage of my presence on the podium to call attention also to the report of the Third Committee [A/5667] which needs no introduction, since it recommends to the General Assembly that items 40,

41, 42, 44, 45 and 46, which could not be considered by the Committee owing to lack of time, be deferred for consideration at the nineteenth session.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Third Committee.

10. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): As no one has asked to speak in explanation of vote, we shall first consider the two draft resolutions relating to agenda item 38 which the Third Committee, in its report [A/5643, para. 34], recommends for adoption by the General Assembly.

11. I shall now put to the vote draft resolutions I and II, which were adopted unanimously by the Third Committee. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly also adopts them unanimously.

Draft resolutions I and II were adopted unanimously.

12. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We now proceed to the consideration of agenda item 48. In this connexion, the Third Committee has recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution which appears in its report [A/5655, para. 124]. Since this draft resolution also was adopted unanimously by the Third Committee, I shall take it, unless there are any observations, that the General Assembly, too, wishes to adopt it unanimously.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

13. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We now proceed to the consideration of agenda item 79, in connexion with which the Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution contained in the Committee's report [A/5660, para. 9]. This draft resolution also was adopted unanimously by the Third Committee. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly likewise adopts it unanimously.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

14. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We now proceed to the consideration of agenda items 40, 41, 42, 44, 45 and 46, on which the Third Committee has presented its report [A/5667].

15. Owing to lack of time, the Third Committee was unable to consider these items, and it therefore recommends that the General Assembly should postpone consideration of them until its nineteenth session. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly approves this recommendation by the Third Committee.

The recommendation was approved.

16. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): With this decision, the Assembly completes its consideration of items 40, 41, 42, 44, 45 and 46 of the agenda of its eighteenth session.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.