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SOCIAL COMMITTEE
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Agenda item 25

SLAVERY

Draft resolution submitted by the Working Group
Established by the Social Committee at its
536th Meeting

The Working Group established by the Social Committee at its 536th meeting on 7 July 1966 to prepare a draft resolution on slavery, consisting of the representatives of Cameroon, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, held three meetings, on 7 and 8 July 1966, under the chairmanship of Mr. N. A. Naik (PAKISTAN), and agreed to submit the draft resolution set out below to the Committee for its consideration and adoption. In the draft resolution, texts on which members of the Working Group were not in agreement are indicated by the use of square brackets.

The Economic and Social Council

Having considered the report of the Special Rapporteur on Slavery (E/4168 and Add.1-3) prepared in accordance with Council resolutions 960 (XXXVI) and 1077 (XXXIX),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1841 (XVII) of 19 December 1962, and Council resolutions 772 D (XXX) of 25 July 1960, 826 E (XXXII) of 27 July 1961, 890 (XXXIV) of 24 July 1962 and 1077 (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965, on slavery,

Believing that [slavery, the slave trade and all institutions and practices similar to slavery] / [slavery, the slave trade, and all institutions of apartheid and colonialism which form part of the practices of slavery] /, should be eradicated,

Believing further that the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in, and the full implementation by them of, the International Slavery Convention of 1926 and the Supplementary Convention of 1956 would constitute an important advance towards the achievement of this end,

Noting that a number of Governments have not yet submitted their replies to the questionnaire on Slavery,

Convinced that regional seminars on the question of slavery, held under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, would contribute to a better understanding of the question of slavery and to the preparation of effective measures for its eradication^{1/},

Considering that the observance of the International Year for Human Rights in 1968 offers an opportunity for a review of the effectiveness of United Nations action in respect of the eradication of slavery, the slave trade and institutions and practices similar to slavery^{1/} slavery, the slave trade and all institutions of apartheid and colonialism which form part of the practice of slavery^{1/},

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Special Rapporteur on Slavery, Mr. Mohamed Awad,

2. Again calls upon all States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies which have not yet done so to become parties, as soon as possible, to the International Slavery Convention of 1926 and the Supplementary Convention of 1956 on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery;

3. Again expresses the hope that all States Parties to the Supplementary Convention will furnish to the Secretary-General the information called for under article 8 (2) of that Convention, and that those States Parties which, in view of their existing laws, regulations or administrative measures, have not found it necessary to enact or to put into effect new laws, regulations or administrative measures in order to implement the provisions of the Convention, will inform the Secretary-General to that effect;

4. Recommends to the Secretary-General to bear in mind the possibility of organizing, under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, a single regional seminar on slavery, the slave trade, and practices similar to slavery^{1/} slavery, the slave trade, and all institutions of apartheid and colonialism which form part of the practice of slavery^{1/} in Africa^{1/};

5. Invites the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights to place the question of slavery on the agenda of the Conference;

^{1/} The representative of Tanzania proposed the addition of the following text:
"where slavery is the most characteristic phenomenon."

6. Requests the Secretary-General to print, and circulate as widely as possible, the Special Rapporteur's report;

7. Decides to refer the report to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and to request the Sub-Commission to:

(a) examine all information on these institutions and practices available to the United Nations, and prepare recommendations for further action by the United Nations to eradicate them;

(b) study the working of any laws, regulations or administrative measures that may have been adopted by any of the Member States to carry out or make effective the terms of their obligations under the International Slavery Convention of 1926 and the Supplementary Convention of 1956;

(c) study and make recommendations to the Council on social [and] economic [and political] measures which might be taken by Governments to correct abuses of debtor-creditor and landlord-tenant relationships [and the system of apartheid] which have resulted, or are likely to result, in slavery or forms of servitude resembling slavery;

(d) report the results of its studies and examinations through the Commission on Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council [at its forty-third session].

[e] study the practice of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa and the trust territory of South West Africa;

[f] study the slave trade and sweated labour which obtain in the Portuguese colonies in Africa.

8. Requests again all States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies which have not yet done so to submit their replies to the Questionnaire on Slavery to the Secretary-General as soon as possible [for reference to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities].

9. Invites UNESCO to work out a programme of education designed to correct a social outlook that tolerates the existence of slavery or forms of servitude similar to slavery.