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DRAFT INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: additions to the draft resolution of the Economic and Social Council

Taking into consideration the fact that in accordance with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 4 December 1950 at its fifth session (A/1620) the Economic and Social Council was called upon to request the Commission on Human Rights to take into consideration in its work of revision of the draft covenant on human rights the proposals of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics set forth in document A/C.3/L.96, with a view to their inclusion in the draft Covenant.

The Economic and Social Council instructs the Commission on Human Rights, in drawing up the draft international covenant on human rights and measures of implementation, to include therein the following provisions:

1. Every citizen, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, social position, property status, social origin, language, religion or sex, shall be guaranteed by the State an opportunity to take part in the government of the State, to elect and be elected to all organs of authority on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage with secret ballot, and to occupy any State or public office. Property, educational or other qualifications restricting the participation of citizens in voting at elections to representative organs shall be abolished.
2. In the interests of democracy, everyone must be guaranteed by law the right to the free expression of opinion; in particular, to freedom of speech, of the press and of artistic representation, under conditions ensuring that freedom of speech and of the press are not exploited for war propaganda, for the incitement of hatred among the peoples, for racial discrimination and for the dissemination of slanderous rumours.

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3. Any form of propaganda on behalf of fascist or nazi views, or of racial and national exclusiveness, hatred and contempt, must be prohibited by law.

4. In the interests of democracy, the right to organize assemblies, meetings, street processions and demonstrations and to organize voluntary societies and unions must be guaranteed by law. All societies, unions and organizations of a Fascist or anti-democratic nature, and any form of activity by such societies, must be prohibited by law, subject to penalty.

The Commission on Human Rights should also include in the draft international covenant on human rights the following provisions concerning human rights in the economic, social and cultural spheres: ..

1. The State shall ensure the development of science and education in the interests of progress and democracy and in the interests of ensuring international peace and co-operation.

2. Access to education shall be open to all without distinction of race, sex, language, economic situation or social origin and this right shall be ensured by the State by the provision of free elementary education, a system of scholarships and the requisite system of schools.

3. It is the duty of the State to guarantee to everyone the right to work and to choose his occupation in such a manner as to create conditions which will exclude the threat of death from hunger and from exhaustion.

4. The right to rest and leisure shall be guaranteed by the State to everyone employed in enterprises and institutions, either by law or on the basis of collective agreements providing, in particular, for a reasonable limitation of working hours and for periodic holidays with pay.

5. Social security and social insurance for workers and employees shall be effected at the expense of the State or at the expense of the employers in accordance with the laws of each country.

6. The State shall take all necessary measures, legislative measures in particular, to ensure decent living accommodation to every person.

7. Women shall enjoy in their work rights and privileges which shall not be less than those enjoyed by men and they shall receive equal pay with men for equal work.

8. The right freely to combine in trade unions shall be guaranteed to all hired workers without distinction as to nationality, race, religion, sex, occupation, political or philosophical views.

Trade unions shall be guaranteed the right freely to pursue their activities directed towards improving the life and economic welfare of workers, and all regulations of whatever kind directed against trade union rights shall be prohibited.

9. Trade union organizations shall have the right freely to elect all their representatives, to make their own administrative arrangements and democratically to fulfil their functions and tasks in the interest of their members, and shall be protected against any interference on the part of public authorities or officials. Public authorities or officials may not attempt to exert pressure of any kind whatsoever, whether directly or indirectly, upon trade unions and their members. Public authorities or officials shall be required to abstain from founding, financing or interfering in the direction of trade union organizations.

10. Legislative measures shall be adopted to enable trade-union organizations to participate in the determination of economic and social policy in undertakings and on the local, regional and national levels.

11. Trade union organizations shall have the right to amalgamate on a trade, inter-union, local, regional and national basis and to affiliate to international trade union organizations.

12. The right to strike shall be guaranteed.

13. No one may prevent an international trade union organization from fulfilling its functions and communicating with the organizations affiliated to it.

In addition to the foregoing, the Economic and Social Council instructs the Commission on Human Rights:

1. In considering the question of a federal State clause, to proceed on the basis that it is essential to extend the provisions of the Covenant without any restrictions to all parts of federal States.

2. To include in the ~~covenant on human rights~~ an article providing that every people and every nation shall have the right to national self-determination and that States which have responsibilities for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories shall promote the fulfilment of this

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right, guided by the aims and principles of the United Nations in relation to the peoples of such Territories. The State shall ensure to national minorities the right to use their native tongue, books, libraries, schools, museums and other cultural and educational institutions.

3. To delete from the draft covenant on Human rights the provisions concerning implementation contained in Articles 19-41 thereof, as they provide for methods of supervising the implementation of the covenant which constitute an attempt at intervention in the domestic affairs of States and at encroachment on their sovereignty.

