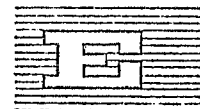


UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1985/31
4 February 1985

Original: ENGLISH

Commission on Human Rights
Forty-first session
Item 22 of the provisional agenda

ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Assistance to Bolivia

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1984/32 adopted at its first regular session in 1984, the Economic and Social Council, acting upon the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1984/43, requested the Secretary-General, under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and in consultation with the Government of Bolivia, to examine ways and means and possible resources for rapid implementation of the projects suggested by the Special Envoy of the Commission on Human Rights in his report on assistance to Bolivia (E/CN.4/1984/46), considered by the Commission at its fortieth session. In the same resolution, the Council invited all Member States, United Nations organizations and humanitarian and non-governmental organizations to provide support and assistance to the Government of Bolivia in its efforts to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in that country and specially invited the International Labour Office, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization to provide the Government of Bolivia with the assistance required, in keeping with the means available to them and their spheres of competence. The Council also requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider that question at its forty-first session, in the light of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the present resolution. This report was prepared in fulfilment of that resolution.

2. In notes verbales and letters addressed to all Member States and non-member States, specialized agencies (ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO), United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations, the Secretary-General enclosed Commission on Human Rights resolution 1984/43 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/32 and appealed to all addressees to give very serious consideration to the Council's invitation to provide support and assistance to the Government of Bolivia and requested that any such offer of assistance be communicated to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, if possible by 1 December 1984.

GE.85-10334

3. As at 7 January 1985 replies had been received from one Member State, the Netherlands; four specialized agencies, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO; and from the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Those replies are reproduced in the annex to this document. In direct contacts with the Centre for Human Rights, two other States (Cyprus and Venezuela) also indicated their readiness to contribute towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Envoy.

4. Since the fortieth session of the Commission, direct contacts have been maintained in Geneva with representatives of the Government of Bolivia. Among the projects recommended by the Special Envoy, the Centre for Human Rights indicated that it might be possible to envisage the provision of assistance for the dissemination of international instruments on human rights in local languages; arrangements for the services of an expert to advise on the development of teaching on human rights in Bolivia; and the organization of a training course for law-enforcement and prison officials. It was explained that the resources of the Centre and the scope of its activities might not permit it to do more than that at the present stage.

5. The representatives of the Government of Bolivia, while expressing their understanding of the scope of the Centre's possibilities, nevertheless requested that consideration continue to be given to the other recommendations of the Special Envoy, which were based on proposals made initially to the Special Envoy by the Government itself. Accordingly, in letters dated 29 November 1984, addressed to ILO, UNESCO and WHO, specific projects were drawn to the attention of these organizations and their reaction or comments thereon were solicited.

6. The Centre for Human Rights also expressed its readiness to offer up to two fellowships under the advisory services programme for the promotion of human rights for 1985 to qualified candidates nominated by the Government of Bolivia who planned to study any subject in the field of human rights. Nominations were duly submitted and accepted by the Centre.

7. Contacts are currently continuing between the Centre and the representatives of the Government of Bolivia on the possibilities for providing assistance in the dissemination of international instruments on human rights, the development of human rights teaching and the organization of a training course for law-enforcement and prison officials.

8. The efforts made by the Secretary-General in the present case provide some indication of what may realistically be expected from the human rights programme of the United Nations as far as technical assistance to Governments in the field of human rights is concerned. The Centre for Human Rights has sought to act: (i) as a channel for bilateral assistance; (ii) as a channel for multilateral assistance from other international organizations; (iii) as a clearing house for information and expertise; and (iv) to provide concrete assistance in areas where the scope of activities and resources of the Centre would so permit, particularly as regards fellowships, training, education and the dissemination of information. It would seem that these are the forms of action which the

Centre for Human Rights can take in this as well as in other cases which may arise in the future. This experience might be kept in mind by the Commission for the present as well as for future cases.

9. The evolving experience would also seem to indicate that, when faced with such cases, the most practical form of action which can be speedily organized by the United Nations, in co-operation with the Government concerned, would be training and/or information courses for relevant government personnel, including civil servants, judges, law-enforcement and prison officials, teachers and non-governmental representatives.

Annex

THE NETHERLANDS

[Original: English]

[18 October 1984]

In the financial year 1984 the Netherlands Government made available to the Government of Bolivia the amount of 20 million guilders in order to support that country's economy. That amount was meant to be spent on current imports in aid of the existing production capacity.

A pre-condition for providing this kind of support is the human rights situation in the country concerned. The situation in Bolivia has made this financial support possible.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

[Original: English]

[30 November 1984]

Extensive technical co-operation activities are being carried out by ILO in Bolivia. Enclosed for information is a copy of a letter addressed to the Government of Bolivia */ in August of this year by the Director of the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, following discussions with the Minister of Labour in Geneva in June and a mission to La Paz in July by the Regional Adviser in Employment Planning and Promotion, setting out projected ILO activities in Bolivia. It refers more particularly to assistance in the fields of employment, migrant workers and integration of refugees in the labour force, industrial health and safety, rural co-operatives, women's associations in rural areas, labour-management relations and international labour standards. Also enclosed are particulars of ILO technical assistance activities in Bolivia in 1983 financed from the Organisation's own resources and of technical assistance missions by ILO officials to Bolivia in 1983. */

The ILO programme of assistance to Bolivia has been developed and is being carried out in full consultation with Miss Margaret Anstee, the Secretary-General's Special Representative responsible for co-ordinating assistance to Bolivia under the United Nations system.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[26 September 1984]

FAO is operating eight UNDP-financed projects (\$US 3,135) on agricultural statistics, agricultural planning, crops and forestry. The FAO Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP) is financing a total of six projects (\$US 618,000) on livestock, agricultural planning and crops. Four projects are financed by

*/ Both documents are available for consultation in their original language (Spanish) in the files of the Secretariat.

Trust Funds (\$US 1,165,533) on rural development, forestry and crops. The total funds for these projects is therefore \$US 4,920,199. Activities of the FAO Investment Centre included the submission on behalf of IFAD of a proposed project for irrigation infrastructure, rain-fed agriculture and livestock, for a total investment of about \$US 23 million. Proposals were also made for a policy for the vegetable oil sector and for irrigated agricultural development. Emergency food aid operations included the provision of 8,748 tonnes of flour and 875 tonnes of vegetable oil to feed the drought-affected people in Bolivia (\$US 29,744,500). The FAO Office for Special Relief Operations (OSRO) also provided seeds, pesticides and fertilizers (\$US 250,000) to assist small farmers affected by floods.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[14 November 1984]

With a view to promoting knowledge about human rights, UNESCO asked the Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Economica y Social (CERES) in La Paz, Bolivia, to translate and elaborate annotated booklets on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Quechua, Aymara and Guarani with illustrations where necessary. These booklets will be widely distributed in 1985 among the people in Bolivia.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[16 November 1984]

The WHO/PAHO Regular Programme in Bolivia for 1984-1985 is fully oriented towards meeting the priority needs of the least favoured groups of the population through the primary health care approach.

WHO/PAHO, in collaboration with the Bolivian Government, is strongly supporting community participation in health programmes through the Peoples' Councils (Consejos Populares) and through national non-governmental organizations interested in health coverage.

In order to mobilize additional external financial resources for priority programmes in health, WHO/PAHO is promoting a meeting of the most important donor agencies operating in Bolivia, in February or March 1985.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

[Original: English]

[21 September 1984]

The UNDP country programme for Bolivia 1984-1986 which was approved by the Programme's Governing Council at its thirty-first session in June 1984, is basically geared towards reactivating the economy, which has been affected by structural and circumstantial constraints as well as by natural disasters, and towards improving the living conditions of the most neglected population groups.

This approach would be in line with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1984/43 of 13 March 1984, specifically as it refers to the report of the Commission's Special Envoy on assistance to Bolivia in which the Special Envoy expressed the view that "the most effective co-operation would consist of assistance in channelling and promoting the resolution of the basic economic and social situations which condition the genuine existence of human rights ...".

In this regard, the UNDP programme has been designed to support the National Recovery and Development Plan in its stated objectives of (a) redirecting public social expenditure towards low-income rural and urban groups with a view to eradicating the most severe manifestations of extreme poverty, such as high infant mortality, malnutrition and illiteracy; and (b) focusing state action and support on the production of goods and services including basic foodstuffs for mass consumption.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT

[Original: English]

[22 October 1984]

This Department is assisting Bolivia through various projects, one of which concerns a study on the history of social and political concertation in the country. This document will be discussed with representatives of Bolivia's Government, private sector, labour union and political parties. A seminar organized by CLACSO (Consejo Latino Americano de Ciencias Sociales) will permit a comparison of the Bolivian experience with the experiences of other countries in the region.

Of course, any action directed towards the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of a country and its people is also indirectly a form of advisory assistance. This Department has been assisting Bolivia for many years in strengthening its planning and plan implementation capacity, and more so recently, because of the appointment of Miss Anstee as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Bolivia. This Department has played a crucial role in fostering and co-ordinating efforts for increased financial co-operation to Bolivia from major donors and multilateral institutions, in order to help Bolivia to surmount the deep crisis of its economy which has had a very negative impact on its population, as reflected in a worsening of some key indicators like malnutrition, infant mortality, life expectancy, etc.

This Department has also been instrumental in launching UNFPA efforts to curb the production of coca leaves and to replace it with other crops as well as in designing an aerial survey programme for monitoring the successfulness of these efforts.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

[Original: English]

[18 October 1984]

Since the establishment of the constitutional and democratic regime in Bolivia in October 1982, the Office of the High Commissioner has collaborated with the Government in various ways within its competence. Such co-operation has

included assistance in the rehabilitation of Bolivian refugees who have voluntarily returned to their country and the joint organization with the Government of Bolivia of a seminar in April 1983 on asylum and refugee status. Furthermore, the Office is at present collaborating with the Government in its efforts to establish a formal procedure for the determination of refugee status of asylum-seekers in Bolivia.

The Office would like to compliment the Government of Bolivia and the Commission on Human Rights on their efforts further to improve the situation of individuals in that country. It has been especially gratifying to note that such efforts have been conducive to the support of the task of UNHCR in finding the most desirable permanent solution for Bolivian refugees, namely their voluntary repatriation.