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THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Addendum

I. PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM  
AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

A. Information submitted by Governments of Member States

USSR

1. In contributing to the implementation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and other important United Nations decisions on decolonization, racism and apartheid, Soviet youth has consistently given and is giving wholehearted support and assistance to peoples fighting against racism in South Africa. Soviet youth organizations have submitted a series of proposals to various bodies, including UNESCO, on various aspects of racial discrimination and racism. They call for the recognition of the right to self-determination and independence for the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and the indigenous inhabitants of the Republic of South Africa, for the exposure of projects for the creation of "Bantu States".

2. The youth organizations of the USSR maintain contacts with the youth sections of the national liberation movements of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The most important forms of co-operation and solidarity with these movements are as follows: (a) On the occasion of International Youth Solidarity Day (25 April), the Central Committee of the All-Union Lenin Young Communist League and the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR issued a declaration expressing wholehearted solidarity with the peoples and youth of colonial and dependent countries and territories. Speakers at the mass meetings of Soviet youth held that day in Moscow and in a number of other towns of the USSR expressed support for the legitimate struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, reaction, fascism, racism and apartheid. (b) A joint declaration concerning events in Soweto (Republic of South Africa) appeared on 22 June 1976 in the newspaper "Komsomolskaya Pravda", which regularly publishes articles, commentaries and sets of photographs relating to the struggle of the peoples and youth of South Africa for freedom and

independence. Similar materials are published in the central and local youth press and broadcast as part of the special youth radio programmes and the television programmes.

3. Training and scholarships are offered by Soviet higher and intermediate specialized educational establishments to representatives of the youth of Zimbabwe, Namibia and the Republic of South Africa and other peoples which are fighting for their independence or which recently achieved their independence. Assistance, at the request of the officials of various movements, was also given in organizing in the USSR major manifestations for youth fighting against racism and racial discrimination in the African countries.

4. Contributions to the Youth Solidarity Fund, created at the initiative of the Lenin Komsomol, are made on a voluntary basis both individually and collectively by schoolchildren, students, young workers and young members of collective farms. The resources of this fund are used in particular to provide financial assistance to youth organizations in countries which have recently achieved independence or which are struggling for independence.

5. There is also a Soviet volunteer doctor movement. A team of young medical workers was sent out to Guinea-Bissau at the time of the war of liberation; a similar group spent more than 6 months in Mozambique.

6. Many delegations have visited the USSR to discuss matters connected with the struggle against racism and racial discrimination since 1971 at the invitation of the Central Committee of the All-Union Lenin Young Communist League and the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR.

7. Millions of Soviet boys and girls are taking an active part in the world-wide campaign "Youth stands for anti-imperialistic solidarity, peace and progress", launched in anticipation of the eleventh Universal Youth and Student Festival (Cuba 1978). The activities being carried out are an expression of solidarity with the peoples and youth fighting against fascist and dictatorial regimes, against racism and apartheid, for national liberation, democracy and social progress.

D. Information submitted by United Nations Organs

United Nations Secretariat (Office of Public Information)

8. Most of the United Nations Information Centres, in order to ensure the active participation of young people in the implementation of the programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, initiated and offered substantive assistance for many student programmes on human rights.

9. Many Centres, on occasions like the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples of Southern Africa, put special emphasis on the role of youth in achieving basic human rights.

II. PROMOTION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE, IN PARTICULAR  
YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS, IN THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF SOCIETY

A. Information submitted by Governments of Member States

USSR

10. Soviet youth is making a worthy contribution to international efforts aimed at affirming the ideals of peace and mutual understanding between peoples and of respect for human rights and dignity. A leading role in this respect is played by Soviet youth organizations, and particularly the All-Union Lenin Young Communist League and the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR. They are contributing to the achievement of mutual understanding between youth associations of various political, philosophical and religious leanings mainly through their activities and joint efforts aimed at the strengthening of peace, security and co-operation, and at promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Soviet youth organizations are actively participating in the democratic international youth associations such as the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students. Great importance is attached to the results of the European Meeting of Youth and Students (Polish People's Republic, June 1976), where questions relating to the practical participation by youth in the struggle for a durable peace, security, co-operation and social progress were discussed. Recent activities include the organization of a number of international and regional seminars devoted to questions of the establishment and protection of the rights of specific categories of young persons.

D. Information submitted by United Nations Organs

United Nations Secretariat (Office of Public Information)

11. Many United Nations Information Centres have initiated special discussions with the departments of the ministries and other government departments of Member States responsible for youth in order to assure its active involvement in the promotion and protection of human rights.

12. The Education Information Programmes Unit of the United Nations Office of Public Information (OPI) has worked on the subject mainly through teacher's organizations and United Nations Associations. The Special Projects Unit of the OPI, as well, in the organization and conducting of its annual Summer Student Internship Programme, schedules its work in such a way as to cover as many subjects relating to human rights as possible. In 1976, emphasis was placed on inviting to the Programme more young people from developing countries than had previously been the case.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIAL CURRICULUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
FOR USE IN THE VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

D. Information submitted by United Nations Organs

United Nations Secretariat (Office of Public Information)

13. United Nations Information Centres have endeavoured in their contacts with the educational authorities and institutions and through their information activities to encourage the development of a special curriculum on human rights for use in the various levels of the educational systems and the introduction of a special curriculum on human rights in universities. Another important aspect in the campaign by the Centres in this regard was the growing interest of the students in most countries in the inclusion of human rights in their formal curricula.

IV. THE USE OF MASS MEDIA, PARTICULARLY TELEVISION, TO PROPAGATE  
AMONG YOUTH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Information submitted by Governments

USSR

14. The Soviet youth press attaches great importance to the dissemination of ideas of humanism and respect for human rights and freedoms. Articles on this subject are published regularly in the "Komsomolskaya Pravda" and "Moskovsky Komsomolets" newspapers, in the journals "Molodoy Kommunist", "Selskaya Molodezh", "Rovesnik", "Studenchesky Meridian", "Novosti" press agency's daily "Molodezh Segodnya", etc. They devote a great deal of space to questions of the protection of the rights of youth in various countries. Information is also published on the struggle of youth against racist regimes, for freedom, self-determination and national independence. These questions also receive considerable coverage in youth radio and television programmes.

15. Soviet youth has expressed its solidarity with the struggle of the Arab peoples for the recognition of the lawful national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, and for the achievement of a just and durable peace in the Near East. Activities of many kinds are being organized as an expression of solidarity with Chilean patriots and democrats against the violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms in that country and against flagrant violations, inter alia of the International Covenants on human rights, of which Chile is a signatory.

D. Information submitted by United Nations Organs

United Nations Secretariat (Office of Public Information)

16. Youth organizations and youth in general have consistently been a major target of the United Nations Information Centres and efforts in publicizing human rights issues have been extensive and successful. In the light of resolution 1B (XXVII), additional efforts were undertaken by all United Nations Information Centres to encourage and stimulate the involvement of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights.

17. The United Nations Information Centres helped educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, students organizations, United Nations clubs, UNESCO clubs, and trade unions to organize meetings, workshops, seminars, debates and exhibitions, thus encouraging and stimulating the involvement of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights. The Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Office of Public Information (OPI) organized a special briefing for non-governmental organizations representatives which was devoted to the role of youth in promoting and protecting human rights. The Centres, also provided relevant pamphlets, brochures and other publications produced by OPI, as well as United Nations films. Furthermore, whenever international meetings on youth took place, the United Nations Information Centre in the country concerned involved itself in joint actions with youth organizations to mount United Nations book exhibitions with particular stress on human rights and related subjects. The Directors of Information Centres frequently addressed youth meetings and lectured on various subjects related to human rights during 1976.

18. All the Information Centres have used the mass media, and in particular television, in their intensive efforts to propagate among youth the awareness of and respect for human rights in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples and other United Nations instruments. It is worth mentioning among the United Nations television series, "International Zone", ten half-hour colour films which are devoted to the problems of youth, including two on the First World Youth Assembly held at United Nations Headquarters.

19. The discussions by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-second session on the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights were fully covered by the United Nations in its relevant OPI press releases. Publicity has also been given to the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding among People, the text of which is kept in print in a variety of languages for permanent distribution through the United Nations Information Centres and by the non-governmental organizations concerned.

20. Most Centre Directors maintained close contact with the organizers of youth programmes for the television and radio, and a steady flow of documentation, tapes and films on human rights was supplied for this purpose by the Centres. All the news media, radio stations and television networks have been regularly supplied with background information, photos and other appropriate information material on human rights.