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### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Second periodic reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant  
concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9, in accordance with  
the first stage of the programme established by the Economic and  
Social Council in its resolution 1988 (LX)

#### Addendum

BULGARIA\*

[11 April 1984]

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The initial report of the Government of Bulgaria concerning the implementation of articles 6 to 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was submitted on 15 November 1978 (E/1978/8/Add.24). Accordingly, in conformity with the requirements of the general guidelines for second periodic reports (E/1984/7, annex), the present report is confined to the major new developments in national legislation and practice which occurred during the period 1979-1983 in connection with the rights recognized in articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant. As regards other matters connected with the implementation of articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant, reference is made to the Government's initial report and to the statement made by the representative of Bulgaria in introducing the report and his answers to the questions which were put to him in the course of the

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\* The initial report submitted by the Government of Bulgaria concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant (E/1978/8/Add.24) was considered by the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts at its 1980 session (see E/1980/WG.1/SR.12).

consideration of the report by the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (see E/1980/WG.1/SR.12).

2. During the period 1979-1983, the Government of Bulgaria pursued further its internal economic and social policy to achieve the consistent exercise of the fundamental rights of citizens recognized in articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant. Thanks to the increasing economic potential of the country and the improvement of internal legislation, this basic policy includes some new, progressive steps towards the more effective implementation of articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant, as described below.

3. As regards the characteristics of labour legislation, which of all branches of the existing legislation is the one most closely connected with the exercise in the internal legal order of the rights provided for in articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant, the most important development is the forthcoming radical reform. The plenum of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party was held at Sofia on 29 and 30 November 1982. At the plenum, Todor Zhivkov, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party and President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, presented a report entitled Basic Principles of Party Thinking with Respect to a New Labour Code. The report contains some fundamental guidelines for drawing up a new labour code and new legislation on social security. A commission of Party and governmental representatives, under the chairmanship of Todor Zhivkov, was appointed to prepare the new labour code.

4. One of the basic guidelines contained in the Party's report relates to the advisability, in drafting the new labour code, of using progressive foreign and international experience. In the report it is specifically stated: "With regard to every basic issue covered by the new labour code, it would be advisable to refer to international practice and achievements and to make use of them to the extent compatible with the specific character and features of our situation, account also being taken of the international obligations assumed by our country". 1/

5. The Party's report was brought before the general public for discussion which lasted three months, from the beginning of December 1982 until the end of February 1983, and was extremely lively. The participants in the 65,287 meetings held numbered 3,785,336, or 92 per cent of all of the manual and non-manual workers in the country. The 307,934 persons who spoke in the discussions made 168,142 proposals, recommendations and observations, or a total of 180,715 when the proposals made through the mass information media are also included (according to the report of the commission of Party and governmental representatives appointed to prepare a new labour code, published in the newspaper Rabotnichesko delo (Labour Affairs) of 20 July 1983).

6. The purport of the public discussion of Party thinking and democratic policy, which guides the preparation of the new labour code, was that the opinion of the various segments of labour should be taken into account in the drafting of the laws, since these will affect their work, living conditions and daily performance in the most direct fashion, and that advantage should be taken of their know-how and wisdom when the country's new labour legislation is created.

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7. Taking as a basis the guidelines contained in the Party's report and the proposals and recommendations made in the course of its discussion, those responsible for the actual preparation of the new draft labour code and new draft legislation on social security began their task. The preliminary drafts have now been completed and are currently being improved.

## II. ARTICLE 6: THE RIGHT TO WORK

8. A number of new and important normative instruments guaranteeing to the citizens of Bulgaria the effective exercise of the right to work and relating to the essential features of that right have been adopted. These instruments are as follows:

(a) Resolution No. 38 of 7 July 1980 of the Council of Ministers, concerning the placement of persons with diminished capacity for work and the expansion of work at home for mothers who have children under six years of age (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 57, 1980, amended by No. 31, 1981);

(b) Resolution No. 42 of 24 July 1980 of the Council of Ministers, concerning a single national system for the further training of personnel (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 67, 1980, amended by No. 61, 1981);

(c) Resolution No. 70 of 18 December 1980 of the Council of Ministers, concerning the improvement of conditions for the training and development of young people (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 100, 1980);

(d) Model regulations governing the agro-industrial complex (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 24, 1980).

9. Developments affecting the exercise in Bulgaria of the right to work, resulting from changes in the legislation over the past five years, have taken several principal directions.

10. The State shows particular and deep concern about the provision of productive employment and suitable work - in other words, about guaranteeing the right to work - to a number of individual categories of workers who, owing to their special circumstances, have diminished prospects of finding and taking up appropriate employment. Because of their specific situation, the State, motivated by the desire to provide work for them, pays them special attention with a view to ensuring that their prospects for employment and vocational development are the same as those of the other, able-bodied, citizens of our country.

11. In the first place, persons with a diminished capacity for work are dealt with in resolution No. 38 of 7 July 1980 of the Council of Ministers. They comprise disabled individuals in disability groups I, II and III, and also persons who, although not recognized as disabled on the basis of the opinion of medical bodies, have a diminished capacity for work of more than two months' duration. Since 1 January 1981, action has been taken to create special enterprises or to set aside special workshops and productive units for these people, in which they perform

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relatively light work, in keeping with their state of health. The nomenclature of these special facilities and types of work is set forth in resolution No. 38 of 7 July 1980 and covers 36 types of activity (e.g., the production of clothes for infants and of toys for children). It is stipulated that at least 70 per cent of the employees of the special enterprises and units must be persons with a diminished capacity for work and that such persons should be hired in preference to other workers. In these enterprises, the work requirements are lightened and are adapted to the health of the persons concerned (arts. 1, 4, 5 and 9-14 of resolution No. 38 of 7 July 1980 of the Council of Ministers).

12. Secondly, mothers of children aged 3 to 6 years of age who do not attend a children's institution now have increased opportunities to work at home. The heads of undertakings and organizations are obliged, when so requested, to allow such women to take unpaid leave in order to work at home for another undertaking or organization. The labour contract concluded with the undertaking in which they first worked continues to be in force but its effect is suspended (i.e., its implementation is deferred) and the woman in question concludes a second labour contract for at-home work with the other undertaking). This creates the necessary conditions to enable working women in this category to combine the raising and care of their children with participation in social work. Thereafter, when the children attain age 6 - or before that age, if they are admitted to a children's institution - the mother may, if she so desires, return at any time to work at the first undertaking: her post is held for her, and she may resume her work just like anyone else (art. 2, resolution No. 38 of 7 July 1980 of the Council of Ministers).

13. Third, in resolution No. 70 of 18 December 1980 of the Council of Ministers, it is stipulated that the heads of ministries, other government departments and economic organizations, undertakings and establishments shall adopt special yearly programmes to provide vocational training and to ensure the occupational fulfilment of the young people in their employ. These programmes are prepared with the active participation of the young people concerned in the context of the Komsomol organizations. They provide solutions for a number of questions related to the vocational training of young people and for important social questions concerning the life and work of young workers: the construction of housing for young families, of youth centres for rest and recreation, of clubs and the like. Youth labour collectives are also being formed at undertakings and organizations which employ a large number of young people. At least two thirds of their members are under 30 years of age and, if the work requires people which have a higher education, under 35 years of age. The youth labour collectives are entrusted with special tasks in the production and service sectors and they report on the performance of these tasks. The conditions created in the collectives ensure that young people work in an environment which is both psychologically and vocationally suited to them.

14. Improving the professional skills of manual and non-manual workers, which is an essential element of the right to work, is particularly important for the full realization of this right, in accordance with article 6, paragraph 2, of the Covenant. In addition to the various types of instruction and studies which are pursued at educational institutions and which generally precede the beginning of employment, in Bulgaria particular attention has recently been devoted to ensuring

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the uninterrupted improvement of professional skills. The policy is for vocational training to be conducted as a process concurrent with all of the work performed by manual and non-manual workers. This new approach to problems of vocational training stems from present conditions which are characterized by the rapid development of the productive forces and of the technological conditions in which work is performed, as well as by the accelerated introduction of the results of technological progress. In such conditions, the professional skills of workers must constantly keep pace with the rapidly changing working conditions of modern industry.

15. This basic concept is reflected in resolution No. 42 of the Council of Ministers of 24 July 1980. Through the creation of the single national system for the further training of personnel, the resolution provides first of all for the establishment of the organizational structure of this system. The structure includes the Council for the Co-ordination of the Further Training of Personnel, which is responsible to the Council of Ministers, in addition to the specialized units for further training established at ministries, economic organizations and people's soviets. These bodies plan and organize the further training of personnel in the context of the relevant ministry, within the territory of the corresponding people's soviet or at the corresponding undertaking or organization. The further training of personnel is carried out at specialized institutions of secondary or higher education, depending on the vocational preparation of the individual pursuing one or another type of further training. These types of training consist of: refreshing and enriching occupational knowledge - instruction of up to 45 days; specialization in and expansion of the profile of the occupation practised - instruction for up to one year; and retraining with a view to entry into another occupation or specialization - instruction for up to two years.

16. Further training is carried out with full or partial suspension of work or without suspension of work. When it is pursued without suspension of work, manual and non-manual workers participating in these types of further training are allowed to take the necessary leave with pay, which enables them to prepare for the corresponding examination. When the courses are offered outside the permanent place of work, manual and non-manual workers pursuing further vocational training receive a special-purpose allowance, in accordance with the regulations governing official assignments. Where further training is pursued by correspondence, they are allowed to take additional leave of up to three working days each month, which are used in the intervals between work activities (arts. 1-6 and 10 of resolution No. 42 of 24 July 1980 of the Council of Ministers and section 2 of resolution No. 26 of 14 August 1981 of the Council of Ministers, amending and supplementing resolution No. 42 of 24 July 1980 of the Council of Ministers. As a result of the adoption of measures, a growing number of manual and non-manual workers are graduating from courses and schools of vocational training and further training. They numbered 913,933 in 1978, 975,811 in 1980 and 1,118,405 at the end of 1982. 2/

17. Like other similar measures taken on such questions in the past, the measures undertaken in accordance with resolution No. 42 of the Council of Ministers to improve the professional skills of personnel are the result of the problems related to the level of training of the labour force and, first and foremost, of manual

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workers. Despite the success achieved, several problems and difficulties persist in this connection. The rise in the level of manual workers' skills is falling behind the requirements of the national economy. At the end of 1982, highly-skilled manual workers (those in the top two wage categories - VI and VII - in the unified scale of wages) accounted for 21.7 per cent of workers and, at the end of 1983, for 23 per cent, whereas they should account for 50 per cent in order to meet the country's needs. 3/

18. Starting in 1980, the scope of labour legislation was significantly expanded. During the 1970s, the organization of agriculture in Bulgaria was reformed and a result of this reform was the establishment of agro-industrial complexes. These include industrial undertakings which produce agricultural output through industrial means, as well as agricultural labour co-operatives and State farms. The agricultural activities are actually carried out at the complexes: field cultivation, stock raising, market gardening, horticulture, viticulture and the like. These and other sectors have become divisions of the unified general economic organization, namely, the agro-industrial complex. In accordance with article 35 of the model regulations governing the agro-industrial complex, all workers employed at such complexes - irrespective of whether they are manual and non-manual workers of industrial divisions or members of agricultural labour co-operatives, as long as they are included in the complex - are covered by labour legislation, for example, by the Labour Code and, accordingly, by legally binding normative instruments. The unity thus created in the labour régime governing workers, regardless of the type of economic subdivision in which they work, reflects the policy pursued in Bulgaria to unify the social and labour conditions affecting all workers through the establishment of equal standards for their work. An important direct result of this in social terms is the extension to working peasants who are members of agricultural labour co-operatives of the favourable solutions prescribed by labour legislation with respect to the work of manual and non-manual workers.

19. The recent tendency towards the increasingly full and genuine exercise of the right to work by the citizens of Bulgaria is evident in the growing number of manual and non-manual workers in general, in other words, of persons who are permanently employed. whereas in 1978 they totalled 3,895,642, in subsequent years the number increased as follows: 1979 - 3,946,890; 1980 - 4,024,823; 1981 - 4,073,316; and 1982 - 4,100,259. 4/

### III. ARTICLE 7: THE RIGHT TO JUST AND FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS OF WORK

#### A. Remuneration (art. 7 (a))

20. Under resolution No. 50 of 10 November 1979 of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and of the Council of Ministers (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 90, 1979), starting on 1 November 1979 the remuneration of manual and non-manual workers in Bulgaria was increased as follows:

(a) The wages of manual workers by an average of 30 per cent and those of non-manual workers by an average of 25 per cent;

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(b) The minimum wage of junior specialists was increased even more markedly: the minimum basic wage of specialists with higher education, from 105 leva to 155 leva (i.e., by nearly 50 per cent); of specialists with secondary education and technical and teacher training at junior colleges, from 91 leva to 135 leva (i.e., by nearly 50 per cent); and specialists with secondary education, from 83 leva to 120 leva (an average of nearly 50 per cent);

(c) The national minimum wage was increased from 80 leva to 100 leva (i.e., by nearly 25 per cent).

21. Changes were also made in the rate and system of supplementary labour remuneration. New types of supplementary labour remuneration were provided or the rates for existing types were increased. The result has been an increase in the average annual wage of manual and non-manual workers. In 1978, it was 1,887 leva; in 1979, 1,979 leva; in 1980, 2,185 leva; in 1981, 2,299 leva; and at the end of 1982, 2,363 leva. Taking 1970 as a base year (100), in 1982 the figure increased to 160. Real wages also showed a marked upward movement. Taking 1970 as a base year (100), in 1980 the figure was 119.2; in 1981, 124.8; and at the end of 1982, 127.5. 5/

#### B. Safe and healthy working conditions (art. 7 (b))

22. In order to reflect the impact of scientific and technical progress on working conditions and to promote safer and healthier working conditions, a number of normative instruments were adopted in the period under review. The main purpose of these legislative changes is to implement and realize more fully the right to healthy and safe working conditions which are "secured by the introduction of the achievements of science and technology" (art. 41, para. 2, of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria).

23. The following are the latest developments in the establishment of regulations:

(a) Regulation No. 2, on problems of occupational safety in factories where chlorine is used (D'rzhaven vestnik, Nos. 9 and 10, 1979). This Regulation establishes special sanitary engineering requirements for the design of subunits and shops which produce and use chlorine; for the warehousing, transport and storage of chlorine and hydrogen; for special work clothing and footwear; and for personal safety measures for workers engaged in the production of chlorine or working with chlorine etc. Its purpose is to protect workers from the harmful effects of chlorine;

(b) Regulation on the installation and safe operation of low-pressure steam boilers and hot-water boilers (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 27, 1980). This Regulation contains the technical rules for the installation and production of low-pressure boilers, as well as special requirements for their safe use;

(c) Regulation on the installation and safe use of pressure tanks (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 16, 1980). This regulation establishes the technical rules for the installation, production, safe use and technical inspection of pressure tanks;

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(d) Decree No. 1306 on State monitoring of nuclear safety (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 8, 1981) and the Regulation on the procedures for its enforcement (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 8, 1981). State monitoring covers nuclear installations, as well as the inventorying, storage and transport of nuclear material in Bulgaria. It is implemented by the Committee for the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, through inspectors specially appointed for this purpose.

24. The implementation of measures to ensure safe and healthy working conditions throughout the country is planned under the National Labour Protection Programme. It is part of Bulgaria's five-year social and economic development plan. The measures and financial resources essential for their implementation that are envisaged in the plan are distributed among, and included in, the annual plans for social and economic development adopted by the National Assembly.

25. The National Labour Protection Programme provides for the production of personal safety devices, antidotes, compensatory payment for unhealthy working conditions etc., as well as the implementation of sanitary and other measures to eliminate the harmful industrial effects inherent in certain types of production.

26. A characteristic feature of State policy in the field of occupational hygiene and safety is that its main focus is on the design and construction of buildings and installations and introduction of technology that preclude from the outset or minimize harmful and dangerous working conditions in industry, rather than on the provision of compensation for harm due to lack of prevention, in the form of additional remuneration, antidotes etc.

27. Specific measures to ensure safe and healthy working conditions are also adopted in individual enterprises and organizations. They are agreed by the administration and the trade-union committees (Regulations) on the economic system (art. 117, para. 4) and are stipulated every year in the collective labour contract (Labour Code, art. 9). The financial resources to implement these measures come from the "Social welfare and cultural measures" fund of the relevant enterprise or organization.

#### C. Equal opportunity for promotion (art. 7 (c))

28. Since the adoption of the Single Staffing Table and the Single Wage-Rate Scale of 1 November 1979, the development of the legislation in force has significantly expanded the opportunities for the promotion of workers on the basis of their professional knowledge and skills.

29. For non-manual workers covered by the Single Staffing Table, these opportunities are embodied in the Single Staffing Table which fixes the minimum and maximum limits for basic salaries. Workers may periodically be promoted within these limits on the basis of the so-called evaluation reports, which are normally made every three years by special commissions within the enterprise or organization. The commissions comprise representatives of the management and of the section in which the non-manual worker in question is employed and of a representative of the trade-union committee. In accordance with article 2 of the

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Provisions on Evaluation Reports ("D'rzhaven vestnik", No. 65, 1977), the qualifications and other professional attributes of the person under review are assessed during the evaluation process and the worker is promoted on the basis of that assessment.

30. Manual workers covered by the Single Wage-Rate Scale are promoted within seven wage grades. Each grade reflects the professional knowledge, abilities and experience of the worker and a specific wage for daily labour is established for it. Wage grades are assigned on the basis of an examination by special commissions comprising representatives of the management and the trade-union committee and of specialists in the particular profession. The commission appraises the worker's theoretical knowledge of his job and his practical skills and experience and, on that basis, decides whether he should be assigned to the next, higher grade.

D. Rest, leisure, limitation of working hours,  
and holidays with pay (art. 7 (b))

31. There have been two main trends in the way in which legislation and practice in this field has been changing in recent years:

(a) The transition to a five-day work week, in which the number of working hours average 42.5, has continued. As was pointed out in the initial report, the five-day work week has been introduced in all branches of the economy and all spheres of activity, except for individuals directly employed in educational and agriculture. In recent years (since 1980), the five-day work week has also been gradually introduced for teachers, educators, instructors and others who are directly employed in all types of education and all stages of the educational system (elementary, intermediate, junior college and higher), a change which required that the teaching programmes be revised and adapted to the new length of the educational process. Two successive days of rest each week, one of which is Sunday (Saturday and Sunday or Sunday and Monday), are allowed for this category. Only those directly employed in agriculture (crop cultivation and stock-raising) continue to work a six-day week in which the average number of working hours is 48. This is necessitated by the specific conditions of work in these subsectors of the economy and their dependence on climatic and similar conditions. However, wherever the specific conditions of work and the organization of labour permit, even those employed in agriculture may transfer to a five-day work week through shift work etc.;

(b) In a number of new plants or in plants in which the conditions of work are changing as a result of the introduction of new technology, new types of raw materials and components etc., and in which the conditions envisaged in article 41 of the Labour Code obtain, working hours are being reduced to 40 or 35 a week. For instance, a 35-hour week was recently introduced for manual workers involved in producing integrated circuits at the Scientific and Industrial Semi-conductor Production Complex ("D'rzhaven vestnik", No. 4, 1979), in some plants within the Petrochemical Industrial Complex at Burgas ("D'rzhaven vestnik", No. 38, 1979, No. 95, 1980 and No. 68, 1981), for manual workers at several plants within the Kremikovtsy Metallurgical Industrial Complex at Sofia ("D'rzhaven vestnik", No. 8, 1982), and for others.

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#### IV. ARTICLE 8: TRADE UNION RIGHTS

32. There have been no changes made in recent years in the legislation on the right to form trade unions; reference is therefore made to the Government's initial report on this matter (E/1978/8/Add.24).

33. The Ninth Congress of Bulgarian Trade Unions was held at Sofia in April 1982. The practical work of Bulgarian trade unions between the Eight and Ninth Congresses (from April 1977 to April 1982) was assessed and the tasks facing the unions at the current stage of the country's development identified.

34. During the period that was reviewed by the Congress and throughout 1983, Bulgarian trade unions continued to prove themselves to be an important part of the country's political system and to perform important tasks connected with the development of society as a whole and with the defence of the interests and rights of workers.

35. The number of workers who are members of Bulgarian trade unions has increased to 4 million; this includes nearly all of the workers employed in the various branches of the economy and in government service. Of this figure, 72.5 per cent are manual workers, 7.1 per cent are engineers and technicians and 17.6 per cent are non-manual workers. Thus, trade unions in modern Bulgaria have been transformed from organizations of the working class into organizations that encompass all workers.

36. During the period under review, Bulgarian trade unions have again continued to take an active part in the country's social, political, economic and cultural life and in solving planning, social development and other problems. As was noted in the Report to the Ninth Congress, Bulgarian trade unions have extensive rights that are guaranteed in the country's fundamental laws and that enable them to be involved in the solution of virtually all problems connected with the vital interests of workers.

37. At the present stage of the country's development, special attention is being paid to the tasks and activities of Bulgarian trade unions connected with enhancing their public supervisory role and their functions in defending the rights and interests of workers, making themselves more democratic, analysing public opinion and particularly the views and attitudes of workers, putting the numerous rights accorded to them by the country's laws to effective use, co-operating and interrelating with the collective managerial bodies of socialist organizations (general meetings, economic councils etc.) and organizing and intensifying the activities of labour collectives.

38. Bulgarian trade unions actively participate in the implementation of the National Labour Protection Programme by monitoring the observance of labour legislation. The Labour Code and a special law adopted in 1973 grant them the right to exercise complete supervision - State and public supervision - in this important field of social relations. In the Report to the Ninth Congress of Bulgarian Trade Unions, it was pointed out that, during the period 1978-1981, trade union supervisory bodies participated in the discussion of 1,165 projects for the

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construction or reconstruction of productive units and took part in the work of the 5,100 State commissions approving the programmes of these units. The trade union supervisory bodies sent back for revision or withheld approval from 320 projects because of the unsatisfactory manner in which labour protection questions were handled. Under article 101 of the Labour Code, these projects may not be adopted and executed, and productive units may not be put into operation, unless they are approved. During the period under review, trade union supervisory bodies halted the starting of operations at 620 units. In exercising the supervisory powers granted to them under the Labour Code (arts. 101 and 178), the trade union organizations issued mandatory instructions for the correction of 550,000 violations of labour protection regulations and halted the operation of 36,000 machines and installations, 1,302 shops and sections, and 397 factories and enterprises.

39. In pursuance of the proposals of trade union organizations, 16,000 officials were fined and some were imprisoned for violations of labour legislation. 6/

40. The trade unions do a great deal to protect the labour rights of manual and non-manual workers. By conducting labour protection inspections, the trade union committees and conciliation commissions settle disputes and protect the rights and legitimate interests of workers. The trade unions have a broad network of reception rooms for the provision of free advice on questions of labour law, carry out numerous activities in the legal study departments to enhance knowledge of the law, answer letters and complaints and take decisions on the thousands of questions raised by workers.

41. The trade unions are quite active in providing health resort accommodation and holidays for workers. The trade unions have the responsibility of carrying out this State task. A well-financed material and technical network of health resorts where each year more than 2 million persons spend their vacations have been organized for this purpose. Nevertheless, there is a certain gap between the rapidly growing needs with regard to recreation and the ability to satisfy them. For this reason, an integral programme for the basic reconstruction, modernization and expansion of the existing recreation infrastructure was elaborated and is currently being implemented during the eight five-year plan (1981-1985). This large-scale reconstruction effort is designed to upgrade the health resort institutions and convert them into genuine complexes for the promotion of health and culture which can be used on a year-round basis and at which workers will be able to enjoy beneficial rest.

#### V. ARTICLE 9: RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY

42. During the period under review (1979-1983), a number of changes were made in social security legislation, bringing about the fuller exercise of the right to social security guaranteed to citizens under article 43 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria:

(a) The number of persons insured against industrial injuries was increased. Members of voluntary fire brigades and citizens who have been injured during or in

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connection with the performance of their fire prevention tasks are covered by the provisions of article 2, paragraph (i), of the rules on the procedure for the application of section III of the Labour Code (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 12, 1980). Cash compensation for injuries is paid to these persons by the enterprises and organizations in which they work; persons who are unemployed receive such compensation from the appropriate national council or town council in whose territory they carried out these tasks;

(b) A significant addition was also made with regard to the compensation provided for maternity and child care. Prior to 1981, such compensation was paid only to mothers and adoptive mothers. The amendment to article 41 of the rules on the procedure for the application of section III of the Labour Code (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 21, 1981) provides that, in the event of the serious illness or death of a mother or adoptive mother who is on maternity leave or child-care leave, the remainder of her leave may be used by and cash compensation may be paid to the father or another relative in the direct line (grandfather or grandmother), or a relative in the collateral line up to the second generation (brother or sister) on the side of one of the child's parents. In such cases, compensation is paid in the same amount and for the same period as in the case of the mother or adoptive mother.

43. Changes were also made in legislation governing pensions:

(a) Under Decree No. 2092 on increasing the size of pensions (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 93, 1979), all types of pension paid in accordance with the law on pensions (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 93, 1979) were increased by 10 leva;

(b) It was stipulated that male disabled veterans who have reached the age of 60 and female disabled veterans who have reached the age of 55 will receive both a disability pension and a full pension in respect of labour activity if they are entitled to both pensions (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 90, 1980);

(c) The size of the pension supplement for disabled persons requiring outside assistance was increased from 20 to 35 leva (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 9, 1981);

(d) An amendment to article 53 of the Pensions Act (D'rzhaven vestnik, No. 28, 1983) provides that, in the case of pensions that are smaller than the minimum monthly wage (currently 100 leva), mandatory withholding is permitted only in cases involving the overpayment of pension amounts, alimony payments, or the payment of compensation for damages arising from crimes, unlawful causing of harm and unauthorized expenditure.

44. The amount of funds allocated for State social security increases annually. In 1975 it was equivalent to 1.1 billion leva and in 1981 it reached 2.5 billion leva. The amount of resources from public funds allocated on a per capita basis also increases annually. Whereas in 1975 the average per capita annual allocation was 420 leva, in 1980 this figure increased to 619 leva. 7/

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Notes

1/ T. Zhivkov, Basic Principles of Party Thinking with Respect to a New Labour Code (Partizdat, 1982), p. 14.

2/ Statistical Yearbook of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, 1983, p. 111.

3/ T. Zhivkov, op. cit., p. 25.

4/ Statistical Yearbook ..., p. 102.

5/ Ibid., pp. 73 and 75.

6/ See Report of the Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions to the Ninth Congress and Forthcoming Tasks (Profizdat, 1982) p. 33.

7/ Figures from Ibid., pp. 32 and 42.

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