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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia; draft resolution

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978 concerning disappeared persons, and its resolution 43/159 of 8 December 1988 on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances,

Deeply concerned about the persistence, in certain cases, of the practice of enforced or involuntary disappearances, and about the fact that, in certain cases, the families of disappeared persons have been the target of intimidation and ill-treatment,

Expressing its profound emotion at the anguish and sorrow of the families concerned, who are unsure of the fate of their relatives,

Convinced of the need to continue implementing the provisions of its resolution 33/173 and of the other United Nations resolutions on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances, with a view to finding solutions for cases of disappearances and helping to eliminate such practices,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/27 of 6 March 1989, 1/

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for its humanitarian work and to those Governments that have co-operated with it;

2. Welcomes the decision which the Commission on Human Rights took, at its forty-fourth session, to extend for two years the term of the mandate of the Working Group, as defined in Commission resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980, 2/ while maintaining the principle of annual reporting by the Working Group;

3. Also welcomes the provisions made by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1986/55 of 13 March 1986 3/ to enable the Working Group to fulfil its mandate with greater efficiency;

4. Further welcomes the progress made in the preparation of the draft declaration on enforced or involuntary disappearances

5. Appeals to the Governments concerned, particularly those which have not yet replied to the communications addressed to them by the Working Group, to co-operate fully with the Working Group so as to enable it, with respect for its working methods based on discretion, to perform its strictly humanitarian role, and in particular to reply more quickly to the requests for information addressed to them by the Working Group;

6. Encourages the Governments concerned to consider the wish of the Working Group, when such a wish is expressed, to visit their countries, thus enabling the Working Group to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;

7. Extends its warm thanks to the Governments that have invited the Working Group, and asks them to give all necessary attention to its recommendations;

8. Appeals to the Governments concerned to take steps to protect the families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment of which they may be the target;

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 2 (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

2/ Ibid., 1980, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1980/13 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

3/ Ibid., 1986, Supplement No. 2 (E/1986/22), chap. II, sect. A.

9. Calls upon the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study this question as a matter of priority and to take any step it may deem necessary to the pursuit of the task of the Working Group when it considers the report to be submitted by the Working Group to the Commission at its forty-sixth session;

10. Renews its request to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all necessary facilities.
