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Measures to be taken against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and all other forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since the report of the Secretary-General (A/40/232-E/1985/40) was issued, replies have been received from the following States: Cyprus, El Salvador, Hungary, Iraq and Qatar. $\underline{1}$ /

II. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS PROVIDED BY STATES

2. The Governments of Cyprus, Hungary and Qatar expressed their support of General Assembly resolution 39/114 of 14 December 1984 on measures to be taken against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and all other forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror.

3. The Government of Cyprus added that it was a party to the International Convenants on Human Rights as well as to other relevant international human rights instruments.

4. The Government of El Salvador affirmed its condemnation of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on racial exclusiveness or intolerance, hatred and terror. It stated, <u>inter alia</u>, that, although the Salvadorian people were facing one of the most critical periods in its history, it had given specific examples of what could be done and achieved on the basis of the belief that democracy was the most appropriate means of solving an organized society's problems and difficulties. Since 1979, however, the Government and people of El Salvador have had to deal with attacks by subversive forces whose aims were to destabilize the country politically, socially and economically through terror and destruction and to impose their totalitarian ideology. The Government added that the Political Constitution provided an appropriate legal framework for respect for fundamental human rights. Article 3 of the Constitution stipulates that:

"All persons are equal before the law. For the enjoyment of civil rights, no restrictions may be imposed on the basis of differences of nationality, race, sex or religion. Hereditary occupations and privileges shall not be recognized".

Under the Penal Code of El Salvador, it is an offence to establish any type of subversive association or to disseminate or advocate anarchical ideologies and totalitarian practices which are contrary to the main democratic institutions guaranteed by the Political Constitution of the Republic.

5. The Government of El Salvador indicated that the purposes of education in El Salvador were, <u>inter alia</u>, to teach respect for human rights and observance of the corresponding duties and to combat any feelings of intolerance and hatred, and suggested that an information campaign should immediately be launched at all educational levels and, in particular, at the primary level to guarantee the teaching of human rights.

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6. The Government of El Salvador is a party, <u>inter alia</u>, to the following international human rights instruments: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of <u>Apartheid</u>; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the American Convention on Human Rights.

7. The Government of Iraq stated that it emphatically regarded all ideologies based on racial superiority, intolerance, hatred and the systematic denial of human rights as incompatible with the fundamental principles of human civilization. It noted that:

"After the Second World War, there was an alarming increase in a form of neo-nazism which exploited hatred of nazism in order to practise discrimination between persons on grounds of religion, as illustrated by the Zionist ideology, which shares the Nazi theory of racial superiority and exclusiveness and, to that end, engages in aggression against the Arab countries".

A new ideology based on intolerance had also appeared in the form of Khomeinism, which was engaging in aggression against Iraq in an attempt to propagate racial, religious and confessional intolerance, which constituted a new form of nazism.

8. The Government of Iraq added that it prohibited all organizations that advocated such activities, which it regarded as illegal, and imposed extremely severe penalties on their propagators and attached considerable importance to the role of education in the campaign against racism through the inculcation of humanitarian values and tolerance into its younger generation.

9. The Government of Iraq believes in the importance of the prosecution and punishment of war criminals and persons who commit crimes against humanity, particularly those committed after the Second World War in Palestine, Lebanon and South Africa and those relating to the murder of Iraqi prisoners of war. It has acceded to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1965, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of <u>Apartheid</u> of 1973. It believes that the fortieth anniversary of the victory over nazism serves to mobilize international efforts in the struggle against all forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on intolerance.

10. The Government of Qatar reiterated its condemnation of Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and all other forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror.

11. The Government of Hungary referred to its Constitution, which provides that citizens are equal before the law and that any discrimination of citizens on grounds of sex, religious affiliation or nationality is a severely punishable

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offence. In accordance with the constitutional provisions, the Hungarian criminal law prescribes severe penalties for crimes against humanity, including genocide, and crimes against a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. Any organization or activity professing or inciting racial discrimination is against the law.

12. The Government added that Hungary was a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

13. The Government of Hungary stated that the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and of the establishment of the United Nations provided a good opportunity for States to make, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, more effective efforts in order to prevent the spread of Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist and other totalitarian ideologies and activities based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror.

III. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS PROVIDED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Category I

1. International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

14. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) stated that the Confederation and its affiliates, in pursuing their aims for the benefit of working people, were almost incessantly confronted with the suppression and persecution of workers by totalitarian régimes of whatever ideology.

15. The international free trade union movement will not cease to condemn and, where possible, step up its activities to combat any repressive practices.

2. World Federation of Democratic Youth

16. The World Federation of Democratic Youth stated, <u>inter alia</u>, that the struggle against all forms of fascism, neo-fascism and nazism, against the revanchist tendencies and all forms of racism, racial discrimination, zionism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and <u>apartheid</u> had been one of the major constitutional tasks of the Federation. It pointed out that the fortieth anniversary of victory over fascism should serve the education of peoples, especially the younger generation, in the spirit of rejection of war, the respect and defence of the values of peace. It referred to actions which could serve to promote and support national, regional and international activities in solidarity with the national liberation struggles of the South African and Namibian people and youth.

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B. <u>Category</u> II

1. International Federation of Journalists

17. The International Federation of Journalists reported that it had taken note of General Assembly resolution 39/114, which was debated at the Federation's World Congress held at Edinburgh, Scotland, in June 1984. As a result of that debate, a draft amendment to the Declaration of Principles on the Conduct of Journalists was tabled and a new paragraph dealing with the danger of racist, fascist and other anti-democratic tendencies being furthered by the media will be put before the Executive Committee at its meeting at Brussels, to be held from 20 to 24 May 1985. The proposed amendment read as follows:

"The journalist will be aware of the danger of racialist, fascist and other anti-democratic tendencies being furthered by the media and will do his utmost to avoid abuse of the profession through facilitating such propaganda."

2. International Federation of Resistance Movements

18. The International Federation of Resistance Movements stated that, since its foundation, it had committed all the means at its disposal to fighting Nazi, Fascist, neo-Fascist and racist intrigue.

19. IFR and its national associations were guided by the same objectives in their information activities. In the <u>Service d'information</u>, published by the IFR, and in other publications, as well as in resolutions and motions adopted by the executive bodies of the Federation, commitment to peace and disarmament and the struggle against neo-nazism, fascism and racism were represented as its principal tasks. By way of example, the Federation referred to the latest issue of its <u>Service d'information</u>, entitled "Forty years after: neo-nazism, fascism, right-wing extremism - united resistance", and to a resolution adopted by the IFR Congress at its meeting held at Prague from 11 to 14 September 1984. In that resolution, the IFR Congress stated that on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of victory and liberation, it wished to strengthen its fight against all extremist, terrorist and neo-Fascist tendencies, and to win new allies for disarmament, peace and democracy especially among the young.

3. Socialist International Women

20. The Socialist International Women referred to one of its recent bulletins on the theme "Women against the New Right", which contains an analysis of the impact of the totalitarian ideologies on women's lives. It also referred to its conference, held on 16 and 17 November 1984, in Sheffield, England on the same theme.

C. Roster

Movement against Racism and for Friendship between Peoples

21. The Movement against Racism and for Friendship between Peoples stated that its aim was to fight against all overt and other forms of fascism and nazism and that it had undertaken an in-depth study of General Assembly resolution 39/114, as a result of which several observations had been formulated calling for:

(a) Precautions against so-called "scientific" interpretations of inegalitarian ideologies engendered by fascism and nazism;

(b) Precautions also against attempts to water down and trivialize the horrible crimes of nazism;

(c) The suggestion to nations that they should undertake to educate and inform the public at large to reject those pernicious ideologies, and not to trivialize them as was unfortunately often the case;

(d) The establishment of an international information centre on nazism, neo-nazism and fascism under the auspices of the United Nations. There was a great risk that lack of awareness of those ideologies would contribute to their rebirth.

Notes

1/ The full texts of the replies received from Governments are available for consultation in the files of the United Nations Secretariat.
