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INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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JAMAICA<sup>1/</sup>

1. Early in 1966, an Organizing Committee was set up to prepare, direct and publicize activities undertaken in Jamaica in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights. During 1968, a Human Rights secretariat was established by the Government as a co-ordinating agency for these activities. Different sub-committees of the Organizing Committee were responsible for working with educational institutions and with non-governmental organizations. Parish committees were formed in each of the parishes to organize activities at the local level.

A. Review of national legislation

2. An ad hoc committee was established to review national legislation against the standards of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The committee completed its work and its findings are under consideration.

B. Programmes of education

3. The educational sub-committee of the Organizing Committee worked with educational institutions, the information media and non-governmental organizations to devise programmes for disseminating at all levels information on the principles of human rights as well as an understanding of them. Programmes for teacher-training colleges, for secondary schools and for primary schools were elaborated. "Teach-ins" on human rights were organized for teachers who later led community group discussions. A number of seminars were held by educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and Parish and area Committees on various topics relating to human rights. A film on human rights was prepared by the Jamaica Information Service and shown throughout the country - where necessary, by mobile units. Other films depicting various aspects of human rights were also shown throughout the country. Educational television programmes on the subject were broadcast to schools and special radio programmes for mass audience were undertaken.

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<sup>1/</sup> See also A/6866 and Add.1 and 2, and A/7195 and Add.1-9.

C. Special acts of commemoration

(i) Proclamation

4. On 10 January 1968, the International Year was formally proclaimed by the Governor-General of Jamaica at a ceremony attended by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, members of Parliament, religious leaders, members of the diplomatic corps and other dignitaries. Church services were held by all denominations to mark the opening of the Year.

(ii) Special messages

5. On 7 January 1968, special messages to the people of Jamaica were issued by the Governor-General, the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

(iii) Ratification of multilateral treaties on Human Rights

6. During 1968, Jamaica became a party to the Convention on the International Right of Correction and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and acceded to the Protocol relating to a Certain Case of Statelessness of 17 April 1930.

(iv) Community centres and programmes

7. A number of community projects were undertaken in connexion with the International Year. One non-governmental organization, the United Manchester Association, built six community centres and undertook expanded programmes for operating basic schools, literacy classes, health clinics, libraries, youth clubs, athletic groups, and sewing and cooking classes. One Parish Committee undertook to build a home for retarded children and to renovate a former school building for use as a community centre.

(v) Awards

8. On the international level, the Government of Jamaica instituted, as a means of marking the International Year, the Marcus Garvey Prize for Human Rights for outstanding contributions in the field of race relations. After considering

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nominations from Governments, the specialized agencies and a number of international organizations, the Selection Committee awarded the Prize posthumously to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition, to mark the International Year, the Government awarded two scholarships tenable at the University of the West Indies and organized a student essay competition on human rights.

(vi) Participation in conferences and seminars

9. Jamaica participated in the International Conference on Human Rights, 1968, held in Teheran, Iran, as well as in the Seminar on Freedom of Association held in London.

(vii) Commemorative postage stamps

10. A competition was held for the design of postage stamps to commemorate Human Rights Year, which were issued during 1968. Arrangements were made for special cancellations using human rights slogans.

(viii) Dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

11. This was effected through the various organizations involved and co-ordinated by the Human Rights secretariat. A simple manual on the Declaration was distributed to schools, while posters and leaflets were prepared and widely disseminated as part of the over-all educational programme.

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