



Seventeenth session
Agenda item 80

ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Marie Sivomey (Togo)

1. At its 1129th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1962, the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee item 80 of the agenda of its seventeenth session: "Advisory services in the field of human rights".
2. The Committee agreed to discuss this item in connexion with its consideration of agenda item 12, concerning chapters VIII and IX of the report of the Economic and Social Council for the period 5 August 1961 - 3 August 1962.^{1/} The discussion took place from the 1149th to the 1164th meetings inclusive of the Committee; a more detailed account of the discussion will be found in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/SR.1149-1164).
3. The Committee had before it:
 - (a) Economic and Social Council resolution 889 (XXXIV) by which the Council expressed the hope that the General Assembly, at its seventeenth session, would give favourable consideration to the question of expanding the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and would consider in particular the question of awarding an additional number of fellowships;
 - (b) Chapter IX, section X, of the report of the Economic and Social Council;
 - (c) A report by the Secretary-General on developments under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights (A/5226);

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/5203).

- (d) A draft resolution (A/C.3/L.997 and Add.2) submitted by Greece, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Madagascar, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Thailand, Togo and the United States of America;
- (e) A statement (A/C.3/L.997.Add.1) submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the financial implications of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

4. The preambular paragraphs of the joint draft resolution noted the continued success of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, including the fruitful exchanges of experience and information at the seminars, and the promising results shown by the human rights fellowships. The preambular paragraphs further noted the opinion which the Economic and Social Council had expressed in its resolution 889 (XXXIV) concerning the value of the programme and its future contribution to the United Nations Development Decade, and also referred to the Council's hope that the programme would be further expanded.

5. The operative paragraphs of the joint draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly ...

"1. Decides that the programme of advisory services should be further expanded with a view to increasing resources for fellowships to permit the award of at least double the number of fellowships available in 1962;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to give appropriate publicity to the increased opportunities available to Governments through the programme of advisory services, in the form of seminars, fellowships and expert services."

6. The Secretary-General's statement of financial implications (A/C.3/L.997/Add.1) recalled that at its sixteenth session the General Assembly had increased the appropriation for the programme from \$100,000 to \$140,000 in order to provide for a number of human rights fellowships each year. That additional sum of \$40,000 had permitted the award of 16 fellowships in 1962, these awards being separate from those made possible by savings effected during the year on seminars. The Secretary-General noted that the proposal in the draft resolution to double the number of fellowships would require an increase in the appropriation for the programme of about the same amount (\$40,000) as the General Assembly had

approved for fellowships in 1962. After drawing the attention of the Committee to the question whether the urgency of the proposal warranted submission of a revised appropriations request for 1963, the Secretary-General stated that doubling the number of fellowships would inevitably increase the workload of the Secretariat, and that he would consequently propose an increase in the staff devoted to the advisory services programme. He would propose that that addition be authorized as temporary assistance in 1963 in the amount of \$16,000, which would provide for one professional officer (P.3) and one secretary (G.3).

7. During the discussion, the representative of the Secretary-General supplied information additional to that given in the report (A/5226) concerning human rights fellowships, including the names of the countries from which had come the 41 nominations received to date, the countries where awards had been made, the countries in which the successful nominees had taken up their fellowships, and their fields of study.

8. There was general agreement among members of the Committee who participated in the debate that the human rights seminars had been most successful. They had been well organized and the level of participation and the quality of the discussions had both been high. The regional basis on which seminars had been organized had proved justified, some delegations observed, although it was also pointed out that, once a number of regional seminars in different parts of the world had discussed any given topic, the possibility might be studied of synthesizing those discussions and assessing the over-all situation at international seminars. Reference was made, however, to the financial and other problems involved in organizing international seminars.

9. There was some discussion as to whether the proposed expansion of the programme of advisory services should be restricted to the awarding of additional fellowships, or whether it should be applied to the programme as a whole. It was felt by some delegations that it was too early to assess the results of the expansion which had been authorized at the previous session of the Assembly. Others questioned the value of such fellowships, and considered that it would be more profitable to hold additional seminars, since these had already conclusively demonstrated their value. However, the majority of delegations felt that in view of the promising beginning made with the fellowship programme, the number of fellowships should be further increased.

10. Delegations noted that as requested by the Commission on Human Rights at its eighteenth session, the Secretary-General would submit to the Commission's nineteenth session a further full report on possible means of increasing the effectiveness of the programme of advisory services. The hope was expressed that due attention would be paid in that report to new ways of providing assistance, such as by establishing study or training courses.
11. The Committee voted on the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.997 and Add.2) at its 1163rd meeting.
12. The representative of Iraq requested a separate vote on the words "Decides that the programme of advisory services should be further expanded" in operative paragraph 1. The Committee decided to retain those words by 79 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.
13. The remainder of operative paragraph 1, reading "with a view to increasing resources for fellowships to permit the award of at least double the number of fellowships available in 1962", was adopted by 41 votes to 15, with 25 abstentions.
14. Operative paragraph 1 as a whole, was adopted by 50 votes to 14, with 22 abstentions.
15. The joint draft resolution as a whole, was adopted by 60 votes to none, with 26 abstentions.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

16. The Third Committee accordingly recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Advisory services in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Noting the continued success of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights established by the General Assembly in its resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955, including the human rights seminars which have provided numerous opportunities for a fruitful exchange of experiences and information concerning problems of human rights, and the promising results shown by the fellowships aspect of the programme, which was initiated during 1962,

Noting, furthermore, the opinion expressed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 889 (XXXIV) of 24 July 1962 that this programme is an important means towards achieving progress in the field of human rights, and would make a significant contribution to the United Nations Development Decade,

Taking into account the hope expressed by the Economic and Social Council in the same resolution that the programme of advisory services will be further expanded,

1. Decides that the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights should be further expanded with a view to increasing resources for fellowships to permit the award of at least double the number of fellowships available in 1962;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to give appropriate publicity to the increased opportunities available to Governments through the programme of advisory services, in the form of seminars, fellowships and expert services.
