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TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING  
TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

Draft Code of Medical Ethics

Report of the Secretary-General

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pressure, others will not. And while any human weakness can be forgiven, the fact remains that duress cannot excuse a physician's breach of the obligations inherent in his profession.

18. In the form proposed, the second sentence of principle VI is dangerous because it will constitute a kind of justification for the actions of torturers, or will certainly be invoked as such by the latter.

19. It is for Governments to ensure that physicians and other health personnel are never compelled to act contrary to the principles of medical ethics.

20. The principle that there shall be no derogation (without anything further being said) therefore seems preferable.

Notes

1/ Resolution 3452 (XXX).

2/ See A/34/273, annex.

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