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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

## CONTENTS

	Page
MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY MEMBER STATES	
India	. 2
United Arab Republic	

68-29401

#### ATOMT

√Criginal: English7
6 December 1968

- 1. The various states Governments of India have taken suitable action to celebrate, in a befitting manner, the International Year for Human Rights. The United Nations symbol and literature on human rights have been widely distributed throughout the country. Background material has been supplied to the various stations of All India Radio for broadcasting special features and talks on human rights. Financial assistance has been given to certain organizations for the holding of seminars.
- The Government of West Benegal proposes to hold two public meetings on human 2. The United Nations Day on 24 October 1968 was specially devoted to human rights by holding a public meeting and another on 10 December 1968, which is Human Rights Day. Educational institutions are celebrating through displays of the United Nations symbol, debates, symposia, dramas based on the theme of human rights and through various other social activities. Films of the United Nations are being shown in Calcutta and other cities. State Ministers in the Government of Madras are utilizing social occasions to propagate the principles and ideals of the United Nations with particular reference to human rights. The Government of Goa, Daman and Diu arranged for a radio programme of six features entitled "The Great Involvement", prepared by United Nations Radio and broadcast from the Goa Radio Station on the programme "Our Year" beginning on 23 June 1968. A feature on the "Fight for Human Rights in South Africa" was broadcast during October 1968. Hospitals are organizing commemorative ceremonies. Educational institutions have programmed their Human Rights Day celebrations to last throughout the year.
- 3. The Union Ministry of Education has had an encouraging response from most of the universities, non-governmental organizations, etc. which had been requested to celebrate the International Year for Human Rights in a suitable manner. Several thousand copies of the United Nations symbol have been distributed both in English and Hindi. There has been a tremendous demand and more copies are being printed for distribution. The special symbol had also been reproduced on the cover pages of the two periodicals of the Indian National Commission, the "Monthly Newsletter" and "The World in the Classroom". The summer issue of "The World in the Classroom" has been devoted entirely to the theme of human rights and the celebrations of the

International Year for Human Rights. The library of the Indian National Commission has prepared a bibliography of literature on human rights which is now in the last stages of final revision. It is proposed to issue it as a supplement to one of the issues of the "Monthly Newsletter" and "The World in the Classroom". The Commission has purchased a number of copies of the January 1968 issue of the UNESCO Courier devoted to the theme of human rights for free distribution among educational institutions and organizations.

# 4. International conventions bearing on human rights:

- (a) India has ratified the following conventions:
  - (i) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;
  - (ii) Convention on the Political Rights of Women;
  - (iii) Slavery Convention;
    - (iv) Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery:
    - (v) International Labour Organisation Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation;
  - (vi) International Labour Organisation Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value.
- (b) The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was signed in March 1967 and has also been ratified. The instrument of its ratification was deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 3 December 1968.
- (c) The question of ratification of the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women is under the active consideration of the Government of India. The question of signing the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other instruments is also under the active consideration of the Government.
- 5. <u>United Nations Day, 1968</u>. Elaborate arrangements were made to celebrate United Nations Day on 24 October. The President of India addressed the nation on the eve of United Nations Day. Since this is the International Year for Human Rights, special significance was attached to this celebration throughout the country. Celebrations were held not only in the State capitals but also at the district and sub-divisional headquarters.

A/7195/Add.9 English Page 4

- 6. <u>International Seminar on Human Rights</u>. The Indian Federation of Women Lawyers, in association with the All India Women's Conference and other women's associations, will hold an International Seminar on Human Rights in Bombay on 10 December 1968. It will be inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of India, Mr. Morarji Desai.
- 7. IFUNA National Committee. The Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) National Committee on Human Rights Year, 1968, has been entrusted with the work of co-ordination of all activities of non-governmental organizations in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights. The IFUNA National Committee was inaugurated by U Thant, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in February 1968. Some of its member organizations are arranging suitable programmes. The Indian Youth Congress proposes to hold a seminar on "Mechanics and Dynamics of Youth Machinery". The Young Women's Christian Association of India has circulated to its members a questionnaire based on rights of youth and responsibilities. The Indian Council for Child Welfare held a children's rally on 14 November 1968, cinema shows for children and choir singing on a human rights theme (2 October 1968). The Indian Social Institute proposes to hold a seminar on "Need-based wage rate with reference to articles 23 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

#### UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

/Original: English/ 25 November 1968

The following is the United Arab Republic celebration programme on the occasion of the International Year for Human Rights:

### A. Ministry of Education:

- To keep professors informed on the latest achievements in the field, both nationally and internationally.
- To organize lectures and symposiums for enlightening people on human rights.
- To issue special series of the magazines of the Ministry on that occasion.
- To enlighten the students on the principles of human rights.
- To use the school theatre as a method of enlightenment.
- To prepare books illustrating the extent of discrimination exercised by the Israeli authorities in the field of education.

# B. Ministry of Higher Education:

- To set up a class to teach the principles of human rights, to be included in the syllabus of Arab Society taught in universities and higher institutes.
- To hold symposiums and to organize general lectures in universities and institutes.
- To organize cultural competitions in poetry, prose and theatre, and to organize exhibitions.
- To organize a general party in universities on 10 December.
- Cultural centres abroad should celebrate this occasion so as to enlighten world public opinion on the non-human methods which Israel uses against human rights.
- Arab Missions abroad should celebrate this occasion and should deliver lectures.

# C. Ministry of Culture:

- To organize lectures, symposiums and competitions.
- To prepare a film on Palestinian refugees.

# D. Ministry of Social Affairs:

- The Ministry will help the charity societies in celebrating that occasion.
- To hold symposiums for officials in the Ministry with a view to enlightening them on the principles of human rights.
- To issue postcards.
- To reconsider some of the legislation of the civil law.

# E. Ministry of Internal Affairs:

- To publish a booklet defining the principles of human rights to the police staff.
- To set up a class on human rights.

### F. Ministry of National Guidance:

- To print a booklet in the Arabic, English, French and Spanish languages to be inserted with some pictures on human rights and relating them with the problem of the Palestinian refugees.
- Programmes to be prepared by television and broadcast.

## G. Ministry of Wakfs and Azhar:

- To prepare programmes for religious enlightenment of the people.
- Mosques and churches shall celebrate that occasion.