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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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BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Original: Russian
17 October 1968

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic supported the designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights and is participating in measures undertaken in the field of human rights in connexion with the International Year.

In the Byelorussian SSR, which will shortly be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic, the principle of the equality of all citizens irrespective of their nationality or race was proclaimed from the date of the State's foundation, on 1 January 1919. This principle abolished once and for all national and racial oppression and all manifestations of discrimination.

The principle of the equality of all citizens was established in the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR and also in other legislation; it has been consistently applied in all spheres of economic, cultural, State and social and political life.

The practical realization of the broadest human rights in the Byelorussian SSR results from the very nature of socialist society, from its fundamental economic and social bases.

During the past fifty years, the Byelorussian SSR has made considerable progress in the realization of human rights.

Before the victory of the great October socialist revolution of 1917, three quarters of the adult population of Byelorussia was illiterate. After the victory of socialism, illiteracy was completely abolished. At the present time, about one third of the population is engaged in various forms of education. Whereas fifty years ago there was not a single higher educational establishment in Byelorussia, at the present time there are twenty-eight higher and 126 secondary specialized educational establishments, in which 263,000 students study free of charge, and the number of specialists with higher and secondary specialized education employed in the economy has reached about 450,000.

Whereas fifty years ago, for every 10,000 of the population there were fewer than two doctors, three intermediate-level medical workers and nine hospital beds, these figures have now risen to twenty-three, seventy-one and ninety-seven,

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respectively. The rise in the material and cultural standard and the improvement of medical services have led to a considerable reduction in the sickness rate and the death rate; the average life expectancy has doubled and is now seventy-three.

Fifty years ago, the information media in Byelorussia were in a rudimentary state as a result of the policy of national oppression pursued by Russian tsarism. Now each year an average of about 2,000 book titles are published in a total of up to 25 million copies. In addition, more than 20 million copies of books are brought into Byelorussia each year from the other republics of the Soviet Union and from other countries. One hundred and fifty-four newspapers and fifty-one periodicals are published regularly. Radio, television and the cinema have also developed extensively.

The working people of Byelorussia take an active part in the administration of the State and in the direction of economic and cultural development.

The Soviets of Working People's Deputies, an all-embracing organization of the people, play a great role in this work. All deputies to the Supreme Soviet and to the local Soviets are representatives of the working people, the collective farm workers and the working intelligentsia. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies pay increasing attention to the work of industry, the situation in agriculture and trade, the construction of housing and of public facilities, the municipal economy and questions of education and health.

Great importance is attached to the improvement of the work of the State machinery and to the supervision of its activities by the broad masses of the people. An important means of achieving this is by popular supervision. The organs of popular supervision serve as an effective means of involving the working people in the administration of the affairs of the State, ensuring supervision over the strict observance of legality and of the rights of citizens and implementing their proposals.

Great attention is paid to strengthening socialist law and order and to improving legal standards regulating economic, social and cultural work. Justice is administered in strict accordance with the law. It is built on genuinely democratic foundations - people's judges are elected and are accountable, they may be recalled before the end of their term of office, legal proceedings are public, public prosecutors and defence counsel participate in trials, and there is the strictest observance of legality and all procedural rules by the court and by the organs of investigation and inquiry.

At the present stage of development of the Byelorussian SSR - the stage of the further development of communism - the role of public organizations and especially of trade unions is expanding. Mass organizations of the working people - trade unions, co-operative associations, and so on - are playing an increasing part in the administration of the State and in the direction of the economy and of culture and science.

Preparations for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Byelorussia are taking place amidst the general expansion and improvement of socialist democracy, and the even fuller protection of the rights and freedoms of all citizens by the State.

The Byelorussian SSR also attaches great importance to guaranteeing human rights at the international level, inter alia, through the United Nations.

The United Nations has recently adopted a number of important international instruments directed towards the protection of human rights and the elimination of colonialism and racism.

The present situation in the world, however, does not justify any expression of satisfaction with regard to universal respect for human rights. The peoples of the world are particularly outraged by the policy of imperialist aggression, which is bringing death and suffering to millions of persons. In some countries people are still suffering under the yoke of colonial slavery or are victims of racial discrimination and its most hateful manifestation, apartheid, although, as is well known, the United Nations has declared that the continuation of colonial domination, the practice of apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination are crimes against humanity. The resurgence of neo-nazism presents an increasing threat.

In the circumstances, and in particular in connexion with the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights, the main efforts of the United Nations and of all States must be directed towards the practical implementation of measures for the protection of the human rights established in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Declaration and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenants on Human Rights. The measures taken during the

International Year both at the international and at the national level must be designed to eliminate colonialism, racism and other violations of human rights.

In the Byelorussian SSR the International Year for Human Rights is being widely celebrated.

On 19 March 1968, the Byelorussian SSR signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Byelorussian SSR took an active part in the International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran from 22 April to 13 May 1968; the decisions of that Conference will play a definite part in the struggle against the imperialist policy of aggression and the enslavement of other peoples against colonialism, racism and neo-nazism.

In Byelorussia, 21 March 1968 was proclaimed International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. At public meetings held in Minsk and a number of other towns, the Byelorussian people voiced their demand for an intensification of the struggle against the imperialist policy of aggression, colonialism, racism, apartheid and neo-nazism.

A week of solidarity with the heroic people of Viet-Nam, struggling against the aggressive war of the United States, imperialism, was celebrated from 24 to 31 July 1968.

International Year for Human Rights is being publicized by the press, radio and television. The "Znanie" Society has prepared a special course of lectures on the question. In the lectures, which are given regularly, the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Conventions on Human Rights and other United Nations documents are explained.

The Byelorussian SSR considers that the United Nations has not exhausted all possibilities for ensuring the practical application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments designed to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. That Declaration and other documents, such as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Declaration and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, have laid a good foundation for further activities aimed at ensuring full respect for human rights.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic will in future continue steadfastly to oppose the imperialist policy of aggression, to oppose colonialism, racism and neo-nazism and to defend human rights and the freedom and independence of peoples.

CUBA

/Original: Spanish/
24 October 1968

The activities undertaken in Cuba in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights have been co-ordinated by the Cuban Association for the United Nations. The Board of Directors of the Association, bearing in mind resolutions 2081 (XX) and 2217 A (XXI) adopted by the General Assembly at its 1404th and 1498th plenary meetings respectively, decided to organize a Human Rights Seminar to be held between 18 and 25 March of the year 1968, which had been designated International Year for Human Rights in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948.

The task of organizing the Seminar was entrusted to Dr. Miguel A. D'Stefano, President of the Association. In order to ensure that the Seminar would be well attended and would arouse interest among those invited to participate, five topics were chosen on the basis of (1) the importance attached to them in the above-mentioned United Nations document; (2) their direct relevance to the development of the Cuban Revolution; (3) the progress by Cuba with respect to those matters since 1959. Finally, the sixth topic, chosen in accordance with the express suggestions of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was racial discrimination and apartheid.

These topics were considered by working groups under the direction of rapporteurs who then referred them to the Seminar. The reports of the working groups were read and subsequently discussed by the participants in the Seminar, and were adopted, with the necessary modifications and/or amendments.

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Announcements were made in the Press concerning the progress and the dates of presentation of the various reports. Also the associations which are members of the World Federation of United Nations Association were informed of all the arrangements for the celebration.

The work, as thus divided by topic, was entrusted to the following persons and their working groups:

Racial discrimination and apartheid: Rapporteur, Dr. Miguel A. D'Stefano

Labour and social security: Rapporteur, Dr. Andrea Pérez

Standard of living: Rapporteur, Dr. Roberto Pereda

Education: Rapporteur, Dr. Ernesto García Alzola

Ownership system: Rapporteur, Mr. Isidro Contreras (Engineer)

Marriage and family: Rapporteur, Dr. Luis Solá

The Board of Directors of the Cuban Association for the United Nations decided that the reports which had been approved should be translated and published in book or pamphlet form and distributed nationally and internationally.

Cuba also took part this year in the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran from 22 April to 13 May 1968, at which it was represented by Mr. Carlos Alfaras, the Cuban Ambassador to Syria.

NORWAY

Original: English
15 October 1968

The Government of Norway has transmitted a semi-annual report dated July 1968 prepared by the United Nations Association of Norway, descriptive of the activities and plans for the observance of the International Year for Human Rights in Norway.

At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and under the patronage of King Olav, the United Nations Association of Norway started the preparations for the International Year for Human Rights early in 1967. In December, a General Committee was appointed to co-ordinate and sponsor the work in 1968. The Committee consists of representatives from three ministries and approximately fifty non-governmental institutions and organizations.

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The main office of the United Nations Association of Norway and its regional sections serve as secretariat. A Working Committee consisting of seven persons was appointed (one from the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, one from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, one from the World Association of World Federalists, one from the Norwegian Alliance of Women and three from the United Nations Association of Norway).

The General Committee has decided to emphasize the information campaign during the period 24 October - 10 December 1968. Other activities were to be extended over the remainder of the year. It was also decided to urge that Norway sign the Human Rights Covenants in 1968 and that Norway be well represented at the United Nations Conference on Human Rights in Teheran. Norway signed the Covenants in March, and Norway was represented at the Teheran Conference by a delegation of three persons. The Committee also authorized the Working Committee to work for Norway's ratification of the international conventions on human rights in 1968.

The work of the secretariat

The schools: The two-day course in the teachers colleges and junior colleges will emphasize human rights during 1968 with the aim of reaching some 10,000 students. A more extensive one-week course was scheduled to take place in October for seventy teachers and professors.

At the suggestion of the United Nations Association, the Ministry of Education and Ecclesiastical Affairs submitted an appeal to the schools to pay particular attention to human rights during the fall of 1968. The appeal was sent in the beginning of May, and as of 1 July an order for approximately 1,500 class sets, each containing material for thirty students, had been received. Approximately 1,000 copies of a book for teachers were ordered, giving detailed advice for instruction on the United Nations and international co-operation.

In co-operation with the National Organization for Norwegian Student Teachers and the Norwegian Organization of the Teaching Profession, the United Nations Association sent an announcement to all teachers colleges of a competition for students at those colleges to dramatize or prepare instructions for teaching of human rights. A booklet of voluntary reading in the vocational schools has also been prepared.

Non-governmental organizations have been urged to make a great effort for the International Year for Human Rights and have been offered various information material. At the Norwegian Youth Conference in May the United Nations Association provided information on the International Year for Human Rights for the representatives of all the youth organizations. During the week 28 July - 3 August, a course for youth leaders was scheduled to take place on a nationwide basis under the slogan "Human right and human duty".

Several of the regional departments of the United Nations Association are arranging weekend courses on human rights. A large meeting was held at Oslo in the spring where the efforts in the field of human rights of some of the most important special agencies were discussed. Special social gatherings have been arranged in connexion with the United Nations Day and the Human Rights Day. Assistance has been offered with the arrangement of meetings and courses in the various organizations all over the country.

The United Nations Association has printed a publication The Position and Role of Women in the Past, Present and Future for the Norwegian Alliance of Women.

A booklet containing a summary of fourteen suitable curricula on the United Nations and international co-operation has been printed to promote the study of questions of human rights. A total of 25,000 copies of this booklet have been distributed to some forty-five organizations. To stimulate interest, a competition has been arranged. The prize will be a trip to Paris for all the participants of the best study group. The competition has been mentioned in approximately 100 newspapers and journals.

Co-operation with the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation

A gala performance in the National Theatre in Oslo is scheduled for the United Nations Day 1968 and will be covered by television. Radio and television have prepared several other programmes on human rights scheduled to be broadcast in October, November and December.

Nordic co-operation

The Nordic United Nations Associations have been granted economic support by the Nordic Cultural Fund in connexion with a meeting of Nordic experts on

certain questions of nature conservation (air and water pollution). The purpose is to prepare a declaration of human rights concerning such problems to be submitted to the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

A Nordic one-week course on human rights will take place in Denmark in July.

Other activities

Several exhibitions in libraries have been arranged. A poster picturing the symbol of the International Year for Human Rights will be put up in all post offices and railway stations in the country. A special communication is being sent to the nation's municipalities and to the various sections of the armed forces.

Financing

The United Nations Association has been granted extra funds through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In addition, the regional sections of the United Nations Association have applied locally to the municipalities for a special grant in 1968. The other expenses are covered by the regular budget of the United Nations Association.

Activities of members of the General Committee

Up to July 1968, plans of twenty-nine member organizations of the General Committee were reported. Further reports were expected from other members of the Committee as well as others who are participating in the celebrations of the International Year for Human Rights. The organizations whose activities were reported included Amnesty International, the Anti-Slavery Society, the Norwegian UNICEF Committee, the Norwegian ILO Committee, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Norwegian World Federalists, the European Movement in Norway, the Joint Council for South Africa, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Norwegian Church Relief, the Ministry of Education and Ecclesiastical Affairs, the Norwegian Peace Council, the Associated Country Women of Norway, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Norwegian Federation of Business and Professional Women, the Norwegian Association of Libraries, the Norwegian Federation for Esperanto, the Norwegian Association of International Law, the Norwegian Group of Open Door

International, the Norwegian Women's Council, the Norwegian Alliance of Women, the Norwegian Organization of the Teaching Profession, International Commission of Jurists (Norwegian Section), the Norwegian Association for Social Welfare, the Norwegian Student Union, the Bishop of Oslo and the Association for the Clergymen of the State Church, Save the Children and the State Council for the Youth. Each of these organizations is participating in the field of their interest and many have published and circulated publications specially produced for the International Year for Human Rights.

PHILIPPINES

Original: English
21 October 1968

The following measures and activities have been undertaken in the Philippines to celebrate the International Year for Human Rights.

1. Formal proclamation of 1968 with appropriate ceremonies as International Year for Human Rights. Proper television and news publicity was given to this ceremony.

2. The Philippine National Committee on the twentieth anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights included the following committees: finance committee, a committee on education, a committee each on local governments, women, labour, congress, civic organizations and publicity. General Carlos P. Romulo, President of the University of the Philippines and formerly President of the United Nations General Assembly, was elected Chairman of the National Committee.

(a) The Finance Committee was requested to raise funds for the work of the National Committee.

(b) The Committee on Education was headed by no less than the Secretary of Education, who personally ordered the issuance to all schools in the Philippines (including those in the remotest rural areas) of a department circular urging teachers to guide their students in the proper observance of Human Rights Year by the discussion of all phases of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during the social sciences class periods. Seminars, debates and convocations were likewise recommended. The circular also enclosed mimeographed copies of the Declaration.

(c) The Committee on Local Governments circulated a similar circular, also with mimeographed copies of the Declaration to all cities, towns and villages for their implementation.

(d) The Committee on Congress is headed by Senator Helena Benitez and it is expected that they will operate during United Nations week from 18 to 24 October 1968, and at the Asian Parliamentary Conference which will be held in December 1968 at Manila.

(e) The Committee on Civic Organizations held a meeting of all the leaders of civic organizations with a national set-up and those present all agreed to do their part especially during United Nations week.

(f) The Secretary of Labour offered to make a detailed study of instances in the Philippine labour front where violations of the Declaration exist.

(g) The Civil Liberties Union, a Philippine civic organization, will spearhead a similar study on the violation of the Declaration in the Philippines.

(h) A circular was also issued to all women's clubs in the Philippines on the twentieth anniversary celebration. Former Senator Geronima Pecson issued the circular as head of the women's group of the Committee.

(i) By way of publicity, a television programme was organized over Channel 7. It was a one-hour programme which featured Executive Secretary Rafael Salas, Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs José D. Inglés and Ambassador Rafaelita H. Soriano. All reported on the International Conference on Human Rights at Teheran. This particular programme was in the form of a round-table discussion, with Mr. Leon Ty as moderator.

(j) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was also translated in Tagalog, the Filipino national language, and most of these copies were distributed to schools and to local governments.

(k) During United Nations Week, an essay contest for high school students and an oratorical contest for college students started a few months ago under the auspices of the Department of Education and the Committee on Civil Organizations. Cash prizes will be awarded. The theme of the two contests is "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

(l) A United Nations Week Committee for the 1968 Week celebration will sponsor a United Nations Week exhibit of pictures, posters and pamphlets, again with the theme of human rights.

(m) All the days of United Nations week are allotted to two or three United Nations agencies working in the Philippines. Again in the case of the UNICEF Committee, the rights of the child will be stressed.
