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ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Possibilities of assisting non-governmental conferences
envisaged in the draft programme for the Decade

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The draft programme for a Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination annexed to the report of the Secretary-General on this item states, inter alia, that "the convening of international and regional seminars, conferences and other similar activities in line with the goals and objectives of this programme should be undertaken; the Secretary-General should be informed of all of the activities undertaken in this connexion". 1/
2. One of the draft recommendations made by the Economic and Social Council's Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which the Council confirmed and submitted to the General Assembly by the decision which it adopted at its 1877th meeting on 8 August 1973, was that non-governmental organizations should "consider jointly or separately convening international, regional and national seminars and conferences on the objectives of the Decade". 2/ In this connexion the Council, in the same decision, requested the Secretary-General to examine the possibilities of assisting non-governmental conferences in this field, including the provision of conference facilities, such as interpretation and documentation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.
3. As on previous occasions, the Secretary-General is prepared to provide, subject to existing policies concerning the use of United Nations premises and within financial limitations, assistance as appropriate for conferences of

1/ A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I, para. 13 (b).

2/ Ibid., annex II, para. 5.

non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship. The Secretary-General will accordingly examine sympathetically requests for assistance aimed at promoting the objectives of the Decade. Whenever possible he would report to, and consult with, the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations or with the organ responsible for co-ordination of the activities of the Decade.

4. An evaluation of the administrative and financial implications for the United Nations of assistance to such conferences would depend upon a number of factors, such as the scope of the agenda of the proposed conference, its time, place and duration, and the type of participation envisaged. The administrative and financial implications of each such proposal would have to be assessed separately in each instance.

5. At this stage it should be noted that the 1974-1975 conference servicing capacity at Headquarters and at Geneva is already fully programmed, and that conferences of non-governmental organizations held at either site would accordingly entail additional costs. For example, it may be indicated that the services of a team of eight interpreters for one week in Geneva at current rates cost approximately \$7,300 for the period, and Chinese interpretation for the same period would entail the expenditure of an additional \$1,800.

6. If the additional costs of such assistance cannot be absorbed from available resources, the Secretary-General would have to seek approval from the competent United Nations organs, in accordance with normal budgetary procedures, to provide the resources required.
