



Ninth session

FORCED LABOUR

Note by the Secretary-General

At its eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 740 (VIII) by which it invited the Economic and Social Council to give early consideration to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Forced Labour and requested the Council to report on forced labour to the General Assembly at its ninth session. The Council, having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee at its seventeenth session, adopted, on 27 April 1954, resolution 524 (XVII) and decided to transmit this resolution to the General Assembly for consideration at its ninth session. The text is as follows:

The Economic and Social Council,

Desiring to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Forced Labour^{1/} and General Assembly resolution 740 (VIII),

1. Commends the Ad Hoc Committee for its work;
2. Notes with satisfaction the action already taken by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee, and invites the International Labour Organisation to continue its consideration of this question and to take what further action it deems appropriate towards abolishing forced labour throughout the world;

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 13, document E/2431.

3. Condemns systems of forced labour which are employed as a means of political coercion or punishment for holding or expressing political views, and which are on such a scale as to constitute an important element in the economy of a given country;

4. Appeals to all Governments to re-examine their laws and administrative practices in the light of present conditions and the increasing desire of the peoples of the world to re-affirm faith in fundamental human rights, and in the dignity and worth of the human person;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, and invites the Director-General of the International Labour Office, to prepare jointly a report for consideration at the nineteenth session of the Council setting out:

(a) Whatever replies are received from Governments in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 740 (VIII);

(b) Any new information on systems of forced labour which might be submitted by Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status together with any comments submitted by Governments concerned;

6. Transmits the present resolution to the General Assembly for consideration at its ninth session.