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STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. On 16 December 1966, at its 1496th plenary meeting, the General Assembly, by resolution 2200 A (XXI), adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and expressed the hope that the Covenants and the Optional Protocol would be signed, ratified or acceded to without delay and would come into force at an early date. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to its future sessions reports concerning the state of ratifications of the Covenants and the Optional Protocol, which would be considered as a separate agenda item.
2. A first report on the status of the International Covenants and Protocol was presented by the Secretary-General to the twenty-second session of the General Assembly (A/6820 and Add.1).
3. At its 1638th meeting, on 18 December 1967, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2337 (XXII) by which, after recalling its resolution 2200 (XXI) and noting, inter alia, that there had been no ratifications or accessions to any of the instruments, it invited States which were eligible to become parties to the Covenants and the Optional Protocol to hasten their ratifications or accessions to these instruments and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the status of the Covenants and the Optional Protocol to the International Conference on Human Rights in Teheran and to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

4. Both Covenants and the Optional Protocol were opened for signature in New York on 19 December 1966. Each of the two International Covenants will come into force three months after the thirty-fifth instrument of ratification or accession has been deposited.^{1/} The Covenants are open for signature and ratification or accession by any State Member of the United Nations or State member of the specialized agencies, by any State Party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice and by any other State which has been invited by the General Assembly of the United Nations to become a party to the Covenants. The Optional Protocol is open for signature and ratification or accession by any State which has ratified or acceded to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Subject to the entry into force of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol will come into force three months after the tenth instrument of ratification or accession to it has been deposited.

5. As of 10 October 1968, the two International Covenants have each obtained thirty-four signatures while the Optional Protocol has obtained fourteen signatures. So far there have been no ratifications or accessions to any of the instruments. The States which have signed the International Covenants and the Optional Protocol are listed in the annex.

6. On 28 February 1968, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Governments of all States eligible to become parties to the Covenants and the Optional Protocol in which, after referring to resolution 2337 (XXII), he requested these Governments to provide any indication which they might wish to transmit as regards ratification of or accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

7. As of 10 October 1968, twenty-three Governments have provided information in reply to the note of the Secretary-General. It appears from these communications that in most of the countries concerned the Covenants and Protocol are being examined by the competent authorities with a view to their ratification. Governments

^{1/} Article 27 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and article 49 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

are seldom able, however, to indicate the date by which the constitutional process of ratification will have been completed. This seems due, in most cases, to a need for study of all the relevant national legislation which may require amendment or adjustment in order to comply with the Covenants and Protocol. In the case of certain States, consultations are often in progress as regards the application of the instruments, respectively by the federal authorities and the components of the federation. Certain States, being parties to regional conventions such as the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, are engaged in consultations on the problems arising from the juxtaposition of international obligations flowing from international instruments dealing with essentially the same substance.

ANNEX

A. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>
1. Argentina	19 February 1968
2. Bulgaria	8 October 1968
3. Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	19 March 1968
4. China	5 October 1967
5. Colombia	21 December 1966
6. Costa Rica	19 December 1966
7. Cyprus	9 January 1967
8. Czechoslovakia	7 October 1968
9. Denmark	20 March 1968
10. Ecuador	29 September 1967
11. El Salvador	21 September 1967
12. Federal Republic of Germany	9 October 1968
13. Finland	11 October 1967
14. Guinea	28 February 1967
15. Guyana	22 August 1968
16. Honduras	19 December 1966
17. Iran	4 April 1968
18. Israel	19 December 1966
19. Italy	18 January 1967
20. Jamaica	19 December 1966
21. Liberia	18 April 1967
22. Mongolia	5 June 1968
23. Norway	20 March 1968
24. Philippines	19 December 1966
25. Poland	2 March 1967
26. Romania	27 June 1968
27. Sweden	29 September 1967
28. Tunisia	30 April 1968

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<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>
29. Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	20 March 1968
30. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	18 March 1968
31. United Arab Republic	4 August 1967
32. United Kingdom	16 September 1968
33. Uruguay	21 February 1967
34. Yugoslavia	8 August 1967

B. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>
1. Argentina	19 February 1968
2. Bulgaria	8 October 1968
3. Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	19 March 1968
4. China	5 October 1967
5. Colombia	21 December 1966
6. Costa Rica	19 December 1966
7. Cyprus	19 December 1966
8. Czechoslovakia	7 October 1968
9. Denmark	20 March 1968
10. Ecuador	4 April 1968
11. El Salvador	21 September 1967
12. Federal Republic of Germany	9 October 1968
13. Finland	11 October 1967
14. Guinea	28 February 1967
15. Guyana	22 August 1968
16. Honduras	19 December 1966
17. Iran	4 April 1968
18. Israel	19 December 1966
19. Italy	18 January 1967
20. Jamaica	19 December 1966
21. Liberia	18 April 1967
22. Mongolia	5 June 1968
23. Norway	20 March 1968
24. Philippines	19 December 1966
25. Poland	2 March 1967
26. Romania	27 June 1968
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28. Tunisia	30 April 1968
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<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>
30. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	18 March 1968
31. United Arab Republic	4 August 1967
32. United Kingdom	16 September 1968
33. Uruguay	21 February 1967
34. Yugoslavia	8 August 1967

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C. Optional Protocol to the International Covenant
on Civil and Political Rights

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>
1. China	5 October 1967
2. Colombia	21 December 1966
3. Costa Rica	19 December 1966
4. Cyprus	19 December 1966
5. Denmark	20 March 1968
6. Ecuador	4 April 1968
7. El Salvador	21 September 1967
8. Finland	11 December 1967
9. Honduras	19 December 1966
10. Jamaica	19 December 1966
11. Norway	20 March 1968
12. Philippines	19 December 1966
13. Sweden	29 September 1967
14. Uruguay	21 February 1967