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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights
 and dignity of all migrant workers

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. SUMMARY OF VIEWS AND COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/29 October 1979/

The Byelorussian SSR regards the elaboration and adoption within the framework of the United Nations of a global international convention on the rights of migrant workers as a new, useful step towards giving effect to the purposes of the United Nations Charter. The Byelorussian SSR is ready to co-operate with other States in drafting such a convention.

HONDURAS

/Original: Spanish/

/26 September 1979/

The Government of Honduras submitted a report on the compliance of the domestic legislation of the Republic of Honduras with the provisions of ILO Convention No. 143 (1975).

MEXICO

/Original: Spanish/

/30 July 1979/

1. The Government of Mexico believes that it would be appropriate to elaborate an international instrument referring specifically to the rights of migrant workers, regardless of their migrant status in the host country.

2. The Government of Mexico is of the view that the elements reflected in Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/13 are the elements that could be included in the proposed instrument.

PORTUGAL

/Original: French/

/21 September 1979/

The Government of Portugal takes the view that the elaboration of the convention referred to in General Assembly resolution 33/163 should be encouraged and that the convention should refer to the following rights:

/...

(a) The rights relating to the promotion of equality of opportunity and treatment with workers who are nationals of the host country, especially in respect of:

- (i) Level of remuneration;
 - (ii) Working conditions (length of working day, annual paid holidays, provision for on-the-job safety and hygiene, social security);
 - (iii) Living conditions (housing, social services and educational and health institutions);
 - (iv) Access to vocational guidance and training and choice of employment on the basis of personal aptitudes;
 - (v) Freedom to join a trade union.
- (b) Rights relating to the family, including:
- (i) Application of the principle of free reunification of families;
 - (ii) Legal, economic and social protection of the migrant's family.
- (c) Rights relating to health:
- (i) Protection of sick workers, whether or not their illness is due to a work-related accident;
 - (ii) Prevention of work-related accidents;
- (d) Rights relating to guarantees of job security and legal security:
- (i) Access to the courts on an equal footing with nationals;
 - (ii) Protective measures in respect of legal and administrative sanctions (regulation of expulsion).

SENEGAL

/Original: French/

/24 September 1979/

The Government of Senegal is ready to co-operate with the United Nations and the specialized agencies with a view to assisting migrant workers in the spheres of health, education and social welfare.

/...

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/17 October 1979/

1. The Ukrainian SSR considers it desirable to elaborate a convention on the rights of migrant workers and is ready to participate in drafting such a convention.

2. The elaboration and adoption of such a global international convention would, in the view of the Ukrainian SSR, assist in furthering the purposes of the United Nations Charter, namely, "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion".

II. SUMMARY OF VIEWS AND COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY
UNITED NATIONS BODIES

Branch for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social
Development and Humanitarian Affairs

/Original: English/

/1 July 1979/

1. The Branch for the Advancement of Women is strongly convinced of the need of drawing up a global convention on the rights of migrant workers.
2. The impact of migration on women as migrant workers and also as members of the family of male migrant workers both in the host country and in the country of origin are complex and multi-faceted, and migration affects their rights and status in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural fields. The improvement of their situation and the protection of their human rights and dignity in the context of migration must be dealt with through a multi-disciplinary approach and not exclusively within the framework of the family.
3. It is essential that some of the articles of an international instrument on the subject should address themselves to or include provisions on ways and means by which to alleviate the impact of migration on women both in the host country and in the country of origin. Women thus affected are not only the wives, mothers and daughters of male migrant workers but also female migrant workers who are in need of special protection because of discrimination faced by them on account of sex in addition to being migrants themselves.
