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INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Nikolai N. KOMISSAROV  
(Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with article 45 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, annex), under which the Human Rights Committee is required to submit an annual report on its activities to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council 1/, and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, the Assembly included in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fourth session the item entitled:

"International Covenants on Human Rights:

- (a) Report of the Human Rights Committee;
- (b) 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.

2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

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1/ By decision 1979/87 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 3 August 1979, the Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit directly to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, inter alia, the report of the Human Rights Committee on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/34/40).

3. The Committee considered this item at its 31st, 33rd, 34th and 41st meetings, from 31 October to 9 November. The views expressed by representatives of Member States and of the specialized agencies on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/34/SR.31, 33, 34 and 41).

4. The Committee had before it the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Human Rights Committee; 2/

(b) 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 (A/34/440);

(c) Letter dated 17 September 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/491);

(d) Letter dated 8 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/559);

(e) Letter dated 10 October 1979 from the Permanent Representatives of Colombia, Fiji, Lebanon, Lesotho, Poland and Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/566);

(f) Letter dated 11 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/568);

(g) Letter dated 24 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/614-S/13587);

(h) Letter dated 26 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/621-S/13589);

(i) Letter dated 4 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/34/1);

(j) Letter dated 12 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/34/3);

(k) Letter dated 1 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/34/6).

5. The Director of the Division of Human Rights introduced the item at the 31st meeting, on 31 October (see A/C.3/34/SR.31).

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2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/34/40).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/34/L.29

6. At the 41st meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Denmark introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/34/L.29) sponsored by Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, subsequently joined by Barbados, Peru, Uganda and Venezuela.
7. The administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution are set out in document A/C.3/34/L.33.
8. At the same meeting, the sponsors orally revised operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution.
9. Also at the same meeting, the committee adopted without a vote draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.29, as revised (see para.10).

## III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

9. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 31/86 of 13 December 1976, 32/66 of 8 December 1977 and 33/51 of 14 December 1978,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General on the 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, 3/

Noting with appreciation that, following its appeal, more Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Human Rights Committee on its sixth and seventh sessions 4/ and expresses satisfaction at the serious and constructive manner in which the Committee is continuing to undertake its functions;

2. Expresses its appreciation to States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which have extended their co-operation to the Human Rights Committee when submitting their reports under article 40 of the Covenant and urges States parties which have not yet done so to submit their reports to the Committee as speedily as possible;

3. Urges States parties which have been requested by the Human Rights Committee to provide additional information to comply with this request;

4. Welcomes the information that the Economic and Social Council has now finalized arrangements for the consideration of reports submitted under the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and expresses the hope that the Council will take steps to consider these reports as soon as possible;

5. Again invites all States which have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;

6. Welcomes the entry into force on 28 March 1979 of article 41 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and invites the States parties to the Covenant to consider making the declaration provided for in its article 41;

7. Appreciates that the Human Rights Committee continues to strive for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the Optional Protocol thereto and emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Covenant;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to keep the Human Rights Committee informed of the activities of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and also to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee to these bodies;

9. Notes with due attention the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee regarding the holding of future meetings of the Committee in developing countries and requests the Secretary-General to explore this possibility, taking into account the recommendation of the Committee, and to submit a report in this regard to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

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4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/34/40).

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly as its thirty-fifth session a report on the 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;

11. Requests further the Secretary-General, in preparing the report mentioned in decision 23 (XXV) of the Commission on Human Rights concerning the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, to bear in mind the question of improving the publicity for the work of the Human Rights Committee;

12. Urges the Secretary-General to take all possible steps to ensure that the Division of Human Rights is able to assist effectively the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of their respective functions under the International Covenants on Human Rights, taking into account General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and 31/93 of 14 December 1976.

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