

QUESTIONS RELATING TO YOUTH

During 1970, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights took decisions concerning youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development.

Activities involving youth were carried on by a number of organizations of the United Nations system during 1970. The Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, for example, studied the feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development (see pp. 347-48). Programmes involving youth were also included in the work of the specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions.

DECISIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

At its February-March 1970 session, held in New York, the Commission on Human Rights studied the question of the education of youth all over the world for the development of its personality and the strengthening of its respect for the rights of man and fundamental freedoms.

After considering a report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the subject, and a supplementary report of the Secretary-General, the Commission decided to resume consideration of the question at its 1971 session (see page 565). The Economic and Social Council was informed accordingly of the Commission's decision.

DECISIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Later in the year, the General Assembly examined the subject of youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental

freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development. It did so on the basis of a report by the Secretary-General. The report summarized the action taken by Member States and by the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the education of youth.

The report noted that a seminar on the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights had been held at Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in June 1970.

Included in an annex to the report was information from Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Israel, Jamaica, Madagascar, Syria and the United Arab Republic on the specific action they had taken in their efforts to ensure that young people were educated in a spirit of respect for human rights.

On 11 November 1970, the Assembly, in adopting a resolution on questions relating to youth, expressed its awareness of the fact that slow progress in the realization of the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter and the usurpation of the inalienable rights of peoples gave rise to restlessness among youth. The Assembly expressed concern at the fact that armed conflicts were continuing and acts of aggression were being committed in various parts of the world, bringing death, injury and suffering to various segments of the population, particularly young people.

The Assembly also noted positive attitudes expressed by youth towards the principles embodied in the Charter, their support for peace, justice and international security, and their stand against, among other things, the continuance of colonialism and apartheid, foreign rule or occupation, and wars of aggression. It noted, further, the discontent of youth with the slow progress made in the development of the developing countries, with the economic and techno-

logical gap and the widening disparities in the levels of living between the developed and developing countries, and with unemployment.

The Assembly recognized the important role of the family in the education of youth in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The expressed desire of youth to have the United Nations become a truly universal organization in order to achieve better international relations and to end the arms race and power politics was recognized by the Assembly. The efforts of young people, the Assembly considered, should be directed towards strengthening peace based on justice and friendship among peoples, against the threat of war, against all forms of oppression and exploitation, and towards the development of fruitful economic, scientific and cultural co-operation among all countries.

Stressing the efforts of the World Youth Assembly, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consult Governments and the specialized agencies concerned on the possibility of convening world youth assemblies in the light of the experience gained during the organization of the first World Youth Assembly, especially keeping in mind the need for rules of procedure that ensured fair treatment and the full participation of all youth representatives. The valuable contribution to international understanding made by youth organizations, both national and international, was recognized.

Emphasizing that youth's participation in the social, economic, political, cultural and other domains of human activities was urgent, and that it was necessary that young people should be fully aware of the positive and specific role they should play in the development of their countries, the Assembly called upon Governments, all institutions of learning, the United Nations organs and specialized agencies concerned and all other organizations concerned to act in such a way as to ensure the education of young people in the spirit of the ideas of peace based on justice, co-operation among peoples, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and for the principles of international law.

The Assembly welcomed the generous contribution to voluntary services that youth was already making. It considered it important that young people should resolutely oppose military

and other action designed to suppress the liberation movements of peoples still under colonial, racist or alien domination and under military occupation, and should support those peoples in every way possible in conformity with the principles of the Charter and the decisions of the United Nations organs recognizing the legitimacy of the struggle of the peoples for their freedom and independence, in their efforts to attain independence in accordance with the inalienable right of self-determination.

Governments were urged to respond to the aspirations of youth and, in the case of developed countries, to the appeal of young people to provide financial and other assistance to the developing countries in their efforts to carry out their development policies. It was recommended that youth be fully involved in efforts to accelerate the over-all growth of developing countries, bearing in mind the special social and economic situation of youth in these countries.

Governments were requested to take into account the relevant recommendations of UNESCO and to encourage closer association of young people in the planning and management of education programmes. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned to continue to undertake programmes related to the problems and needs of youth and to co-operate closely, as appropriate, with youth organizations.

These were among the decisions taken by the Assembly in adopting resolution 2633 (XXV), by a vote of 110 to 0, with 3 abstentions. The Assembly acted on the recommendation of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, which had approved a revised text on 14 October 1970, by 98 votes to 0, with 4 abstentions, on the basis of a proposal by Afghanistan, Algeria, Bolivia, the Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guyana, India, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the People's Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Uganda, the United Arab Republic, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia and Zambia. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

During the Third Committee's discussion of the text, many amendments were proposed, some of which were incorporated into the revised text recommended to the Assembly.

When the Third Committee's text came be-

fore a plenary meeting of the Assembly on 11 November 1970, it was further amended on the basis of proposals submitted by the Byelorussian SSR, by Canada and the United States and by Tunisia.

Also on 11 November 1970, the Assembly approved without objection a recommendation by the Third Committee that a document submitted by Saudi Arabia dealing with youth's participation in activities related to war be transmitted through the Economic and Social Council to the Commission on Human Rights. In addition, it approved a recommendation of the Third Committee that the Committee's report on youth, its education in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development be transmitted to the youth organizations that had been invited to the World Youth Assembly and to certain scientific associations drawn from lists available to the United Nations Secretariat.

ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

In 1970, an adviser on youth work to the Hong Kong Government was assigned by the United Nations for an initial one-year period. At the end of 1970, the United Nations adviser on youth work to the Government of Guyana completed his assignment.

Short-term missions were undertaken by the United Nations Inter-regional Adviser on Youth Policies and Programmes in the following countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, Madagascar, Peru, Togo and Upper Volta. Advice was also

given to Afghanistan and Nigeria on national youth policies and programmes.

During 1970, the United Nations provided technical appraisals of youth programmes and projects undertaken by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme.

In December 1970, an inter-agency mission made up of representatives of the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organisation, UNESCO, and UNICEF visited Zambia at the request of the Government to advise on national youth policy and programmes.

With the assistance of the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) conducted regional youth seminars during 1970. The ECAFE seminar, on the role of youth in national development, was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in September-October 1970. The ECA seminar on national youth service programmes was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November-December 1970.

The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination's Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Youth held its sixth session in July 1970. The Meeting focused on inter-agency co-operation in field programmes related to youth, with a view to strengthening co-operation with youth and international youth organizations by establishing effective channels of communication and devising a strategy for rural youth work in the developing countries.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

DECISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters XIV and XXIII (resolution 12(XXVI)).

DECISIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1737-1760.
Plenary Meeting 1901.

A/7921 and Add.1,2. Youth, its education in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development. Report of Secretary-General.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapters I A 14 and II D 3.

A/8003 and Corr.1. Report of Economic and Social Council, 9 August 1969-31 July 1970, Chapter IX K and N, para. 394.

A/C.3/L.1764. Note by Secretary-General (transmitting conclusions of Seminar on Role of Youth in Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, 2-12 June 1970).

A/C.3/L.1766 and Rev. 1,2. Saudi Arabia: draft resolution and revisions.

A/C.3/L.1766/Rev.3. Saudi Arabia: document submitted for examination by Third Committee.

A/C.3/L.1767. Afghanistan, Algeria, Ceylon, Chile, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Guyana, India, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Republic of

- Congo, Uganda, United Arab Republic, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia, Zambia: draft resolution.
- A/G.3/L.1767/Rev.1. Revised draft resolution, sponsored by above 19 powers and by Bolivia, Central African Republic, Mali, Niger and Togo.
- A/C.3/L.1767/Rev.2. Afghanistan, Algeria, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guyana, India, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Republic of Congo, Somalia, Uganda, United Arab Republic, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia, Zambia: revised draft resolution, as amended by Mongolia (A/C.3/L.1782), by 4 powers (A/C.3/L.1790/Rev.1, 6th preambular para, and operative para. 4, as orally revised), by Syria (A/C.3/L.1772, as orally revised), United States (A/C.3/L.1784 and Corr.1, para. 3), by Mauritania and Morocco (A/C.3/L.1789/Rev.1, as orally revised by United Kingdom), by Italy and United Kingdom (A/G.S/L.1779/Rev.1, point 2), by Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia (A/C.3/L.1792/Rev.1, as orally amended by Yugoslavia), by Byelorussian SSR (A/G.S/L.1775, as orally amended by sponsor), by Canada (A/C.3/L.1788/Rev.1), by Iraq (A/C.3/L.1795), by Czechoslovakia (A/C.3/L.1783, para. 4), and as orally amended by Barbados, approved as a whole, as amended, by Third Committee on 14 October 1970, meeting 1758, by 98 votes to 0, with 4 abstentions.
- A/C.3/L.1772. Syria: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/G.3/L.1773. Iraq: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/G.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1774 and Corr.1,2. USSR: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1775. Byelorussian SSR: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1776. Bulgaria: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1777. Hungary: amendments to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1778. Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1779. Italy and United Kingdom: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1779/Rev.1. Italy and United Kingdom: revised amendments to 24-power revised draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767/Rev.1.
- A/C.3/L.1780. Italy: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1781. Turkey: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1782. Mongolia: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1783. Czechoslovakia: amendments to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1784 and Corr.1. United States: amendments to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1785. Ghana and Greece: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1786. France and Greece: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1787. Barbados: amendments to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1788. Canada: amendment to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/G.3/L.1788/Rev.1. Canada: revised amendment to 25-power revised draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767/Rev.2.
- A/C.3/L.1789. Morocco: amendments to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1789/Rev.1. Mauritania and Morocco: revised amendment to 25-power revised draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767/Rev.2.
- A/C.3/L.1790 and Corr.1. Argentina, Costa Rica, Uruguay: amendments to 19-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767.
- A/C.3/L.1790/Rev.1. Argentina, Costa Rica, Panama, Uruguay: revised amendments to 25-power revised draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767/Rev.2.
- A/C.3/L.1791. Saudi Arabia: draft resolution.
- A/C.3/L.1792 and Rev.1. Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia: amendment and revised amendment to 25-power revised draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767/Rev.2.
- A/C.3/L.1793. USSR: amendment to 25-power revised draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1767/Rev.2.
- A/C.3/L.1794. Netherlands: sub-amendment to USSR amendment, A/C.3/L.1793.
- A/C.3/L.1795. Iraq: amendment to Netherlands sub-amendment, A/C.3/L.1794.
- A/C.3/L.1796. Byelorussian SSR: amendment to Netherlands sub-amendment, A/C.3/L.1794.
- A/L.609 and Rev.1. Canada and United Kingdom: amendment and revised amendment to draft resolution recommended by Third Committee in A/8149.
- A/L.610. Tunisia: amendment to draft resolution recommended by Third Committee in A/8149.
- A/L.611. Byelorussian SSR: sub-amendment to 2-power revised amendment, A/L.609/Rev.1.
- A/8149 and Corr.1,3. Report of Third Committee.
- RESOLUTION 2633 (xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8149, and as amended by Tunisia (A/L.610), Byelorussian SSR, (A/L.611) and Canada and United Kingdom (A/L.609/Rev.1), adopted by Assembly on 11 November 1970, meeting 1901, by 110 votes to 0, with 3 abstentions.
- The General Assembly,
- Conscious of the major role, contribution and participation of youth in the promotion of world peace and justice, social and economic progress, human rights and fundamental freedoms, self-determination and the emancipation of all peoples in building a better future,
- Recognizing the positive influence of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the ideas, needs and aspirations of youth and its awareness of the serious problems confronting the world today,
- Expressing concern at the fact that armed conflicts are continuing and acts of aggression are being committed in various parts of the world, bringing death, injury and suffering to various segments of the population, particularly young people,

Aware of the fact that the present slow progress in the realization of the principles and objectives of the Charter and the usurpation of the inalienable rights of peoples give rise to restlessness among youth,

Taking into account that at their gatherings young people have expressed their positive attitudes towards the principles embodied in the Charter, their strong support for peace, justice and international security, their firm stand against the continuance of colonialism and subjugation of peoples to alien domination, foreign rule or occupation, wars of aggression, apartheid and all racist ideologies and policies which constitute a major source of the present unrest and dissatisfaction among young people,

Noting the discontent of youth with the slow progress made in the development of the developing countries, with the ever growing economic and technological gap and the widening disparities in the levels of living between the developed and the developing countries, and with unemployment,

Noting further that young people are aware of the need for many developed countries to make greater efforts to contribute to the development of the developing countries,

Recognizing the important role of the family in the education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing the expressed desire of youth to have the United Nations become a truly universal organization in order to achieve better international relations and to end the arms race and power politics,

Welcoming the fact that the World Youth Assembly, convened by the General Assembly as a part of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, provided a platform for fruitful exchanges among its participants and a forum through which youth could support the activities of the United Nations and its system of organizations,

Taking note of the activities and the message of the World Youth Assembly, held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 17 July 1970,

Taking note further of the report of the Seminar on the Role of Youth in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, held at Belgrade from 2 to 12 June 1970,

1. Reaffirms the provisions of its resolutions 2037 (XX) of 7 December 1965, 2445 (XXIII) and 2447 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2497 (XXIV) of 28 October 1969;

2. Considers that the efforts of young people should be directed towards strengthening peace based on justice and friendship among peoples, against the threat of war, against all forms of oppression and exploitation and towards the development of fruitful economic, scientific and cultural co-operation among all countries;

3. Emphasizes the efforts of the World Youth Assembly;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to consult Governments and the specialized agencies concerned on the possibility of convening, in the future, world youth assemblies in the light of the experience gained during the organization of the first World Youth Assembly,

especially keeping in mind the need for rules of procedure that ensure fair treatment and the full participation of all youth representatives, for a truly universal representation and for the strict observance of freedom of speech, as well as the financial implications and other relevant aspects, and to submit, when appropriate, a report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

5. Recognizes the valuable contribution to international understanding made by youth organizations, both national and international, and calls upon them to intensify their efforts to encourage contacts between youth in the world;

6. Emphasizes the urgency of youth's participation in the social, economic, political, cultural and other domains of human activities;

7. Further emphasizes that it is necessary and important that young people should be fully aware of the positive and specific role they should play in the development of their countries, and of the duties incumbent upon them by virtue of the very exercise of their rights;

8. Welcomes the generous contribution to voluntary services which youth is already making;

9. Calls upon Governments, all institutions of learning, the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies concerned and all other organizations concerned to act in such a way as to ensure the education of young people in the spirit of the ideas of peace based on justice, co-operation among peoples, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles of international law, and also to take effective steps to combat propaganda in favour of unjust wars, as well as to combat racist, Nazi and similar ideologies;

10. Considers it important that young people of all countries of the world should resolutely oppose military and other action designed to suppress the liberation movements of peoples still under colonial, racist or alien domination and under military occupation, and should support those peoples in every way possible in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the decisions of United Nations organs recognizing the legitimacy of the struggle of the peoples for their freedom and independence, in their efforts to attain independence in accordance with the inalienable right of self-determination;

11. Urges Governments to respond to the aspirations of youth and to take further urgent and effective measures, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, to support the struggle for peace and justice, international security, self-determination, the liberation of peoples and territories subjected to racist, colonial and alien domination, the elimination of colonial and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, respect for the territorial integrity and independence of States and the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and to eradicate racism, nazism and similar totalitarian ideologies and practices which are based on terror and racial intolerance, apartheid and all other forms of

12. Recommends that youth be fully involved in the efforts to accelerate the over-all growth of developing countries, bearing in mind the special social and economic situation of youth in these countries;

13. Calls upon the developed countries to respond to the appeal of young people to provide financial and other assistance to the developing countries in their efforts to carry out their developmental policies in order to implement the aims of the Second United Nations Development Decade;

14. Requests Governments and educational institutions, taking into account in particular the relevant studies and recommendations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to encourage, as appropriate, closer association of young people in the planning and management of education programmes so as to enable them to participate in the solution of their own problems, in the over-all development of educational systems and in the planning and operation of governmental programmes designed to serve youth;

15. Requests the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned to continue to undertake, on a regional and on a world-wide basis, programmes and projects related to the problems and needs of youth, especially those of the handicapped, young workers and rural youth, and their participation in

national development, as well as their role in the promotion and protection of human rights, and to co-operate closely, as appropriate, with youth organizations;

16. Decides to resume the consideration of this item in the future, taking into account in particular the advisability of considering the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples.

A/8028. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 25th session, 15 September-17 December 1970. Other decisions, p. 87.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

New Trends in Service by Youth (ST/SOA/100). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.IV.1.

Long-term Policies and Programmes for Youth in National Development (ST/SOA/103). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.70.IV.12.

Report on Children (ST/SOA/104). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.IV.3.

ST/TAO/HR/39. Seminar on Role of Youth in Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Belgrade. Yugoslavia, 2-12 June 1970, organized by United Nations in co-operation with Government of Yugoslavia.