

CHAPTER XIX

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

During 1970, United Nations bodies continued their efforts aimed at furthering the objectives—set forth in the United Nations Charter—of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the Commission on the Status of Women, again dealt with questions relating to: the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities; violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms; apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa; human rights in occupied territories; human rights in armed conflicts; the status of women; advisory services in human rights; and such other matters as the punishment of war criminals, trade union rights, education of youth in the respect for human rights, the creation of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights, and slavery and the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism.

Decisions on these matters taken by United Nations bodies during 1970 are described in the sections that follow.

In its Declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, adopted on 24 October 1970, the General Assembly, among other things, stated that the United Nations had endeavoured in its first 25 years to further the Charter objectives of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

The Assembly declared that the international conventions and declarations concluded under its auspices gave expression to the moral conscience of mankind and represented humanitarian standards for all members of the international community. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on

the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide constituted a landmark in international co-operation and in the recognition and protection of the rights of every individual without any distinction.

Although some progress had been achieved, the Declaration said, serious violations of human rights were still being committed against individuals and groups in several regions of the world.

In the Declaration, States Members of the

United Nations pledged themselves to a continued and determined struggle against all violations of the rights and fundamental freedoms of human beings, by eliminating the basic causes of such violations, by promoting universal respect for the dignity of all people without regard to race, colour, sex, language or religion, and in particular through greater use of the facilities provided by the United Nations in accordance with the Charter. (See also pp. 116-17.)

PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

In 1970, the question of the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities was again considered in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

During the year, preparations for the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination—to be observed in 1971—were discussed in the various United Nations organs concerned.

At the end of 1970, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination¹—which had come into force early in 1969—had been ratified or acceded to by 46 States. The 18-member Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, set up under the terms of the Convention, held its first and second sessions during the year.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was observed on 21 March 1970.

The General Assembly adopted two resolutions at its twenty-fifth session in 1970 on the question of the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. The Commission on Human Rights and the Assembly also took decisions during the year on measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance.

Also in 1970, the Special Study on Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres—the seventh of a series of studies undertaken by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities—was completed by the Special Rapporteur, Hernán Santa Cruz.

These and other matters connected with the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities are discussed in further detail in the sections below.

¹ See Y.U.N., 1965, pp. 440-46, text of resolution 2106 A (XX) and Annex containing text of Convention.

International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

On 11 December 1969, the General Assembly designated the year 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It also approved a programme for the observance of the International Year prepared by the Secretary-General and called on all States to co-operate in its implementation. The Secretary-General was asked to report in

1970 on the preparations for the International Year, based on information received from States, from United Nations organs, and from the specialized agencies concerned.² His report was before the Assembly at its session in 1970.

² See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 486-87, text of resolution 2544 (XXIV)

During 1970, preparations for the International Year and questions relating to its observance were discussed in the various United Nations organs concerned.

Thus, the Commission on Human Rights, at its session in February and March 1970, considered the part that it could play in the observance of the International Year, and on 26 February adopted a resolution concerning international action against racial discrimination.

Among other things, the Commission declared that the policy of apartheid was the most reprehensible manifestation of racial discrimination and urged all Governments, as part of their observance of the International Year in 1971, to proclaim and reaffirm their abhorrence and condemnation of apartheid and racial discrimination, in southern Africa in particular.

All Governments were urged by the Commission to intensify their efforts to establish concrete national programmes aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of racial discrimination. They were also invited to establish programmes in their national educational systems tracing the history of the various forms of racial discrimination and the efforts made by the United Nations, and by peoples in opposition to racial discrimination, to promote the dignity and worth of the human person.

The Commission also asked States which had not yet done so to sign or ratify—if possible by 1971—international treaties or conventions aimed at the elimination of apartheid, nazism and colonialism. States were further asked to use all their resources to bring as much effective pressure as possible to bear, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, on those States which violated the relevant resolutions of the United Nations dealing with the elimination of racism in all its forms.

The specialized agencies concerned were invited to embark on a world-wide educational campaign against the evils of apartheid, colonialism and racial discrimination, especially in southern Africa. The Commission also recalled and renewed an earlier appeal made by the Economic and Social Council to universities, scientific institutes and establishments to contribute as widely as possible in the fields of science and education to the cause of human rights and, in particular, to the fight against racial discrimination.

The Commission decided to undertake in 1971 a comprehensive review of measures and decisions taken to eliminate racial discrimination and determine the need for further measures to achieve rapid and total elimination of racial discrimination. It also decided to review further in 1971 the detailed programme of the International Year.

Later in 1970, at its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted various resolutions relating to the question of racial discrimination. In one of these, among other things it welcomed the observance of 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and urged all Governments, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to take effective and practical measures in connexion with it.

The Assembly asked the Secretary-General to print and disseminate widely during the International Year the Special Study on Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. It also urged the mass media of information, particularly during the International Year, to publicize the evils of apartheid and of all other forms of discrimination.

The Secretary-General was invited by the Assembly to submit a further progress report in 1971, based on information received from Governments, the specialized agencies and other international organizations, on the observance of the International Year.

The Assembly took these decisions in adopting resolution 2646(XXV) on 30 November. (See also pp. 506-7.)

In another resolution on the elimination of racial discrimination, the Assembly among other things expressed its conviction that the International Year would not achieve its objective unless effective measures were taken in all fields to combat attitudes and laws contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the norms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It invited countries not yet parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to ratify or accede to it if possible in 1971, on the occasion of the International Year.

The Assembly also reaffirmed its intention to

take the opportunity of the International Year to promote, throughout the world, social justice based on absolute respect for the dignity of the individual.

These decisions were among others taken by the Assembly when it adopted resolution 2647 (XXV) on 30 November. (See also pp. 507-8.)

In another resolution (2713 (XXV)), on measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance, the Assembly on 15 December called on States during 1971—the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination—to take all effective measures to combat contemporary manifestations of nazism and other forms of racial intolerance. (See also pp. 510-11.)

Among the resolutions adopted by the Assembly at its 1970 session on the apartheid policies of the South African Government was one (2671D (XXV)) in which, among other things, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps—in consultation with the Special Committee on Apartheid—to promote the widest possible campaign against apartheid during the International Year. It also authorized the Special Committee among other things to send representatives to a seminar and conferences on apartheid during the International Year and urged all States and organizations to observe the International Year in solidarity with the legitimate struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa. (See also p. 151.)

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 636-640.

E/CN.4/1040. Report of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its 23rd session, 10-28 August 1970, Chapters IV and VIII (resolution 5 (XXIII)).

E/4804. Programme for observance in 1971 of International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Note by Secretary-General.

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters II and XXIII (resolution 3 A and B (XXVI)).

Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

At the end of 1970, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which had come into force early in 1969, had been ratified or acceded to by 46 States.

The 18-member Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, set up under the terms of the Convention, held its first and second sessions during the year.

Also in 1970, the question of elimination of all forms of racial discrimination was the subject of decisions taken by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was observed on 21 March 1970.

Details of these developments are given in the following pages.

STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination en-

tered into force on 4 January 1969, on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twenty-seventh instrument of ratification or accession, as provided for in the Convention.

By the terms of the Convention, States parties, among other things, condemn "racial discrimination and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and promoting understanding among all races."

As at 31 December 1970, the following 46 States had expressed their intention to be bound by the Convention:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Ghana, Greece, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Swaziland, Syria, Tunisia, the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
ELIMINATION OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Measures of implementation contained in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination provided for the establishment of a Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. During meetings held in 1969, the States parties to the Convention elected the 18 members of the Committee in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 8 of the Convention.³

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 30 January 1970, at which it elected its officers and considered organizational and procedural aspects of its work.

It adopted a communication addressed to States parties to the Convention providing guidelines for the preparation of reports by the States parties on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted and which give effect to the provisions of the Convention. The Committee also adopted a statement of its responsibilities under article 15 of the Convention, by which the Committee was to receive copies of petitions and reports from United Nations bodies dealing with matters relating to the inhabitants of Trust, Non-Self-Governing and other Territories.

The Committee was also to submit to those bodies expressions of opinion and recommendations on matters relating to the principles and objectives of the Convention.

At its second session, held from 31 August to 18 September, the Committee held a preliminary examination of the reports received, and approved its report to the General Assembly. The preliminary examination revealed that few, if any, of the reports provided all the information which the States parties had undertaken to furnish, and that not all the reports had been prepared along the lines suggested by the Committee at its first session.

On 30 November, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the Committee's report and stressed the significance—for the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations in the human rights field—of the coming into

force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the creation of the Committee which was brought into being by that Convention and which should play an effective role in the achievement of its purposes. The Assembly requested all States parties to co-operate fully with the Committee so that it might fulfil its mandate.

The Assembly took these decisions in unanimously adopting resolution 2648 (XXV) on the recommendation of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, where it was approved unanimously on 4 November on a proposal by Finland.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISIONS
ON ELIMINATING ALL FORMS
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

On 30 November 1970, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions having to do with the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

By the first of these, the Assembly said it was convinced as ever before that apartheid constituted a crime against humanity and expressed its awareness that racism and apartheid continued to be instruments of colonialism, imperialism and economic exploitation and a total negation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The Assembly expressed its concern that numerous resolutions had been adopted with but little or no effect on the evils of racism and all other forms of racial discrimination. It was alarmed that South Africa blatantly continued to pursue its policy of racial discrimination and apartheid in flagrant violation of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant United Nations resolutions, and considered that the extensive arms build-up of the military forces in southern Africa posed a real threat to the security and sovereignty of independent African States opposed to racial discrimination and to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Also by this text, the Assembly noted with grave concern that the white racist minority

³ See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 488-89, footnote 11.

regime in Southern Rhodesia continued to operate illegally and that the measures so far taken by the United Kingdom—the administering power—to bring down the rebellion had proved insufficient and ineffective. It was convinced that the Security Council's sanctions against the illegal minority regime of Southern Rhodesia had failed owing mainly to the obstinate non-compliance of South Africa, Portugal and other States, contrary to their Charter obligations.

The Assembly went on to state its awareness that many States, in flagrant disregard of previous Assembly and Security Council resolutions, continued to maintain political, commercial, military, economic, social and other relations with South Africa and the illegal white racist minority regimes in southern Africa.

It welcomed the entry into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and reiterated its firm determination to bring about the complete elimination of racial discrimination and racism, abhorrent to the conscience and sense of justice of mankind.

By the operative parts of the text, the Assembly:

(1) reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of all oppressed peoples everywhere, and in particular those of South Africa, Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and territories under Portuguese colonial domination, to obtain racial equality by all possible means;

(2) called for increased and continued moral, and in particular material, support to all peoples under colonial and alien domination struggling for the realization of their right to self-determination and for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

(3) condemned the unholy alliance between South Africa, Portugal and the illegal regime in Southern Rhodesia, designed to suppress the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against racism, apartheid, economic exploitation and colonial domination;

(4) declared that any State whose official policy or practice was based on racial discrimination, such as apartheid, contravened the purposes and principles of the Charter and should therefore have no place in the United Nations;

(5) condemned the activities of those States

which, by political, economic and military collaboration with the racist regimes of southern Africa, enabled and encouraged those regimes in the enforcement and perpetuation of their policy of apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination;

(6) called upon all those Governments which still maintained diplomatic, consular, commercial, military, social and other relations with South Africa and other racist regimes in southern Africa to terminate such relations immediately in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Security Council;

(7) condemned the United Kingdom for its reluctance to bring down the illegal white minority regime in Southern Rhodesia, and called upon that Government to take all the necessary steps to bring to an end the usurpation of the lawful rights of the people of Southern Rhodesia by the illegal regime currently in Salisbury and to restore to them their political, social and economic rights in accordance with the fundamental principles of international law and of the Charter;

(8) welcomed the observance of 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and urged all Governments, the specialized agencies and all other organizations concerned to make renewed efforts to take effective and practical measures to this end;

(9) asked the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to continue to undertake programmes and projects designed to combat apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination and to publicize the evils of those policies;

(10) asked the Secretary-General to print and disseminate as widely as possible, for use during the International Year, the Special Study on Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

(11) urged States not yet parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to take steps to accede to or ratify it;

(12) urged all progressive forces within southern Africa, especially the youth, to intensify their struggle against the policy of apartheid

and all other forms of racial discrimination;

(13) urged the mass media of information, particularly during the International Year, to publicize, independently and in co-operation with the Secretary-General, the evils of apartheid and all other forms of racial discrimination,, thus contributing to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

(14) decided to consider the item at its 1971 session and asked the Secretary-General to report on the observance of the International Year and on the activities of United Nations organs to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

The General Assembly took these decisions in adopting resolution 2646 (XXV) on 30 November by 71 votes to 10, with 11 abstentions, on the recommendation of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee.

The Third Committee approved it on 4 November by a roll-call vote of 75 to 12, with 22 abstentions, on a proposal sponsored eventually by Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, the People's Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda, the United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zambia, and revised during the debate.

(For text of resolution 2646 (XXV), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

There were ten separate votes taken in the Third Committee on various paragraphs of the text, of which two were by roll call. Thus, the sixth operative paragraph (by which the Assembly would call upon those Governments still maintaining diplomatic and other relations with South Africa and other racist regimes in southern Africa to terminate such relations immediately in accordance with relevant Assembly and Security Council resolutions) was adopted by a roll-call vote of 65 to 22, with 20 abstentions.

The seventh operative paragraph was adopted by a roll-call vote of 62 to 27, with 17 abstentions. By this paragraph the Assembly would condemn the United Kingdom for its reluctance to bring down the illegal white minority regime in Southern Rhodesia and call upon that Government to take all necessary steps to bring to an end the usurpation of the lawful

rights of the people of Southern Rhodesia by the illegal regime in Salisbury and to restore to them their political, social and economic rights in accordance with the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter.

(See also pp. 118-54, 157-86, 733-58 and 760-72.)

Also on 30 November 1970, the General Assembly adopted another resolution on the question of the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

By this text, the Assembly among other things recalled that Member States pledged themselves solemnly under Article 1 of the United Nations Charter to promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.⁴ It expressed its grave concern at the persistence of apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination, which were an intolerable affront to the dignity of the individual.

The Assembly also noted that disregard for fundamental human rights and manifestations of hostility or intolerance towards any race or distinct group of persons might create lasting antagonisms and deep unrest in society, aggravated by the existence of economic and social inequality; it expressed its awareness that discriminatory prejudices must be combated and eliminated by means of education and information, as well as by the adoption of positive legislation or other measures designed to bring about a climate of understanding and co-operation among the various ethnic and cultural groups of society.

The Assembly expressed its conviction that the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination—proclaimed for the year 1971—would not achieve its objective unless effective measures were taken in all fields to combat attitudes and laws contrary to the principles of the Charter and the norms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It welcomed the entry into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and noted with satisfaction the first report of the Committee

⁴ For text of Article 1 of the Charter, see APPENDIX II.

on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

By the operative parts of the text, the Assembly:

(1) solemnly reiterated its condemnation of all forms of racial discrimination wherever they might occur, and particularly of apartheid, as a flagrant contradiction of the spirit and letter of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and deplored the persistence of such practices;

(2) appealed to the Governments of countries where forms of racial discrimination still persisted and to the Governments which officially applied such policies as apartheid to take without delay all the legislative, educational and social measures necessary to end them and to ensure respect for human rights in accordance with the Charter;

(3) vehemently affirmed the need for all men to be given an equal chance and to be enabled to live and work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and tolerance, without discrimination and with full respect for the national and cultural identity of peoples or distinct ethnic groups;

(4) urged Member States to do their utmost to eliminate all racial discrimination in education, employment, housing and other fields of community life, and to encourage the development of multiracial activities with a view to removing obstacles to understanding among the various racial groups;

(5) invited all peoples of the world and all men of goodwill to condemn unrelentingly the evils of racial policies and to disseminate all information calculated to combat such policies;

(6) invited countries not yet parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to take steps to ratify or accede to it if possible in 1971, on the occasion of the International Year for Action to Combat Racial Discrimination;

(7) emphasized the importance of the work being done by the United Nations, in particular the Human Rights Commission and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and by the specialized agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organisation, and the non-governmental organizations associated with their efforts, towards the elimination

of all forms of racial discrimination; and, also,

(8) reaffirmed its intention to take the opportunity of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to promote, throughout the world, social justice based on absolute respect for the dignity of the individual.

The General Assembly took these decisions in adopting resolution 2647 (XXV) on 30 November by a recorded vote of 49 to 33, with 10 abstentions, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, where it was approved on 4 November by a roll-call vote of 49 to 47, with 16 abstentions, on a proposal by Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the United Kingdom and Uruguay, as revised and amended by the sponsors.

(For text of resolution 2647 (XXV), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

(See also pp. 118-54.)

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

On 21 March 1970, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination—proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1966—was commemorated for the fourth time. The Assembly in 1969⁵ had invited all States and organizations to observe the International Day with appropriate ceremonies on 21 March—the tenth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre—in solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa, and to make special contributions on that day in support of the struggle against apartheid.

A solemn meeting to commemorate the International Day was held by the Special Committee on Apartheid. Statements were made by the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Special Committee on Apartheid, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and the Chairman of the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa. A message by the President of the General Assembly was read. Messages marking the International Day were received from several Gov-

⁵ See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 109-10, text of resolution 2506 B (XXIV).

ernments and specialized agencies. A register for contributions for the victims of apartheid was opened and contributions accepted for the

Trust Fund for South Africa and for the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION
Third Committee, meetings 1760-1780.
Fifth Committee, meeting 1384.
Plenary Meeting 1915.

STATUS OF CONVENTION
AND REPORT OF COMMITTEE

- A/8027. Report of Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
A/8062 and Add.1,2. Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination: status of International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Note by Secretary-General.
A/C.3/L.1801. Finland: draft resolution, as orally revised by sponsor, approved unanimously by Third Committee on 4 November 1970, meeting 1778.
A/8163. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution III.

RESOLUTION 2648(xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, adopted unanimously by Assembly on 30 November 1970, meeting 1915.

The General Assembly,

Noting that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination entered into force on 4 January 1969 and that, as at 22 October 1970, forty-four States had deposited their instruments of ratification or accession to the Convention,

Noting also the meetings of the States parties to the Convention in 1969 and the election by them of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the Convention,

Having received the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

1. Stresses the significance, for the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations in the field of human rights, of the coming into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and of the bringing into being of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was created by that Convention and which should play an effective role in the achievement of its purposes;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, submitted under article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, on the first year of its activities;

3. Requests all States parties to the Convention to give full co-operation to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in order that it may fulfil its mandate under the Convention.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISIONS
ON ELIMINATING ALL FORMS
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

- Racial Discrimination. Special Study on Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres (E/CN.4/Sub.2/307/Rev.1). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.XIV.2.
A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 1.
A/8003 and Corr.1. Report of Economic and Social Council, 9 August 1969-31 July 1970, Chapter IX A.
A/8027. Report of Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
A/8057 and Add.1. Measures for effectively combating racial discrimination and policies of apartheid and segregation in southern Africa. Report of Secretary-General.
A/8061 and Add. 1,2. Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination: International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Report of Secretary-General.
A/8117. Question of enlarging scope of United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa. Report of Secretary-General.
A/C.3/L.1765. Note by Secretary-General (transmitting text of Programme for Celebration in 1971 of International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination).
A/C.3/L.1800. Afghanistan, Algeria, Cameroon, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Guyana, India, Kenya, Libya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia, Zambia: draft resolution.
A/C.3/L.1800/Rev.1. Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia: revised draft resolution, co-sponsored orally by Guinea, People's Republic of Congo and Senegal, approved by Third Committee on 4 November 1970, meeting 1778, by roll-call vote of 75 to 12, with 22 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Barbados, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan,

People's Republic of the Congo, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Sweden, Uruguay.

A/C.3/L.1803, A/C.5/1326, A/8167. Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I recommended by Third Committee in A/8163. Note and statement by Secretary-General and report of Fifth Committee.

A/8163. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution I.

RESOLUTION 2646(xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8163, adopted by Assembly on 30 November 1970, meeting 1915, by 71 votes to 10, with 11 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Convinced as ever before that apartheid constitutes a crime against humanity,

Aware that racism and apartheid continue to be instruments of colonialism, imperialism and economic exploitation, and that they are a total negation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Concerned that numerous resolutions have been adopted, but with little or no effect on the evils of racism and all other forms of racial discrimination,

Alarmed that South Africa blatantly continues to pursue its policy of racial discrimination and apartheid in flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant United Nations resolutions,

Considering that the extensive arms build-up of the military forces in southern Africa poses a real threat to the security and sovereignty of independent African States opposed to racial discrimination and to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Noting with grave concern that the white racist minority regime in Southern Rhodesia continues to operate illegally and that the measures so far taken by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power, to bring down the rebellion have proved insufficient and ineffective,

Convinced that the Security Council's mandatory sanctions against the illegal minority regime of Southern Rhodesia have failed owing mainly to the obstinate non-compliance of South Africa, Portugal and other States, contrary to their obligations under the Charter,

Aware that many States, in flagrant disregard of

previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, continue to maintain political, commercial, military, economic, social and other relations with the Government of South Africa and with the illegal white racist minority regimes in southern Africa,

Noting that the year 1970, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, marks a significant milestone in the life of the United Nations and that the year 1971 has been proclaimed the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,

Welcoming the entry into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Taking note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, submitted under article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

Reiterating its firm determination to bring about the complete elimination of racial discrimination and racism, which are abhorrent to the conscience and sense of justice of mankind,

1. Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of all oppressed peoples everywhere, and in particular those of South Africa, Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and Territories under Portuguese colonial domination, to obtain racial equality by all possible means;

2. Calls for increased and continued moral, and in particular material, support to all peoples under colonial and alien domination, struggling for the realization of their right to self-determination and for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

3. Condemns the unholy alliance between South Africa, Portugal and the illegal regime in Southern Rhodesia, designed to suppress the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against racism, apartheid, economic exploitation and colonial domination;

4. Declares that any State whose official policy or practice is based on racial discrimination, such as apartheid, contravenes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and should therefore have no place in the United Nations;

5. Condemns the activities of those States which, by political, economic and military collaboration with the racist regimes of southern Africa, enable and encourage those regimes in the enforcement and perpetuation of their policy of apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination;

6. Calls upon all those Governments which still maintain diplomatic, consular, commercial, military, social and other relations with the Government of South Africa and other racist regimes in southern Africa to terminate such relations immediately in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

7. Condemns the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for its reluctance to bring down the illegal white minority regime in Southern Rhodesia, and calls upon that Government to take all the necessary steps to bring to an end the usurpation of the lawful rights of the people of Southern Rhodesia by the illegal regime at present in Salisbury and to restore to them their

political, social and economic rights in accordance with the fundamental principles of international law and of the Charter;

8. Welcomes the observance of 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and urges all Governments, the specialized agencies and all other organizations concerned to make renewed efforts to take effective and practical measures to this end;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to continue to undertake programmes and projects designed to combat apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination and to publicize the evils of these policies;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to print and disseminate as widely as possible, for use during the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Special Study on Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

11. Urges all those States which are not yet parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to take steps to accede to or ratify it, as the case may be;

12. Urges all progressive forces within southern Africa, especially the youth, to intensify their struggle against the policy of apartheid and all other forms of racial discrimination;

13. Urges the mass media of information, particularly during the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to publicize, independently and in co-operation with the Secretary-General, the evils of apartheid and all other forms of racial discrimination, thus contributing to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

14. Decides to consider this item at its twenty-sixth session and invites the Secretary-General to submit a further progress report, based on information received from Governments, the specialized agencies and other international organizations, on the observance of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and on the activities of United Nations organs to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

A/C.3/L.1799. Brazil, Canada, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Uruguay: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.1799/Rev.1. Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, United Kingdom, Uruguay: revised draft resolution, as orally amended by sponsors, approved by Third Committee on 4 November 1970, meeting 1778, by roll-call vote of 49 to 47, with 16 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala,

Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Khmer Republic,* Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cameroon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Republic of Congo, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Abstaining: Bolivia, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Cyprus, Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia.

* On 7 October 1970, Cambodia changed its name to the Khmer Republic.

A/8163. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution II.

RESOLUTION 2647(xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8163, adopted by Assembly on 30 November 1970, meeting 1915, by recorded vote of 49 to 33, with 10 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Burma, Cameroon, Canada, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Gambia, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Laos, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Republic of Congo, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Abstaining: Colombia, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Lesotho, Peru, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia.

The General Assembly,

Recalling that Member States pledged themselves solemnly under Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human

rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Gravely concerned at the persistence of apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination, which are an intolerable affront to the dignity of the individual,

Noting that disregard for fundamental human rights and manifestations of hostility or intolerance towards any race or distinct group of persons may create lasting antagonisms and deep unrest in society, aggravated by the existence of conditions of economic and social inequality,

Aware that discriminatory prejudices must be combated and eliminated by means of education and information as well as by the adoption of positive legislative or other measures designed to bring about a climate of understanding and co-operation among the various ethnic and cultural groups of society,

Convinced that the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which the General Assembly has proclaimed for the year 1971, will not achieve its objective unless effective measures are taken in all fields to combat attitudes and laws contrary to the principles of the Charter and the norms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Welcoming the entry into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and noting with satisfaction the first report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

1. Solemnly reiterates its condemnation of all forms of racial discrimination wherever they may occur, and particularly of apartheid, as a flagrant contradiction of the spirit and the letter of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and deplores the persistence of such practices;

2. Appeals to the Governments of countries where forms of racial discrimination still persist and to the Governments which officially apply such policies as apartheid to take without delay all the legislative, educational and social measures necessary to end them

and to ensure respect for human rights in accordance with the Charter;

3. Vehemently affirms the need for all men to be given an equal chance and to be enabled to live and work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and tolerance, without discrimination and with full respect for the national and cultural identity of peoples or distinct ethnic groups;

4. Urges Member States to do their utmost to eliminate all racial discrimination in education, employment, housing and other fields of community life, and to encourage the development of multiracial activities with a view to removing obstacles to understanding among the various racial groups;

5. Invites all peoples of the world and all men of goodwill to condemn unrelentingly the evils of racial policies and to disseminate all information calculated to combat such policies;

6. Invites countries which are not yet parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to take any steps necessary to ratify it or accede to it if possible in 1971, on the occasion of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

7. Emphasizes the importance of the work being done by the United Nations, in particular the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and by the specialized agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organisation, and the non-governmental organizations associated with their efforts towards the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

8. Reaffirms its intention to take the opportunity of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to promote throughout the world social justice based on absolute respect for the dignity of the individual.

Measures Against Nazism and Racial Intolerance

The question of measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance was again considered in 1970, by the Commission on Human Rights at its session in February-March and later in the year by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. The decisions taken by these bodies are described below.

ACTION BY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

On 4 March 1970, the Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution in which it noted among other things that the General Assembly, at its three preceding sessions, had condemned nazism, racism, apartheid and similar totalitarian ideologies and practices based on incite-

ment to hatred and racial intolerance or any other form of group hatred as a gross violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It also noted that not all States concerned had taken the measures indicated by the General Assembly for the purpose of the speedy and final eradication of such ideologies and practices, and noted that the Assembly was to consider later in the year the question of measures against nazism and racial intolerance.

The Commission welcomed any contribution which the relevant competent specialized agencies might take—and the measures already undertaken by many of them—to prevent nazism, activities of a nazi character and racial discrimination.

The Commission also noted that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in connexion with its special study on racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, was to consider the question of the danger of the revival of nazism in present-day conditions.

The Commission then noted the tentative nature of the Sub-Commission's findings on this subject and asked it to continue its study, placing special emphasis on measures to be taken to detect and effectively to prevent contemporary activities that might be inspired by nazism or any other totalitarian ideology based on incitement to hatred and racial intolerance, and to submit its recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights at its session to be held in 1971.

The States concerned were urgently called upon by the Commission to implement the General Assembly's decisions without delay and in particular to take legislative and other effective measures for the speedy and final eradication of nazism, including its present-day manifestations, racism and similar ideologies and practices.

The Commission asked the specialized agencies concerned to consider within their terms of reference the question of measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance and to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the decisions and practical action taken by them. The Commission decided to retain the item on its agenda.

CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly took up the question of measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance at its twenty-fifth session later in 1970 and had before it a report by the Secretary-General containing information received from Governments on measures they had adopted or were adopting in implementation of an Assembly resolution of 11 December 1969.⁶

On 15 December 1970, the Assembly adopted a resolution by the preambular part of which, among other things, it expressed its concern that, 25 years after the founding of the United Nations, the activities of groups and organizations which were proponents of the ideologies

of nazism, racism and apartheid were still continuing, and that not all the States concerned had taken the measures specified by the Assembly for the complete prohibition of nazi and racist organizations and groups and for their prosecution in the courts.

By the operative parts of the text, the Assembly:

(1) again resolutely condemned nazism, racism, apartheid and other totalitarian and colonial ideologies and practices based on terror and racial intolerance;

(2) urged the States concerned to implement without delay the Assembly's resolutions on the question and, in particular, to take legislative and other effective measures with a view to the speedy and final eradication of nazism, including its contemporary forms, of racism and of other similar ideologies and practices based on terror and racial intolerance;

(3) called on States during 1971—the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination—to take all effective measures to combat contemporary manifestations of nazism and other forms of racial intolerance; and

(4) decided to retain on its agenda the item concerning measures to be taken against nazism and other totalitarian ideologies and practices based on incitement to hatred and racial intolerance.

The Assembly took these decisions when it adopted resolution 2713 (XXV) by a vote of 108 to 0, with 6 abstentions, on the recommendation of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, which approved it on 10 December by a vote of 76 to 0, with 17 abstentions. The proposal, which was sponsored in the Third Committee by Iraq, Poland and the Ukrainian SSR, was amended during the discussion by France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and orally amended by Bulgaria, by Gabon, by Dahomey and by the sponsors.

The draft resolution approved by the Third Committee contained paragraphs by which the Secretary-General would be requested: (a) to prepare and publish a brochure on the measures

⁶ See Y.U.N., 1969, p. 492, text of resolution 2545 (XXIV).

taken and envisaged for combating the resurgence of any forms of nazism and racial intolerance; and (b) to explore the possibility of holding in 1972 or 1973, as part of the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, an international seminar on questions relating to the combating of nazism and racial intolerance. Proposed amendments by France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to delete these two paragraphs were rejected in the Committee by votes of 40 against to 40 in favour, with 14 abstentions, and by 42 against to 36 in favour, with 18 abstentions, respectively.

The amendments seeking to delete the two paragraphs were re-introduced in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly and were approved, by recorded votes of 55 to 35, with 24 abstentions, and by 51 to 35, with 29 abstentions, respectively, and the paragraphs were thus deleted.

An objection was expressed in the Third Committee—and again in a plenary meeting of the Assembly—to the word "neo-nazi" which had originally appeared in the preambular paragraph by which the Assembly expressed concern that not all States concerned had taken the

measures specified by the Assembly for the complete prohibition of "nazi, neo-nazi and racist organizations and groups and for their prosecution in the courts." In a separate vote on whether or not to retain the word "neo-nazi" in the paragraph, the Assembly decided—by a recorded vote of 47 against to 41 in favour, with 27 abstentions—to delete the word. Costa Rica explained that in its view the term "neo-nazi" did not correspond to any present-day ideology but only to a specific political situation and thus should not be included in the resolution.

(For text of resolution 2713 (XXV) as a whole, as amended, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

During the debate in the Third Committee, an exchange took place between the representatives of the United States and the USSR on the question of the treatment of Jews in the USSR.

A letter dated 25 November 1970 to the President of the General Assembly from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria contained a message from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic in connexion with the item on measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters V and XXIII (resolution 4 (XXVI)).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1737-1740, 1814-1816.

Fifth Committee, meeting 1418.

Plenary Meeting 1930.

Racial Discrimination. Special Study on Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres (E/CN.4/Sub.2/307/Rev.1). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.XIV.2.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 4.

A/8056 and Add.1-3. Measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance. Report of Secretary-General.

A/C.3/623. Letter of 25 November 1970 from Bulgaria (transmitting message from German Democratic Republic).

A/C.3/L.1818. Iraq, Poland, Ukrainian SSR: draft resolution, as amended by 3 powers (A/C.3/L.1837 as orally sub-amended by Bulgaria, Gabon and Dahomey) and as orally amended by sponsors,

approved, as further amended, by Third Committee on 10 December 1970, meeting 1815, by 76 votes to 0, with 17 abstentions.

A/C.3/L.1834, A/C.5/1355, A/8263. Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution recommended by Third Committee in A/8252. Note and statement by Secretary-General and report of Fifth Committee.

A/C.3/L.1837. France, Netherlands, United Kingdom: amendments to 3-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1818.

A/8252 and Corr.1. Report of Third Committee.

RESOLUTION 2713 (XXV), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8252, and as orally amended by France, Netherlands and United Kingdom, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1970, meeting 1930, by 108 votes to 0, with 6 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and abiding by them,

Recalling its resolutions 2331 (XXII) of 18 December 1967, 2438 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2545 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969,

Noting that nazism, racism, apartheid and other

similar ideologies and practices have in the past repeatedly led to barbarous acts that trouble the conscience of mankind, and ultimately to war, and still have the power to threaten universal peace and the security of nations,

Deeply concerned by the fact that, twenty-five years after the foundation of the United Nations, the activities of groups and organizations which are proponents of the ideologies and practices of nazism, racism and apartheid are still continuing,

Expressing its deep concern at the fact that not all the States concerned have taken the measures specified in the aforementioned resolutions for the complete prohibition of Nazi and racist organizations and groups and for their prosecution in the courts,

Welcoming the contribution which the relevant specialized agencies can make to the fight against nazism and racial intolerance and the measures already taken by many of them in this respect,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 4 (XXVI) of 4 March 1970, in which the Commission noted the tentative nature of the findings on this subject in the study on racial discrimination prepared by the Special Rapporteur and requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to continue its study, placing

special emphasis on measures to be taken to detect and effectively to prevent contemporary activities that might be inspired by nazism or any other totalitarian ideology based on incitement to hatred and racial intolerance,

1. Again resolutely condemns nazism, racism, apartheid and other totalitarian and colonial ideologies and practices which are based on terror and racial intolerance;

2. Urges the States concerned to implement without delay the resolutions of the General Assembly and, in particular, to take legislative and other effective measures with a view to the speedy and final eradication of nazism, including its contemporary forms, of racism and of other similar ideologies and practices based on terror and racial intolerance;

3. Calls upon States during 1971, the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to take all effective measures to combat contemporary manifestations of nazism and other forms of racial intolerance;

4. Decides to retain on its agenda the item concerning measures to be taken against nazism and other totalitarian ideologies and practices based on incitement to hatred and racial intolerance.

Other Matters Concerning Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

On 15 December 1970, the General Assembly decided without objection to defer consideration—owing to lack of time—of the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance to its twenty-sixth (1971) session. It took this decision on the recommendation of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee.

STUDIES ON DISCRIMINATION

STUDY OF EQUALITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

In 1969, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities considered the final report on the study of equality in the administration of justice submitted by its Special Rapporteur, Mohammed Ahmed Abu Rannat, and decided to complete at its 1970 session its consideration of the draft principles contained in the study.

At its session in February-March 1970, the Commission on Human Rights recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption

of a resolution asking the Secretary-General to make arrangements for the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Abu Rannat, to attend the meetings of the Commission when it considered his report.

On 27 May 1970, the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of its Social Committee, endorsed the Commission's request when it unanimously adopted resolution 1499 (XLVIII). (For text, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

At its 1970 session, held from 10 to 28 August, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities completed its consideration of the draft principles on equality in the administration of justice submitted by the Special Rapporteur and decided to adopt them, as revised, and to transmit them to the Human Rights Commission for examination with regard to the advisability of preparing a convention or a declaration, or both, on equality in the administration of justice, or of preparing several instruments dealing with various aspects of the problem.

The Sub-Commission also requested the Human Rights Commission to recommend that the Economic and Social Council request the Secre-

tary-General to print the Special Rapporteur's study, together with the general principles adopted by the Sub-Commission, and to circulate them as widely as possible.

SPECIAL STUDY ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL SPHERES

At its 1970 session, held from 10 to 28 August, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities examined the final report on the special study on racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres prepared by its Special Rapporteur, Hernán Santa Cruz. It congratulated him on his final report and expressed appreciation to all those who had collaborated with him in its preparation.

The Special Study on Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres—the seventh of a series of studies undertaken by the Sub-Commission—contained chapters on: the historical background, meaning and causes of racial discrimination; international and national action to eliminate racial discrimination; racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres; measures taken in connexion with the protection of indigenous peoples; the racial policy of the Republic of South Africa; characteristics and

manifestations of the policy of segregation elsewhere in southern Africa; the danger of the revival of nazism and racial intolerance; and conclusions and proposals.

The Sub-Commission transmitted the report to the Commission on Human Rights for its earliest consideration and adopted proposals for action in 1971 by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council on: racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres; the problems of indigenous populations; policies of apartheid and racial discrimination; and the danger of a revival of nazism and racial intolerance.

The Sub-Commission further requested the Human Rights Commission to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that arrangements be made for Mr. Santa Cruz to attend the meetings of the Human Rights Commission when it considered his report.

STUDY OF DISCRIMINATION IN
MATTER OF POLITICAL RIGHTS

The Commission on Human Rights at its 1970 session was unable to consider the study of discrimination in the matter of political rights and the draft principles on freedom and non-discrimination in the matter of political rights, and decided to postpone consideration of the item until its session in 1971.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS
OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION
Third Committee, meeting 1820.
Plenary Meeting 1930.

A/7930. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance. Note by Secretary-General.
A/8255. Report of Third Committee.
A/8028. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 25th session, 15 September-17 December 1970. Other decisions, p. 86.

STUDIES ON DISCRIMINATION

STUDY OF EQUALITY IN THE
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 636-639.
Plenary Meeting 1693.

Study of Equality in the Administration of Justice (E/CN.4/Sub.2/296/Rev.1). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.XIV.3.

E/CN.4/1040. Report of 23rd session of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 10-28 August 1970, Chapters III and VIII (resolution 3(XXIII)).

E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters III and XXIII (resolution 1(XXVI)).

E/4816, Chapter XXIV. Draft resolution I, as submitted by Commission on Human Rights, approved unanimously by Social Committee on 19 May 1970, meeting 639.

E/4816/Add.1. Financial implications of resolutions adopted by Commission on Human Rights at its 26th session.

E/4868 and Corr.1,2. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution I.

RESOLUTION 1499(XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4868, adopted unanimously by Council on 27 May 1970, meeting 1693.

The Economic and Social Council,
Noting resolution I(XXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights,

Requests the Secretary-General to make arrangements for Mr. Abu Rannat, the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities responsible for the study of equality in the administration of justice, to attend the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights when it considers his report.

SPECIAL STUDY ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SPHERES

Racial Discrimination. Special Study on Racial Discrimination in the Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Spheres (E/CN.4/Sub.2/307/Rev.1). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.XIV.2.

E/CN.4/1040. Report of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its 23rd session, 10-28 August 1970, Chapters IV and VIII (resolutions 2(XXIII) and 4(XXIII)).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1760-1780.

Fifth Committee meeting 1384.

Plenary Meeting 1915.

RESOLUTION 2646(XXV), operative para. 10, as recommended by Third Committee (A/8163, draft resolution I), adopted by Assembly on 30 November 1970, meeting 1915, by 71 votes to 10, with 11 abstentions.

[For text of resolution and supporting documentation, see above, under section on ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.]

STUDY OF DISCRIMINATION IN MATTER OF POLITICAL RIGHTS

E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights, on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters XVI and XXIII (Other decisions, p. 88).

CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE WORK OF SUB-COMMISSION

E/CN.4/1040. Report of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its 23rd session, 10-28 August 1970, Chapters VI and VIII (resolution 7(XXIII)).

REPORT OF SUB-COMMISSION

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 3.

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

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters III and XXIII (resolution 2(XXVI)).

E/CN.4/1040. Report of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its 23rd session, 10-28 August 1970. (Annex III: List of documents before Sub-Commission at its 23rd session.)

VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

During 1970, various questions concerning violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms were again considered by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and certain of its subsidiary bodies. Among the questions they considered were: apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa; the question of hu-

man rights in occupied territories; procedures for dealing with communications relating to human rights; and a preliminary draft of model rules of procedure for United Nations bodies dealing with human rights violations. Decisions taken on these and related matters by the various bodies concerned are described in the sections that follow.

Apartheid and Racial Discrimination in Southern Africa

DECISIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

At its session held from 24 February to 24 March 1970, the Commission on Human Rights considered the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts which, in 1969, had conducted an investigation of the following matters, among others: the question of capital punish-

ment in southern Africa; the treatment of political prisoners and captured freedom fighters in southern Africa; the condition of Africans in the so-called native reserves and transit camps in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia; grave manifestations of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa; and grave manifestations of colonialism and racial discrimination

in Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and the African territories under Portuguese administration.

In a resolution adopted on 18 March, the Human Rights Commission among other things recognized the contribution made by the Working Group's report to the continuing efforts of the United Nations to investigate and thus expose the gross and flagrant violation of human rights in southern Africa, and endorsed the Group's observations, conclusions and recommendations.

The Commission asked the Group to study, from the point of view of international penal law, the question of apartheid, which had been declared a crime against humanity. It also asked the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly for adoption a draft resolution containing detailed recommendations based on the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts (see below).

In a letter dated 19 March to the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, Portugal said, among other things, that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts prejudged the situation in the Portuguese Provinces in Africa and that its report was based on extravagant allegations regarding conditions said to be prevailing there. Portugal deplored the fact that the question of human rights had been debased to the level of opportunistic political propaganda in a report which should have been impartial and objective.

DECISIONS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

By a vote of 17 to 0, with 10 abstentions, the Economic and Social Council, on 27 May 1970, adopted a resolution (1501 (XLVIII)) by which it recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft text proposed by the Human Rights Commission. (For text as adopted by the General Assembly, see below.)

The resolution was adopted on the recommendation of the Council's Social Committee, which approved it on 20 May by 16 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

Also on 27 May, by 12 votes to 0, with 14 abstentions, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution (1505 (XLVIII)) on the financial implications of resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Commission at its 1970 session, by which, among other things, it: (1)

decided that the activities arising out of the decisions taken by the Human Rights Commission at its twenty-sixth (1970) session should be undertaken in 1970, bearing in mind the necessity to effect the maximum savings when allocating funds; and (2) authorized the Secretary-General to inform the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the Council considered the relevant programmes and expenditures to be of an urgent nature.

(For text, see p. 577.)

On the same date, the Council took note of a report by the Secretary-General—which the Council, on 6 June 1969,⁷ had asked him to prepare—on co-ordination activities with regard to policies of apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa.

DECISIONS BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Later in 1970, at its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted the text recommended by the Human Rights Commission, and by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1501 (XLVIII), based on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts. It did so on 15 December 1970 in adopting resolution 2714 (XXV) by a roll-call vote of 79 to 1, with 34 abstentions, on the recommendation of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, which approved it on 11 December by 66 votes to 1, with 29 abstentions, as amended by Saudi Arabia.

By the preambular parts of this text, the General Assembly among other things recalled its resolution of 19 December 1968⁸ in which it condemned any and every practice of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees and prisoners in South African prisons and in South African police custody during interrogation and detention. It also recalled its resolution of 20 November 1969⁹ in which it expressed the firm intention of the United Nations, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, to intensify its efforts to find a solution to the grave situation in southern Africa.

⁷ See Y.U.N.. 1969. p. 499. text of resolution 1414 (XLVI).

⁸ See Y.U.N.. 1968, pp. 551-52 for text of resolution 2440 (XXIII).

⁹ See Y.U.N.. 1969, p. 152. text of resolution 2505 (XXIV).

The Assembly also recalled resolutions of the Security Council relating to Namibia, and its own resolution of 11 December 1969¹⁰ relating to the inhuman and degrading treatment and torture of political prisoners, detainees and captured freedom fighters in the territories ruled by Governments and regimes wedded to the policies of apartheid, racial discrimination and colonialism in southern Africa.

The Assembly then declared itself determined to promote immediate and urgent action to restore the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa.

By the operative parts of the text, the Assembly commended the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts for its valuable report. After reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggles of the peoples of southern Africa to oppose the policies of apartheid, racial discrimination and colonialism and to assert their right to self-determination, it condemned any and every practice of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, detainees and captured freedom fighters in Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and the African territories under Portuguese domination, as well as of persons in police custody in those territories.

Any and every practice of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and detainees in prisons and in police custody in South Africa was again condemned by the Assembly, which reaffirmed that the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners—of 30 August 1955—applied to all political prisoners or detainees, in prison or police custody throughout South Africa, Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and the African territories under Portuguese domination. The Assembly condemned the trial in South Africa of the 22 Africans held under the Suppression of Communism Act, and further condemned their subsequent re-arrest under the notorious Terrorism Act of 1967.

The Assembly then reaffirmed that:

(a) the condition of political prisoners in South Africa continued to cause alarm;

(b) the increasing co-operation between South Africa and the illegal racist regime in Southern Rhodesia posed a further and continuing threat to the opponents of the two regimes and to captured freedom fighters;

(c) Sections 10 and 29 of the General Law Amendment Act, 1969—concerning the Bureau

of State Security—not only constituted one of the most sinister pieces of legislation in recent years, but also contributed decisively towards making South Africa a complete police State, and the working of that law was also contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in that it prevented the accused from proving his innocence;

(d) many political prisoners and detainees had died in South African prisons during 1969, in conditions which warranted a full inquiry;

(e) James Lenkoe, a political prisoner in South Africa, did not commit suicide as reported, but died as a result of electric shocks which were administered to various parts of his body;

(f) the practice of compelling prisoners to testify against their erstwhile comrades was reprehensible;

(g) in the Caprivi Strip, Namibian villages had been shelled by the occupying South African security forces and indiscriminate firing had been resorted to in villages suspected of harbouring freedom fighters;

(h) the system of "Bantustans" established in South Africa was being gradually extended to the occupied territory of Namibia;

(i) in the absence of intervention by the United Nations, the occupation of Namibia by South Africa was resulting in ever increasing hardship to the non-white population, as well as a total suppression of human rights there;

(j) the so-called Constitution of Rhodesia of 1969 was an illegal as well as a pernicious document and the "Declaration of Rights" contained in it conferred few, if any, rights on non-whites;

(k) section 84 of the 1969 "Constitution of Rhodesia"—providing that no court could inquire into or pronounce upon the validity of any law on the ground that it was inconsistent with the "Declaration of Rights"—established a clear inconsistency in the illegal "legislation" itself and, further, brought out the authoritarian and racist character of the illegal regime in Southern Rhodesia;

(?) the reserves in Southern Rhodesia consisted of poor and infertile lands into which Africans were herded like cattle;

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 508-9, text of resolution 2547 A (XXIV).

(m) the condition of Africans in the reserves was appalling and nothing was being done to improve their conditions of hygiene, diet, nutrition, sanitation, health and their educational standards;

(n) in the Portuguese territories, the mass killing of suspected opponents of the regime continued unabated; and

(o) the most inhuman form of forced labour prevailed in the African territories under Portuguese domination.

The General Assembly then called upon the South African Government to implement the recommendations contained in earlier reports of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts and to take the following measures: disband immediately the Bureau of State Security; discontinue the practice by which political detainees were compelled to testify against their former colleagues; release immediately and unconditionally the 22 Africans re-arrested on 16 February 1970 under the Terrorism Act; grant full access at all trials of political opponents of the regime to independent outside observers; and permit a full and impartial investigation into the deaths of political prisoners and detainees in its gaols, as well as indemnify fully the families of the deceased.

With regard to Namibia, the Assembly condemned the trial of the eight Namibians under the Terrorism Act, which took place at Windhoek between July and November 1969, and further called upon South Africa to release immediately and unconditionally those tried under that Act and to desist forthwith from the extension of the "Bantustans" system into Namibia. South Africa was called upon once again to terminate its illegal occupation of the territory of Namibia in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

The Assembly then called upon the United Kingdom to intervene more effectively than theretofore in its rebellious colony of Southern Rhodesia, with a view to: implementing the action proposed by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts in its report; liberating the Africans from the reserves in which they were concentrated in conditions of near captivity and bondage; and repealing the entire so-called Constitution of Rhodesia of 1969.

The United Kingdom was asked by the Assembly to report to the Assembly's twenty-

sixth session in 1971 the results of the effective measures it was called upon to take.

With regard to the African territories administered by Portugal, the General Assembly called on Portugal: to observe immediately the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949; to eradicate the practice of xibalo, or forced labour, in its African colonies; and to introduce a system in which the products of the African farmers could be freely bought and sold in normal market conditions.

Next, the General Assembly condemned once again the actions of those Governments continuing to maintain diplomatic, economic, cultural and other relations with South Africa and with the illegal regime in Southern Rhodesia in violation of United Nations resolutions. Those Governments were urgently called upon to consider breaking off such relations and, if they had not already done so, to report to the Assembly at its twenty-sixth (1971) session the reasons therefor.

Finally, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to report to it at its 1971 session on the implementation of the present resolution and also to report to the Human Rights Commission at its 1971 session on the measures taken to publicize the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts.

(For text of resolution 2714(XXV), see **DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.**)

During the Third Committee's consideration of the text, several amendments put forward by Saudi Arabia were approved. One of these would have the General Assembly call upon the United Kingdom "to intervene more effectively than heretofore" in its rebellious colony of Southern Rhodesia, rather than simply "to intervene." Saudi Arabia said it was not advocating the use of force; in fact, any United Kingdom Government which used force to bring down the Ian Smith regime would itself fall overnight. Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia was confident that, since United Kingdom interests were threatened by the continued existence of that regime, the United Kingdom would find other ways of intervening more effectively.

Speaking in explanation of vote in the Third Committee, Australia said it could not support the resolution because it considered much of the subject-matter to be outside the Committee's competence.

Argentina could not support the text because it felt that the rupture of diplomatic relations would not be conducive to the success of the common cause, and that failure to recognize the importance of political dialogue could do grave harm to that cause.

Portugal said it had voted against the resolution because of the grave, unfounded charges it contained, including charges of mass killing and the practice of forced labour. Portugal categorically rejected such allegations. With regard to the sale of agricultural products of African farmers, Portuguese African farmers already benefited from the free-market system, as did those in metropolitan Portugal; all Portuguese citizens, irrespective of race or colour, were equal before the law.

The representative of Swaziland said he had

had to vote against the paragraphs condemning the actions of Governments which maintained diplomatic and other relations with South Africa and calling on them to consider breaking off such relations. Although Swaziland maintained no diplomatic relations with South Africa, its currency was based on that of South Africa and it shared a customs union with that coun-

try. The United Kingdom said it had voted against the same paragraphs because it was opposed to calling on Governments to break off relations with South Africa. The United Kingdom wished to make it clear, however, that the same objection did not apply in the case of relations with the illegal regime in Southern Rhodesia.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 636-641, 644, 645.
Plenary Meeting 1693.

E/CN.4/1040. Report of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its 23rd session, 10-28 August 1970, Chapters V and VIII (resolution 6(XXIII)).

E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters X and XXIII (resolution 8(XXVI) and other decisions, p. 88).

E/4816, Chapter XXIV. Draft resolution III, as submitted by Commission, approved by Social Committee on 20 May 1970, meeting 641, by 16 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

E/4816/Add.1. Financial implications of resolutions adopted by Commission on Human Rights at its 26th session.

E/4868 and Corr.1,2. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution III and para. 25 (recommendation (a)).

RESOLUTION 1501 (XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4868, adopted by Council on 27 May 1970, meeting 1693, by 17 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 8(XXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights on the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts,

Requests the General Assembly to adopt the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2440(XXIII) of 19 December 1968 in which, inter alia, it condemned any and every practice of torture, inhuman and degrading

treatment of detainees and prisoners in South African police custody and prisons during interrogation and detention,

"Recalling its resolutions 2505(XXIV) of 20 November 1969 in which it expressed the firm intention of the United Nations, acting in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, to intensify its efforts to find a solution to the present grave situation in southern Africa,

"Also recalling Security Council resolutions 264 (1969) of 20 March 1969 and 269(1969) of 12 August 1969 on Namibia,

"Further recalling General Assembly resolution 2547 A(XXIV) of 11 December 1969 on, inter alia, the degrading and inhuman treatment and torture of political prisoners, detainees and captured freedom fighters in the Territories ruled by Governments and regimes wedded to the policies of apartheid, racial discrimination and colonialism, in southern Africa,

"Determined to promote immediate and urgent action with a view to restoring the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa,

"1. Commends the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts for the valuable report it has submitted;

"2. Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggles of the peoples of southern Africa to oppose the policies of apartheid, racial discrimination and colonialism and to assert their right to self-determination;

"3. Condemns any and every practice of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, detainees and captured freedom fighters in Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and the African Territories under Portuguese domination, as well as of persons in police custody in these Territories;

"4. Again condemns any and every practice of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and detainees in prisons and in police custody in South Africa;

"5. Reaffirms that the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, of 30 August 1955, apply to all political prisoners or detainees, in prison or in police custody throughout South Africa, Namibia—a Territory under direct United Nations responsibility and presently under illegal South African occupation—the rebel United Kingdom colony of Southern Rhodesia and the African Territories under Portuguese domination;

"6. Condemns the trial of the twenty-two Africans held under the Suppression of Communism Act and further condemns their subsequent re-arrest under the notorious Terrorism Act;

"7. Reaffirms that:

"(a) The condition of political prisoners in South Africa continues to cause alarm;

"(b) The increasing co-operation between the Government of South Africa and the illegal racist regime in Southern Rhodesia poses a further and continuing threat to the opponents of the two regimes and to captured freedom fighters;

"(c) Sections 10 and 29 of the General Law Amendment Act, 1969, concerning the Bureau of State Security not only constitute one of the most sinister pieces of legislation in recent years but also contribute decisively towards making South Africa a complete police State; the working of that law is also contrary to article 11, paragraph 1, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, since it prevents the accused from proving his innocence;

"(d) Many political prisoners and detainees have died in South African prisons during 1969, in conditions which warrant a full inquiry;

"(e) Mr. James Lenkoe, a political prisoner in South Africa, did not commit suicide as reported, but died as a result of electric shocks administered to various parts of his body;

"(f) The practice of compelling prisoners to testify against their erstwhile comrades is reprehensible;

"(g) In the Caprivi Strip, Namibian villages have been shelled by the occupying South African security forces and indiscriminate firing has been resorted to in villages that are suspected of harbouring freedom fighters;

"(h) The system of 'Bantustans' established in South Africa is being gradually extended to the occupied Territory of Namibia;

"(i) In the absence of intervention by the United Nations, occupation of Namibia by South Africa is resulting in ever-increasing hardship to the non-white population as well as a total suppression of human rights there;

"(j) The so-called 'Constitution of Rhodesia' of 1969 is an illegal as well as a pernicious document and the 'Declaration of Rights' embodied in the above 'Constitution' confers few, if any, rights on non-Whites;

"(k) Section 84 of the 1969 'Constitution of Rhodesia' providing that 'no court shall inquire into or pronounce upon the validity of any law on the ground that it is inconsistent with the "Declaration of Rights",' establishes a clear inconsistency in the illegal 'legislation' itself and, further, brings out the authoritarian

and racist character of the illegal regime in Southern Rhodesia;

"(l) The reserves in Southern Rhodesia consist of poor and infertile lands into which Africans are herded like cattle;

"(m) The condition of Africans in the reserves is appalling and nothing is being done to improve their conditions of hygiene, diet, nutrition, sanitation, health and their educational standards;

"(n) In the Portuguese Territories mass killing of suspected opponents of the regime continues unabated;

"(o) The most inhuman form of forced labour prevails in the African Territories under Portuguese domination;

"8. Calls upon the Government of South Africa to implement the recommendations contained in the earlier reports of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts and also:

"(a) Immediately to disband the Bureau of State Security;

"(b) To discontinue the practice by which political detainees are compelled to testify against their former colleagues;

"(c) To release immediately and unconditionally the twenty-two Africans re-arrested under the Terrorism Act, on 16 February 1970;

"(d) To grant full access at all trials of political opponents of the regime to independent outside observers;

"(e) To permit a full and impartial investigation into the deaths of political prisoners and detainees in its gaols as well as to indemnify fully the families of the deceased;

"9. Condemns the trial of the eight Namibians under the Terrorism Act, which took place in Windhoek between July 1969 and November 1969, and further calls upon the Government of South Africa:

"(a) To release immediately and unconditionally those tried under the above-mentioned Terrorism Act;

"(b) To desist forthwith from the extension of the 'Bantustans' system into Namibia;

"10. Once again calls upon the Government of South Africa to terminate its illegal occupation of the Territory of Namibia in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on the subject;

"11. Calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to intervene in its rebellious colony of Southern Rhodesia with a view to:

"(a) Implementing the action proposed by the Group of Experts in paragraphs 82 to 94 of its report;

"(b) Liberating the Africans from the reserves in which they are concentrated in conditions of near captivity and bondage;

"(c) Repealing the entire so-called 'Constitution of Rhodesia' of 1969;

"12. Calls upon the Government of Portugal:

"(a) To observe immediately the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949;

"(b) To eradicate the practice of xibalo or forced labour in its African colonies;

"(c) To introduce a system in which the products

of the African farmers can be freely bought and sold in normal market conditions;

"13. Condemns once again the actions of those Governments which continue to maintain diplomatic, economic, cultural and other relations with the Government of South Africa and with the illegal regime in Southern Rhodesia in violation of United Nations resolutions;

"14. Calls upon those Governments to break off such relations;

"15. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution and also to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-seventh session on the measures taken to publicize the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts."

E/4832/Add.1. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council during its resumed 48th session. 11-28 May 1970. Other decisions, p. 15 (on report of Commission on Human Rights (para. (a)), and on report of Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts established under resolutions 2 (XXIII), 2 (XXIV) and 21 (XXV) of Commission on Human Rights).

CO-ORDINATION OF UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES ON Apartheid AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

E/4817 and Corr.1. Co-ordination of United Nations activities with regard to policies of apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa. Report by Secretary-General.

E/4868 and Corr.1,2. Report of Social Committee, para. 25, recommendation (e).

E/4832/Add.1. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council during its resumed 48th session, 11-28 May 1970. Other decisions (on report of Commission on Human Rights), p. 15, para. (e).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1816-1818.

Plenary Meeting 1930.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 6.

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

A/C.3/L.1771. Report of Economic and Social Council: question of violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and apartheid in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories. Note by Secretary-General, transmitting text of Economic and Social Council resolution 1501 (XLVIII), approved, as amended by Saudi Arabia (A/C.3/L.1840), by Third Committee on 11 December 1970, meeting 1818, by 66 votes to 1, with 29 abstentions.

A/C.3/L.1840. Saudi Arabia: amendments to resolution 1501 (XLVIII) of Economic and Social Council.

A/8173/Add.1. Report of Third Committee (part II) (on report of Economic and Social Council), draft resolution I.

RESOLUTION 2714(xxxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8173/Add.1, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1970, meeting 1930, by roll-call vote of 79 to 1, with 34 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Barbados, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi,* Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen,† People's Republic of Congo, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Portugal.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, Thailand,‡ United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay.

* Subsequently, Malawi advised the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.

† On 30 November 1970, Southern Yemen changed its name to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

‡ Subsequently, Thailand advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2440 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 in which, inter alia, it condemned any and every practice of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees and prisoners in South African prisons and in South African police custody during interrogation and detention.

Recalling its resolution 2505 (XXIV) of 20 November 1969 in which it expressed the firm intention of the United Nations, acting in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, to intensify its efforts to find a solution to the present grave situation in southern Africa,

Also recalling Security Council resolutions 264 (1969) of 20 March 1969 and 269 (1969) of 12 August 1969 on Namibia,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 2547

A (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 relating, inter alia, to the inhuman and degrading treatment and torture of political prisoners, detainees and captured freedom fighters in the Territories ruled by Governments and regimes wedded to the policies of apartheid, racial discrimination and colonialism in southern Africa,

Determined to promote immediate and urgent action with a view to restoring the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa,

1. Commends the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the treatment of political prisoners in South Africa for its valuable report;

2. Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggles of the peoples of southern Africa to oppose the policies of apartheid, racial discrimination and colonialism and to assert their right to self-determination;

3. Condemns any and every practice of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, detainees and captured freedom fighters in Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and the African Territories under Portuguese domination, as well as of persons in police custody in these Territories;

4. Again condemns any and every practice of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and detainees in prisons and in police custody in South Africa;

5. Reaffirms that the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, of 30 August 1955, apply to all political prisoners or detainees, in prison or in police custody throughout South Africa, Namibia—a Territory under direct United Nations responsibility and at present under illegal South African occupation—the rebel United Kingdom colony of Southern Rhodesia and the African Territories under Portuguese domination;

6. Condemns the trial of the twenty-two Africans held under the Suppression of Communism Act and further condemns their subsequent re-arrest under the notorious Terrorism Act of 1967;

7. Reaffirms that:

(a) The condition of political prisoners in South Africa continues to cause alarm;

(b) The increasing co-operation between the Government of South Africa and the illegal racist regime in Southern Rhodesia poses a further and continuing threat to the opponents of the two regimes and to captured freedom fighters;

(c) Sections 10 and 29 of the General Law Amendment Act, 1969, concerning the Bureau of State Security, not only constitute one of the most sinister pieces of legislation in recent years, but also contribute decisively towards making South Africa a complete police State, and the working of that law is also contrary to article 11, paragraph 1, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, since it prevents the accused from proving his innocence;

(d) Many political prisoners and detainees have died in South African prisons during 1969, in conditions which warrant a full inquiry;

(e) Mr. James Lenkoe, a political prisoner in South Africa, did not commit suicide as reported, but died as a result of electric shocks administered to various parts of his body;

(f) The practice of compelling prisoners to testify

against their erstwhile comrades is reprehensible;

(g) In the Caprivi Strip, Namibian villages have been shelled by the occupying South African security forces and indiscriminate firing has been resorted to in villages that are suspected of harbouring freedom fighters;

(h) The system of "Bantustans" established in South Africa is being gradually extended to the occupied Territory of Namibia;

(i) In the absence of intervention by the United Nations, the occupation of Namibia by South Africa is resulting in ever increasing hardship to the non-white population as well as a total suppression of human rights there;

(j) The so-called "Constitution of Rhodesia" of 1969 is an illegal as well as a pernicious document and the "Declaration of Rights" embodied in it confers few, if any, rights on non-Whites;

(k) Section 84 of the 1969 "Constitution of Rhodesia," providing that no court shall inquire into or pronounce upon the validity of any law on the ground that it is inconsistent with the "Declaration of Rights," establishes a clear inconsistency in the illegal "legislation" itself and, further, brings out the authoritarian and racist character of the illegal regime in Southern Rhodesia;

(l) The reserves in Southern Rhodesia consist of poor and infertile lands into which Africans are herded like cattle;

(m) The condition of Africans in the reserves is appalling and nothing is being done to improve their conditions of hygiene, diet, nutrition, sanitation, health and their educational standards;

(n) In the Portuguese Territories, the mass killing of suspected opponents of the regime continues unabated;

(o) The most inhuman form of forced labour prevails in the African Territories under Portuguese domination;

8. Calls upon the Government of South Africa to implement the recommendations contained in the earlier reports of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts and also:

(a) To disband immediately the Bureau of State Security;

(b) To discontinue the practice by which political detainees are compelled to testify against their former colleagues;

(c) To release immediately and unconditionally the twenty-two Africans re-arrested on 16 February 1970 under the Terrorism Act;

(d) To grant full access at all trials of political opponents of the regime to independent outside observers;

(e) To permit a full and impartial investigation into the deaths of political prisoners and detainees in its gaols as well as to indemnify fully the families of the deceased;

9. Condemns the trial of the eight Namibians under the Terrorism Act, which took place at Windhoek between July and November 1969, and further calls upon the Government of South Africa:

(a) To release immediately and unconditionally

those tried under the above-mentioned Terrorism Act;

(b) To desist forthwith from the extension of the "Bantustans" system into Namibia;

10. Once again calls upon the Government of South Africa to terminate its illegal occupation of the Territory of Namibia in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

11. Calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to intervene more effectively than heretofore in its rebellious colony of Southern Rhodesia with a view to:

(a) Implementing the action proposed by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts in paragraphs 82 to 94 of its report;

(b) Liberating the Africans from the reserves in which they are concentrated in conditions of near captivity and bondage;

(c) Repealing the entire so-called "Constitution of Rhodesia" of 1969;

12. Requests the United Kingdom to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session the results of the effective measures it is called upon to take in paragraph 11 above;

13. Calls upon the Government of Portugal:

(a) To observe immediately the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949;

(b) To eradicate the practice of xibalo, or forced labour, in its African colonies;

(c) To introduce a system in which the products of the African farmers can be freely bought and sold in normal market conditions;

14. Condemns once again the actions of those Governments which continue to maintain diplomatic, economic, cultural and other relations with the Government of South Africa and with the illegal regime in Southern Rhodesia in violation of United Nations resolutions;

15. Calls upon those Governments urgently to consider breaking off such relations and, if they have not already done so, to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session the reasons therefor;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution and also to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-seventh session on the measures taken to publicize the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts.

Study of Violations

QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

During 1970, two United Nations bodies reported on aspects of the question of the violation of human rights in the territories occupied as a result of hostilities in the Middle East.

One of these was the Special Working Group of Experts established by the Commission on Human Rights in March 1969¹¹ to investigate allegations concerning Israel's violations of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (the fourth Geneva Convention) in territories militarily occupied by Israel.

The other was the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, established by the General Assembly on 19 December 1968.¹²

The reports of these groups were considered variously in 1970 by the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly (see below).

(Also during 1970, the Security Council received a number of communications from Arab countries concerning the treatment of civilian populations and prisoners of war in territories occupied by Israel, and Israel's replies to these. See pp. 244-46.)

REPORT OF SPECIAL WORKING GROUP

DECISIONS BY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

At its session in February-March 1970, the Commission on Human Rights considered the report of the Special Working Group of Experts which it had established in 1969 to investigate allegations concerning Israel's violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949 (the fourth Geneva Convention), in the territories occupied by Israel as a result of the hostilities in the Middle East. It had also authorized the Special Working Group to receive communications and to hear witnesses, and to report, with its conclusions and recommendations, to the Commission in 1970.

At its meetings in July and August 1969, the Special Working Group—having met in New York, Geneva (Switzerland), Beirut (Lebanon), Damascus (Syria), Amman (Jordan) and Cairo (United Arab Republic)—heard a total of 103 witnesses. It reported that it was unable to conduct its investigation in the occupied territories

¹¹See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 509-10.

¹²See Y.U.N., 1968, pp. 555-56, text of resolution 2443 (XXIII).

because of the refusal of Israel to recognize it or to co-operate with it. It met in New York from 5 January to 11 February 1970 to consider and adopt its report to the Human Rights Commission.

On 23 March 1970, the Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution based on the recommendations and conclusions in the report.

Among other things, the Commission noted with dismay Israel's refusal to co-operate with the Special Working Group and endorsed the Group's conclusions concerning the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention to all the occupied areas, including occupied Jerusalem, and the existence of violations of that Convention in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Commission condemned Israel's refusal to apply the Convention and Israel's violations thereof, in particular: (a) the total or partial destruction of villages and cities in the occupied territories; (b) the establishment of Israeli settlements in the militarily occupied Arab territories; (c) the unlawful deportation and expulsion of civilian population; (d) the coercive acts to compel the civilian population under Israeli military occupation to collaborate with the occupying power against its will; (e) the abrogation of the national laws in the occupied territories contrary to the Convention and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly; and (f) all policies and measures of collective punishment.

The Commission deplored all policies and actions aiming at the deportation of the Palestine refugees from the occupied Gaza Strip. It expressed grave concern over: the use of coercive means to extract information and confessions in violation of the relevant provisions of the Convention; the ill-treatment and killing of civilians without provocation; the detention of people by virtue of administrative orders for periods that were automatically renewed *ad infinitum*; the denial to such detainees of any guarantee concerning the length of detention or fair trial; the refusal to allow accused persons to have counsel of their choice and, in cases where a counsel was chosen, the prevention of such counsel from discharging his duties satisfactorily; and, finally, the destruction and usurpation of movable and immovable property.

Next, the Commission called upon Israel once

more to observe strictly the fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories and called upon it immediately to: (a) rescind all measures and refrain from taking any action prejudicial to the national laws, systems and practices in the occupied territories; (b) refrain from establishing settlements in the occupied territories; (c) cease immediately from compelling the inhabitants of the occupied territories to collaborate with the Israeli occupying authorities; (d) ensure the immediate return of deported and transferred persons to their homes without any formalities which might render their return impossible; (e) refrain from demolishing houses in contravention of the Convention; and (f) to restore the property confiscated or otherwise taken from its owners, also in contravention of the Convention.

The Commission also called upon Israel to desist forthwith from deporting the Palestinian civilians from the Gaza Strip.

The Special Working Group was commended for its work and the Commission decided that it should continue to investigate and report on the Israeli violations of the Convention which occurred in the militarily occupied Arab territories since the outbreak of hostilities. It was to examine in particular: (a) the evidence concerning the cases of torture taking place against prisoners in Israeli prisons in the occupied territories; (b) other cases of violations of the Convention in the occupied territories which it had not yet investigated, including those that took place during the period investigated by the Special Working Group; and (c) the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories in contravention of the provisions of the Convention.

The Commission called upon Israel to receive the Special Working Group, to co-operate with it and to facilitate its task in carrying out its mandate.

The Commission further decided to continue to include the question of the violation of human rights in the territories occupied as a result of hostilities in the Middle East as a separate item of priority on the agenda of its 1971 session.

The Secretary-General was asked to give the widest publicity to the entire report of the Special Working Group and to report to the Commission in 1971 on that publicity. He was also

asked to bring the report to the attention of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

On 27 May 1970, the Economic and Social Council decided, among other things, that the investigation decided upon by the Human Rights Commission should be undertaken in 1970, bearing in mind the need to effect maximum savings when allocating funds. (See p. 577.)

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE
TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI
PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, established by the General Assembly in 1968¹³ and guided further by the Assembly in its resolution of 11 December 1969,¹⁴ carried out its investigations from 25 March to 15 June 1970. In accordance with its mandate, it heard witnesses and received written evidence. At meetings in Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Geneva, London (United Kingdom) and New York, it heard a total of 146 persons.

In its report, dated 5 October 1970, the Special Committee concluded, among other things, that Israel was pursuing policies and practices in the occupied territories which were in violation of the human rights of the population of those territories, and that in this case the fundamental violation of human rights lay in the very fact of occupation. The Committee found it almost impossible to separate the specific policies and practices applied to individuals, groups or areas from the broad context of the occupation itself. While the occupation lasted, Israel, as the occupying power, had, in the Committee's view, both a legal and a moral obligation—an obligation which it had voluntarily assumed—to implement the third and fourth Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 (the third Convention having to do with the treatment of prisoners of war, the fourth Convention with the treatment of civilian persons in time of war).

Specifically, the Special Committee proposed that Israel be asked by the General Assembly:

(a) to permit, unconditionally, all persons who fled the occupied territories, or who were deported or expelled therefrom, to return to their homes;

(b) to cease immediately, and to prevent, all policies and practices of collective punishment, such as the destruction of property, imposition of excessively harsh curfews and mass arrests;

(c) to make full compensation for property destroyed, and to effect restitution of property confiscated in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention;

(d) to cease immediately and to prevent the torture and ill-treatment of prisoners of war and of persons imprisoned or detained under the laws and regulations relating to the occupation, and to apply to all such categories of persons the provisions of the third and fourth Geneva Conventions and of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;

(e) to bring to an end the indefinite and prolonged detention without trial of all persons, including those detained under security regulations and those under administrative detention, by releasing them or affording them a fair trial in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions;

(f) to reform the procedures and conditions of administrative detention in conformity with those Conventions;

(g) to refrain from attempts at compelling the inhabitants of the occupied territories to collaborate with the occupation authorities;

(h) to discontinue the policy of establishing Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, and to withdraw all Israeli settlers from settlements already established;

(i) to eliminate, and refrain from the creation of, social and economic conditions resulting in the departure of the inhabitants of the occupied territories from their established homes and communities;

(j) to refrain from the harassment of leaders and intellectuals and their arbitrary deportation from among the inhabitants of the occupied territories;

(k) to rescind Israeli legislation in force in the occupied territories, which was repugnant to provisions of the third and fourth Geneva Conventions;

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 514-15, text of resolution 2546 (XXIV).

(l) to repeal all measures taken to alter the status of occupied Jerusalem and to restore it to the status subsisting before the outbreak of hostilities;

(m) to restore the judicial system in the occupied territories to the status it enjoyed before the occupation, and in particular to return the Court of Appeal of Jerusalem to its seat in Jerusalem; and

(n) to investigate all the allegations brought to the notice of the Special Committee concerning ill-treatment of civilians and detainees, particularly those persons detained under security regulations—access to whom was denied to officials of the International Red Cross—and those purportedly held under administrative detention, and to take appropriate remedial measures.

The Special Committee then proposed, as a temporary practical measure, that the General Assembly recommend to the States whose territory was occupied by Israel that they appoint immediately either a neutral State or States, or an international organization offering all guarantees of impartiality and effectiveness, to safeguard the human rights of the population of the occupied territories. In the special circumstances prevailing in the occupied territories, where there was a large population not yet given the opportunity of exercising its right of self-determination, it was necessary, in the Special Committee's view, to make suitable arrangements for the proper representation of their interests. The Special Committee proposed that a neutral State or organization, nominated by Israel, be associated in the arrangement, and that Israel be called upon to accept such an arrangement and to provide all the facilities necessary for its effective functioning consistent with the provisions of the third and fourth Geneva Conventions.

The Special Committee went on to suggest that the State (or States) or international organization duly nominated under the arrangement be authorized to undertake the following:

(a) to secure the scrupulous implementation of the provisions relating to human rights contained in the third and fourth Geneva Conventions, and in particular to investigate and determine the facts in the case of allegations of the violation of the human rights provisions of those Conventions or of other applicable international instruments;

(b) to ensure that the population of the occupied territories was treated in accordance with the applicable law; and

(c) to report on its work to the States concerned and to the General Assembly.

The Special Committee felt that until such an arrangement was made, it should continue its work.

CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Later in the year, at its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly on 15 December 1970 noted with regret that the provisions of relevant resolutions—among them the resolution of 23 March 1970 of the Human Rights Commission on the report of its Special Working Group of Experts (see above)—had not been implemented by the Israeli authorities, and it expressed grave concern for the safety, welfare and security of the inhabitants of the Arab territories under military occupation by Israel.

The Assembly expressed appreciation to the Special Committee and its members for their efforts in performing the task assigned to them and called upon Israel immediately to implement the Special Committee's recommendations and to comply with its obligations under the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant resolutions adopted by the various international organizations.

The Assembly then asked the Special Committee, pending the early termination of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, to continue its work and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to ensure the safeguarding of the human rights of the population of the occupied territories. Israel was urged to receive the Special Committee, to co-operate with it and to facilitate its work.

The Assembly asked the Special Committee to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arose thereafter and asked the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with all the necessary facilities for the continued performance of its tasks.

Finally, the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-sixth (1971) session an item on the report (or reports) of the Special Committee.

The Assembly took these decisions in adopting resolution 2727(XXV)—by a roll-call vote of 52 to 20, with 43 abstentions—on the recommendation of its Special Political Committee, which had approved the text on 11 December by a roll-call vote of 49 to 14, with 37 abstentions.

The text was sponsored in the Committee by Afghanistan, Guinea, Indonesia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Pakistan and Senegal.

(For text of resolution 2727(XXV), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

During the debate in the Special Political Committee, a number of Members—including Algeria, the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, India, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Poland, Syria, Tunisia, the USSR, the United Arab Republic and Yemen—commended the Special Committee on the objectivity and impartiality with which it had carried out its task and criticized Israel for its refusal to co-operate with the Committee. Israel was condemned for the practices and policies carried out by it in violation of the human rights of the population of the occupied territories.

Many of these speakers held the view that the only solution to the problem was the withdrawal of Israel from the territories occupied by it; pending that withdrawal, the Special Committee should be authorized to pursue its investigation.

Lebanon, Libya, Senegal and Syria were among those noting that the Special Working Group of Experts established by the Commission on Human Rights had also been investigating allegations concerning Israel's violations of the fourth Geneva Convention and had heard much the same evidence as had the Special Committee. Senegal deplored Israel's refusal to give those United Nations bodies access to the occupied territories and could only presume that it had something to conceal. Syria observed that the United Nations had attempted to ensure the protection of the civilian population in the occupied territories and to enforce implementation of the Geneva Conventions through the use of such impartial fact-finding bodies. Israel, however, still refused to honour its commitments under the Conventions. The time had come, in Syria's view, for the international community to act by imposing sanctions against Israel as punishment for its continued defiance of world

public opinion and its refusal to implement United Nations resolutions.

Israel's representative maintained that the composition of the Special Committee was biased and partial, that its procedure would be unacceptable in any court of law and that any resolution embodying its politically biased recommendations was unacceptable. The Special Committee's report was nothing but a vehicle of Arab propaganda, which ignored the real plight of Jews in certain Arab countries and which falsified and distorted the real situation in the areas under Israeli control. He outlined what he described as constructive developments in Israel's policy in the territories and said that these had taken place against a background of violent hostility from neighbouring countries, with the constant threat of terrorist activities in the territories and in Israel—activities whose aim was to prevent co-operation between Jew and Arab and to disrupt normal life.

The United States, explaining its negative vote on the resolution, said it considered that the text was unbalanced and would not achieve the purposes intended by its sponsors. The United States agreed with the Special Committee's recommendation that, as envisaged in the fourth Geneva Convention, a protecting power should be appointed to ensure respect for the provisions of the Convention relating to the civilian population.

Canada—which voted against the text—said it could take no position on the conditions prevailing in the territories occupied by Israel because the information available was neither reliable nor complete. It also considered that the circumstances surrounding the establishment of the Special Committee had been irregular and that the conditions limiting the scope of the Special Committee's inquiries had precluded the preparation of a report based on evidence. Moreover, the resolution contained no reference to the balance of obligations which both sides should fulfil if an equitable settlement was to be reached.

Chad said it had no intention of condemning any of the parties concerned, with which it maintained friendly relations. It considered that the resolution—which Chad supported—would not harm the countries concerned but might, on the contrary, promote a reconciliation between them.

Uruguay said it could not support the resolution because neither the manner in which the Special Committee had been established nor the procedure governing the investigation that Committee had undertaken offered sufficient guarantees of impartiality.

Explaining its abstention in the vote on the resolution, the United Kingdom said it considered that the General Assembly should not adopt measures based on circumstantial evidence. The United Kingdom had had doubts at the time

of the Special Committee's establishment because its activities appeared to be prejudged by the terms of its mandate; those doubts had not been dispelled by a consideration of the Special Committee's report.

During the debate, the Special Political Committee, at the request of Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and in accordance with the practice established at previous sessions, heard a statement by a representative of the "Palestine Arab delegation."

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

REPORT OF SPECIAL WORKING GROUP

E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters XI and XXIII (resolution 10(XXVI)).

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

General Committee, meetings 188, 190.
Special Political Committee, meetings 727, 744-751.
Fifth Committee, meeting 1419.
Plenary Meetings 1909, 1931.

A/7929. Report of Economic and Social Council. Note by Secretary-General.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 7.

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

A/8089. Report of Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of Population of Occupied Territories. Note by Secretary-General.

A/8093. Letter of 11 November 1970 from Iraq (request for inclusion in agenda of item entitled: "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories").

A/8100/Add.2. Adoption of agenda of 25th regular session and allocation of items. Third report of General Committee.

A/8164. Letter of 13 November 1970 from Israel.

A/SPG/137/Add.1. Letter of 18 November 1970 from President of General Assembly to Chairman of Special Political Committee.

A/SPC/142. Letter of 4 December 1970 from Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia (request for hearing of "Palestine Arab delegation").

A/SPC/L.201. Afghanistan, Guinea, Mauritania, Pakistan: draft resolution, co-sponsored orally by Indonesia, Mali, Mongolia and Senegal, approved by Special Political Committee on 11 December

1970, meeting 751, by roll-call vote of 49 to 14, with 37 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cameroon, Ceylon, Chad, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, People's Republic of Congo, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Israel, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Swaziland, United States, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Colombia, Dahomey, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Guyana, Haiti, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, United Kingdom, Venezuela.

A/SPC/L.202, A/C.5/1361, A/8245. Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution recommended by Special Political Committee in A/8237. Statements by Secretary-General and report of Fifth Committee.

A/8237. Report of Special Political Committee.

RESOLUTION 2727(XXV), as recommended by Special Political Committee, A/8237, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1970, meeting 1931, by roll-call vote of 52 to 20, with 43 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cameroon, Ceylon, Chad, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Equatorial Guinea, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mon-

golia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Israel, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Rwanda, United States, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, Upper Volta, Venezuela.

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 237(1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259(1968) of 27 September 1968,

Recalling also its resolutions 2252(ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2443(XXIII) and 2452A(XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535B(XXIV) of 10 December 1969 and 2672D(XXV) of 8 December 1970,

Further recalling Commission on Human Rights resolutions 6(XXIV) of 27 February 1968, 6(XXV) of 4 March 1969 and 10(XXVI) of 23 March 1970, the telegram of 8 March 1968 dispatched by the Commission to the Israeli authorities, the relevant resolutions of the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968, Economic and Social Council resolution 1515(XLVIII), adopted on 28 May 1970 on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the other relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, the

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories,

Noting with regret that the provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions have not been implemented by the Israeli authorities,

Gravely concerned for the safety, welfare and security of the inhabitants of the Arab territories under military occupation by Israel,

1. Expresses its sincere appreciation to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories and to its members for their efforts in performing the task assigned to them;

2. Calls upon the Government of Israel immediately to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee embodied in its report and to comply with its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant resolutions adopted by the various international organizations;

3. Requests the Special Committee, pending the early termination of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, to continue its work and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to ensure the safeguarding of the human rights of the population of the occupied territories;

4. Urges the Government of Israel to receive the Special Committee, co-operate with it and facilitate its work;

5. Requests the Special Committee to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with all the necessary facilities for the continued performance of its tasks;

7. Decides to inscribe on the provisional agenda of its twenty-sixth session an item entitled "Report (or reports) of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories."

Other Matters Relating to Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

QUESTIONS CONCERNING PROCEDURES

PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In 1969, the Commission on Human Rights recommended the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of a resolution on the establishment of a procedure for dealing with com-

munications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The draft had originally been prepared by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The Council decided to transmit the draft resolution and relevant documents to Member States of the United Nations for consideration and comment. It also invited the Human Rights Commission to con-

sider the replies at its 1970 session and report to the Council.¹⁵

At its session in February-March 1970, the Human Rights Commission—having again considered the question in the light of its former discussions, of the debates in the Economic and Social Council and of the replies and observations of Member States—decided that no inquiries pursuant to the proposed new procedure might be undertaken until the remedies available at the national, regional and international levels had been exhausted, and that such inquiries must be carried out in co-operation with the Government concerned. The Commission also decided, without prejudice to the final decision of the Council, that the composition of any body responsible for making inquiries and the procedure for making inquiries must be such as to provide a reliable guarantee of competence and impartiality. The Commission also decided to resubmit to the Council the draft resolution it had recommended in 1969.

The Economic and Social Council, on 27 May 1970, endorsed, with some amendments, the text submitted by the Human Rights Commission.

By this text, the Council among other things: authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to appoint a working group of not more than five of its members—with due regard to geographical distribution—to meet in private each year immediately before sessions of the Sub-Commission. The working group was to consider all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, received by the Secretary-General under a 1959 Council resolution.¹⁶ The group would bring to the Sub-Commission's attention those communications, together with replies of Governments, if any, which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms within the Sub-Commission's terms of reference.

The Council decided that the Sub-Commission should, as a first stage, devise appropriate procedures for dealing with the question of admissibility of communications, and asked the Secretary-General to prepare a document on the question for the Sub-Commission's consideration. It further asked him: (a) to furnish

to the members of the Sub-Commission a monthly list of communications, together with a brief description of them and any replies received from Governments; (b) to make available to the members of the working group the originals of such communications as they might request, having due regard to the provisions of the 1959 Council resolution concerning the divulging of the identity of the authors of the communications; and (c) to circulate to the members of the Sub-Commission such originals as were referred to the Sub-Commission by the working group.

By the resolution, the Council then requested the Sub-Commission to consider in private meetings the communications brought before it in accordance with the decision of a majority of the members of the working group—and any replies of Governments—to determine whether to refer to the Human Rights Commission particular situations which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights requiring consideration by the Commission.

The Human Rights Commission was asked by the Council then to determine: (a) whether a situation referred to it by the Sub-Commission required a thorough study by the Commission and a report and recommendations to the Council; and (b) whether it might be the subject of an investigation by an ad hoc committee appointed by the Commission. The investigation would be undertaken only with the express consent of the State concerned and conducted in constant co-operation with that State and under conditions determined by agreement with it. In any event, the investigation might be undertaken only if all available means at the national level had been resorted to and exhausted, and only if the situation did not relate to a matter being dealt with under other procedures. The composition and organization of such an ad hoc committee were then set forth.

The Council then decided, by this text, that all actions envisaged in the implementation of

¹⁵See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 512-13, and p. 515, text of resolution 1422(XLVI).

¹⁶See Y.U.N., 1959, p. 221, text of resolution 728F(XXVIII).

the resolution by the Sub-Commission or the Commission would remain confidential until such time as the Commission decided to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council.

The Secretary-General was authorized by the Council to provide all necessary facilities for carrying out the resolution.

The Council, finally, decided that the procedure set out in the resolution for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms should be reviewed if any new organ entitled to deal with such communications were to be established within the United Nations or by international agreement.

The Economic and Social Council took these decisions on 27 May 1970, when it adopted resolution 1503(XLVIII) by a vote of 14 to 7, with 6 abstentions, on the recommendation of its Social Committee, which approved it on 21 May — as amended by France, by Italy, by the USSR and by Uruguay — by 14 votes to 7, with 5 abstentions. Prior to this vote, the Council rejected — by a vote of 14 to 10, with 3 abstentions — a Bulgarian motion to postpone consideration of the draft resolution to the Council's fiftieth session in 1971.

The Social Committee rejected, by a vote of 12 to 12, with 3 abstentions, a proposal by Bulgaria and Sudan by which the Council would have: recommended that the Human Rights Commission should work out criteria of admissibility of communications; requested the Secretary-General to ask Member States that had not yet sent comments on the proposed procedures to do so; and recommended that the Commission consider the matter again in 1971.

In accordance with the Council's resolution, the Secretary-General prepared a document on the question of admissibility of communications for consideration by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its session in August 1970. The Sub-Commission, in view of the impossibility of reaching a decision on the matter at that session, decided to transmit the relevant documentation to the Human Rights Commission for its consideration in 1971.

At the General Assembly's twenty-fifth session later in 1970, during consideration of the Eco-

nomic and Social Council's report, the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee was not able, because of lack of time, to consider that part of the report relating to procedures for dealing with communications on human rights violations. A proposal by the USSR—by which the General Assembly would, among other things, request the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Commission to re-examine and reconsider the question—was not pressed to a vote.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR BODIES

DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

At its session in February-March 1970, the Commission on Human Rights examined a preliminary draft of model rules of procedure prepared by the Secretary-General for United Nations bodies dealing with violations of human rights. The Secretary-General pointed out that the draft, which had been requested by the Commission at its 1969 session,¹⁷ took into account as appropriate the rules of procedure of United Nations organs and in particular those of ad hoc bodies which had conducted investigations in the past.

The Commission began discussion of the preliminary draft and, on 19 March, decided to resume consideration of the question at its 1971 session.

DECISION BY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA

On 3 March 1970, the Commission on Human Rights, on the proposal of the United Arab Republic, adopted a consensus condemning the illegal declaration of a "republic" in Southern Rhodesia. It emphasized the danger which that act posed for the human rights of the vast majority of the population in Southern Rhodesia, called upon the United Kingdom to intervene and restore constitutionality in Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia) and asked all States to refrain from extending recognition to the illegal regime or establishing any relations with it. (See also p. 166.)

¹⁷ See Y.U.N., 1969, p. 512.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

QUESTIONS CONCERNING PROCEDURES

PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH
COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO
VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 636-643.
Plenary Meeting 1693.

- E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters IX and XXIII (resolution 7(XXVI)).
- E/4816/Add.1. Financial implications of resolutions adopted by Commission on Human Rights at its 26th session.
- E/4816, Chapter XXIV. Draft resolution V, submitted by Commission, as orally amended and as amended by France (E/AC.7/L.570), USSR (E/AC.7/L.571, para. 5), Italy (E/AC.7/L.572) and Uruguay (E/AC.7/L.573/Rev.1 as further revised), approved by Social Committee on 21 May 1970, meeting 643, by 14 votes to 7, with 5 abstentions.
- E/AC.7/L.570. France: amendment to draft resolution V submitted by Commission on Human Rights in E/4816.
- E/AC.7/L.571. USSR: amendments to draft resolution V submitted by Commission on Human Rights in E/4816.
- E/AC.7/L.572. Italy: amendment to draft resolution V submitted by Commission on Human Rights in E/4816.
- E/AC.7/L.573 and Rev.1. Uruguay: amendments and revised amendments to draft resolution V submitted by Commission on Human Rights in E/4816.
- E/AC.7/L.574. Bulgaria and Sudan: draft resolution.
- E/4868 and Corr.1,2. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution V.

RESOLUTION 1503 (XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4868, as orally amended, adopted by Council on 27 May 1970, meeting 1693, by 14 votes to 7, with 6 abstentions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting resolutions 7(XXVI) and 17(XXV) of the Commission on Human Rights and resolution 2 (XXI) of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

1. Authorizes the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to appoint a working group consisting of not more than five of its members, with due regard to geographical distribution, to meet once a year in private meetings for a period not exceeding ten days immediately before the sessions of the Sub-Commission to consider all communications, including replies of Governments thereon, received by the Secretary-General under Council resolution 728F(XXVIII) of 30 July 1959 with a view to bringing to the attention of the Sub-Commission those communications, together with re-

plies of Governments, if any, which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms within the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission;

2. Decides that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should, as the first stage in the implementation of the present resolution, devise at its twenty-third session appropriate procedures for dealing with the question of admissibility of communications received by the Secretary-General under Council resolution 728F(XXVIII) and in accordance with Council resolution 1235 (XLII) of 6 June 1967;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a document on the question of admissibility of communications for the Sub-Commission's consideration at its twenty-third session;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To furnish to the members of the Sub-Commission every month a list of communications prepared by him in accordance with Council resolution 728F(XXVIII) and a brief description of them, together with the text of any replies received from Governments;

(b) To make available to the members of the working group at their meetings the originals of such communications listed as they may request, having due regard to the provisions of paragraph 2 (b) of Council resolution 728F(XXVIII) concerning the divulging of the identity of the authors of communications;

(c) To circulate to the members of the Sub-Commission, in the working languages, the originals of such communications as are referred to the Sub-Commission by the working group;

5. Requests the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to consider in private meetings, in accordance with paragraph 1 above, the communications brought before it in accordance with the decision of a majority of the members of the working group and any replies of Governments relating thereto and other relevant information, with a view to determining whether to refer to the Commission on Human Rights particular situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights requiring consideration by the Commission;

6. Requests the Commission on Human Rights after it has examined any situation referred to it by the Sub-Commission to determine:

(a) Whether it requires a thorough study by the Commission and a report and recommendations thereon to the Council in accordance with paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1235(XLII);

(b) Whether it may be a subject of an investigation by an ad hoc committee to be appointed by the Commission which shall be undertaken only with the express consent of the State concerned and shall be conducted in constant co-operation with that State and under conditions determined by agreement with it. In any event, the investigation may be undertaken only if:

- (i) All available means at the national level have been resorted to and exhausted;
- (ii) The situation does not relate to a matter which is being dealt with under other procedures prescribed in the constituent instruments of, or conventions adopted by, the United Nations and the specialized agencies, or in regional conventions, or which the State concerned wishes to submit to other procedures in accordance with general or special international agreements to which it is a party;

7. Decides that if the Commission on Human Rights appoints an ad hoc committee to carry on an investigation with the consent of the State concerned:

(a) The composition of the committee shall be determined by the Commission. The members of the committee shall be independent persons whose competence and impartiality is beyond question. Their appointment shall be subject to the consent of the Government concerned;

(b) The committee shall establish its own rules of procedure. It shall be subject to the quorum rule. It shall have authority to receive communications and hear witnesses, as necessary. The investigation shall be conducted in co-operation with the Government concerned;

(c) The committee's procedure shall be confidential, its proceedings shall be conducted in private meetings and its communications shall not be publicized in any way;

(d) The committee shall strive for friendly solutions before, during and even after the investigation;

(e) The committee shall report to the Commission on Human Rights with such observations and suggestions as it may deem appropriate;

8. Decides that all actions envisaged in the implementation of the present resolution by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities or the Commission on Human Rights shall remain confidential until such time as the Commission may decide to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council;

9. Decides to authorize the Secretary-General to

provide all facilities which may be required to carry out the present resolution, making use of the existing staff of the Division of Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat;

10. Decides that the procedure set out in the present resolution for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms should be reviewed if any new organ entitled to deal with such communications should be established within the United Nations or by international agreement.

E/CN.4/1040. Report of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its 23rd session, 10-28 August 1970, Chapters V and VIII (resolution 6(XXIII)).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION
Third Committee, meetings 1816-1819.
Plenary Meeting 1930.

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

A/C.3/L.1843. USSR: draft resolution.

A/8173/Add.1. Report of Third Committee (part II) (on report of Economic and Social Council), paras. 21-22.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR BODIES DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February—27 March 1970, Chapters X and XXIII (resolution 9 (XXVI)).

DECISION BY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA

E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapter X, paras. 180-181, and Chapter XXIII (Other decisions, p. 87).

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran, Iran, in 1968, adopted resolutions on a wide range of human rights questions. One of these—resolution VIII—dealt with the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights.¹⁸

In 1969, the General Assembly reaffirmed the principles contained in that resolution and de-

cidated to review in 1970 the progress made in the implementation of that resolution and of the relevant Assembly resolutions on the subject.¹⁹

On 30 November 1970, the General Assembly expressed concern that many peoples were still denied the right to self-determination and were still subject to colonial and alien domination, and considered it necessary to continue to study

¹⁸See Y.U.N., 1968, pp. 542-43.

¹⁹See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 529-30, text of resolution 2588 B (XXIV).

ways and means of ensuring international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination. After recalling its resolution of 12 October 1970 (see pp. 706-8) on the programme of action for full implementation of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,²⁰ the General Assembly:

(1) affirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples under colonial and alien domination recognized as being entitled to the right to self-determination to restore to themselves that right by any means at their disposal;

(2) recognized the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination, in the legitimate exercise of their right to self-determination, to seek and receive all kinds of moral and material assistance, in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the spirit of the United Nations Charter;

(3) called upon all Governments that denied the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination to recognize and observe that right in accordance with the relevant international instruments and the principles and spirit of the Charter;

(4) considered that the acquisition and retention of territory in contravention of the right of the people of that territory to self-determination was inadmissible and a gross violation of the Charter;

(5) condemned those Governments that denied the right to self-determination of peoples recognized as being entitled to it, especially the peoples of southern Africa and Palestine; and

(6) requested the Commission on Human Rights to study, at its 1971 session, the implementation of the United Nations resolutions

relating to the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination, and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, as soon as possible.

The Assembly took these decisions when it adopted resolution 2649 (XXV) on 30 November—by 71 votes to 12, with 28 abstentions—on the recommendation of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee. The text, which was revised and amended in the Committee, was eventually sponsored by Algeria, Ceylon, Guinea, Kuwait, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia and Syria—Bolivia and Peru having withdrawn as sponsors. It was approved by the Third Committee on 4 November by a roll-call vote of 67 to 12, with 28 abstentions, after a series of separate votes on individual paragraphs.

Among the amendments proposed in the Third Committee was one by Israel to delete the words "and Palestine" from the paragraph condemning those Governments which denied the right to self-determination of peoples recognized by international instruments as being entitled to it, especially of the peoples of southern Africa and Palestine. The Israeli amendment was withdrawn in consideration of a request by Costa Rica for a separate vote on the whole phrase "especially of the peoples of southern Africa and Palestine." The phrase was retained by a roll-call vote of 49 to 22, with 35 abstentions.

²⁰See Y.U.N., 1960, pp. 49-50, resolution 1514 (XV), containing text of Declaration.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1760-1780.
Plenary Meeting 1915.

A/7998. Importance of universal realization of right of peoples to self-determination and of speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for effective guarantee and observance of human rights. Note by Secretary-General (annexing text of resolution VIII adopted on 11 May 1968 by International Conference on Human Rights, Teheran, Iran, 22 April-13 May 1968).

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the

Organization, Part Three, Chapter I, section A 9. A/C.3/L.1802. Algeria, Ceylon, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Somalia: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.1802/Rev.I. Algeria, Ceylon, Guinea, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria: revised draft resolution, co-sponsored orally by Mali and Senegal, as amended by India (A/C.3/L.1805 as orally sub-amended by sponsor and by Saudi Arabia), and as orally amended by sponsors, approved by Third Committee on 4 November 1970, meeting 1779, by roll-call vote of 67 to 12, with 28 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Barbados, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, People's Republic of Congo, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Canada, France, Israel, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Khmer Republic, Madagascar, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Rwanda, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela.

A/C.3/L.1804. Israel: amendment to 9-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1802.

A/C.3/L.1805. India: amendment to 13-power revised draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1802/Rev.1.

A/8163. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution IV.

RESOLUTION 2649(xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8163, adopted by Assembly on 30 November 1970, meeting 1915, by 71 votes to 12, with 28 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights,

Concerned that many peoples are still denied the right to self-determination and are still subject to colonial and alien domination,

Regretting that the obligations undertaken by States under the Charter of the United Nations and the decisions adopted by United Nations bodies have not proved sufficient to attain respect for the right of peoples to self-determination in all cases,

Recalling its resolution 2588B(XXIV) of 15 December 1969 and resolution VIII adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968,

Considering that it is necessary to continue the study of ways and means of ensuring international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination,

Noting the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which elaborated the principle of self-determination of peoples,

Recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 2621(XXV) of 12 October 1970 on the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

1. Affirms the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples under colonial and alien domination recognized as being entitled to the right of self-determination to restore to themselves that right by any means at their disposal;

2. Recognizes the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination in the legitimate exercise of their right to self-determination to seek and receive all kinds of moral and material assistance, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Calls upon all Governments that deny the right to self-determination of peoples under colonial and alien domination to recognize and observe that right in accordance with the relevant international instruments and the principles and spirit of the Charter;

4. Considers that the acquisition and retention of territory in contravention of the right of the people of that territory to self-determination is inadmissible and a gross violation of the Charter;

5. Condemns those Governments that deny the right to self-determination of peoples recognized as being entitled to it, especially of the peoples of southern Africa and Palestine;

6. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to study, at its twenty-seventh session, the implementation of the United Nations resolutions relating to the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination, and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, as soon as possible.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARMED CONFLICTS

In accordance with a request by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General in 1969 submitted an interim report on respect for human rights in armed conflicts. In this, among other things, he pointed out that the views which the General Assembly and Member States might

express on the matters raised would assist him in the continuation of his study, which would be pursued in close co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate international organizations. The Assembly asked him to continue his study and

to submit a further report to it at its session in 1970.²¹

DECISIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION AND
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Commission on Human Rights, at its session in February-March 1970, and the Economic and Social Council, at its session in May 1970, considered the interim report of the Secretary-General on respect for human rights in armed conflicts, and the Council requested the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly the observations of the Commission and of the Council's Social Committee on the report.

CONSIDERATION BY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The second report of the Secretary-General on respect for human rights in armed conflicts was submitted on 18 September 1970 and considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. On 9 December, the Assembly adopted five resolutions on the question. Three of these concerned general aspects of the question. The fourth was concerned with the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict. The fifth affirmed certain basic principles for the protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts. The Secretary-General's report and the five resolutions adopted are described below.

REPORT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General's 1970 report on respect for human rights in armed conflicts dealt with the following aspects of the question: (a) protection of human rights in armed conflicts derived from the general international instruments on human rights adopted under United Nations auspices; (b) protection of civilians; (c) protection of combatants in international armed conflicts; (d) protection of prisoners; (e) prohibition and limitation of certain methods and means of warfare; (f) internal armed conflicts; (g) guerrilla warfare; (h) protection of civilians and combatants in conflicts arising from the struggles of peoples under colonial and foreign rule for liberation and self-determination; (i) international assistance in, and supervision of, the application of humanitarian rules

relating to armed conflicts; (j) better application and reaffirmation of humanitarian international conventions and rules; and (k) concluding observations.

GENERAL ASPECTS

By one of the resolutions (2674(XXV)) adopted on 9 December 1970, the General Assembly expressed its deep concern over the fact that wars unleashed in violation of the United Nations Charter in several parts of the world led to incalculable disasters and suffering among civilians. Having considered with appreciation the Secretary-General's report on respect for human rights in armed conflicts, the Assembly then:

(1) solemnly reaffirmed that, in order effectively to guarantee human rights, all States should devote their efforts to averting the unleashing of aggressive wars and armed conflicts that violated the Charter and the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (see pp. 788-92);

(2) condemned the actions of countries which, in flagrant violation of the Charter, continued to conduct aggressive wars and defy accepted principles of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

(3) considered that the principles contained in those instruments should be strictly observed by all States and that States violating those instruments should be condemned and held responsible to the world community;

(4) affirmed that the participants in resistance movements and the freedom fighters in southern Africa and territories under colonial and alien domination and foreign occupation—struggling for their liberation and self-determination—should be treated, in case of their arrest, as prisoners of war in accordance with the Hague Convention of 1907 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

(5) considered that air bombardments of civilian populations and the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of all analogous liquids, materials and devices—as well as bac-

²¹See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 539-40, and pp. 550-51, text of resolution 2597(XXIV).

teriological (biological) weapons—constituted a flagrant violation of the Hague Convention of 1907, the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949; and

(6) recognized the necessity of developing additional international instruments providing for the protection of civilian populations and freedom fighters against colonial and foreign domination, as well as against racist regimes.

The Assembly adopted this text—by a recorded vote of 77 to 2, with 36 abstentions—on the recommendation of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, where it was approved on 1 December, on a proposal by Ceylon, India, Sudan and the USSR, as revised, and as amended by Pakistan. The vote, by roll call, was 68 to 1, with 42 abstentions.

(For text of resolution 2674(XXV), see **DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.**)

Another text adopted by the General Assembly on general aspects of the question of respect for human rights in armed conflicts was first approved in the Third Committee on 1 December by a roll-call vote of 60 to 16, with 34 abstentions, as sponsored eventually by Belgium, Dahomey, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Haiti, Italy, Madagascar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, Togo and the United States. The text was revised twice, amended by Hungary and sub-amended by the United Kingdom and the United States. The Assembly adopted it as resolution 2676(XXV) on 9 December by a recorded vote of 67 to 30, with 20 abstentions.

By the preambular parts of the text, the Assembly, among other things, noted resolution XI on the humane treatment of prisoners of war adopted by the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross held in 1969 in Istanbul, Turkey. It also took into consideration that the direct repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war, and the repatriation or internment in a neutral country of prisoners of war who had undergone a long period of captivity, constituted important aspects of human rights as advanced and preserved under the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (the third Geneva Convention, of 12 August 1949) and under the United Nations Charter.

By the operative parts of this text, the Assembly:

(1) called upon all parties to any armed conflict to comply with the provisions of the third 1949 Geneva Convention so as to ensure the humane treatment of all persons entitled to the protection of the Convention and, among other things, to permit regular inspection—in accordance with the Convention—of all places of detention of prisoners of war by a protecting power or humanitarian organization, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross;

(2) endorsed the continuing efforts of the International Committee to secure the effective application of the 1949 Geneva Convention;

(3) asked the Secretary-General to exert all efforts to obtain humane treatment for prisoners of war, especially for the victims of armed aggression and colonial suppression;

(4) urged compliance with article 109 of the third 1949 Geneva Convention, which required the repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war and which provided for agreements with a view to the direct repatriation or internment in a neutral country of able-bodied prisoners of war who had undergone a long period of captivity;

(5) urged that combatants in all armed conflicts not covered by article 4 of the Geneva Convention be accorded the same humane treatment defined by the principles of international law applied to prisoners of war;

(6) urged strict compliance with the provisions of the existing international instruments concerning human rights in armed conflicts, and urged those States which had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the relevant instruments in order to facilitate in all aspects the protection of the victims of armed conflicts.

(For text of resolution 2676(XXV), see **DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.**)

By the third text it adopted on general aspects of the question of respect for human rights in armed conflicts, the General Assembly, after, among other things, emphasizing the importance of continued close collaboration between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross:

(1) called upon all parties to any armed conflict to observe the rules laid down in the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other humanitarian rules applicable in armed conflicts, and invited those

states which had not yet done so to adhere to those instruments;

(2) expressed the hope that the conference of government experts to be convened in 1971 by the International Committee of the Red Cross would consider further what development was required in existing humanitarian laws applicable to armed conflicts, and that the conference would make specific recommendations in this respect for consideration;

(3) asked the Secretary-General to: invite early comments by Governments on his reports; transmit his reports—together with Governments' comments thereon and the records of relevant discussions and resolutions of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Commission—to the International Committee of the Red Cross for consideration, as appropriate, by the conference of government experts; and present the comments received by him to the Assembly at its twenty-sixth (1971) session, and report at that session on the results of the conference of government experts and on any other relevant developments;

(4) decided to consider this question again, in all its aspects, at its 1971 session.

The General Assembly took these decisions when it adopted resolution 2677 (XXV) on 9 December—by 111 votes to 0, with 4 abstentions—on the recommendation of its Third Committee, which approved it on 1 December by 104 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions. The text, revised twice, was eventually sponsored by Australia, Belgium, Ceylon, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Spain and the United Kingdom. A draft resolution submitted by Greece was withdrawn when some of the ideas it contained were taken into account in the draft resolution approved by the Committee, and Greece joined the sponsors of that text.

(For text of resolution 2677 (XXV), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS
ENGAGED IN DANGEROUS MISSIONS
IN AREAS OF ARMED CONFLICT

Among the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on respect for human rights in armed conflicts was one having to do with the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict. The text

was recommended by the Assembly's Third Committee, where it was approved on 1 December by a roll-call vote of 81 to 0, with 31 abstentions. It was sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Finland, France, Iran, Japan, Madagascar and Senegal, and revised three times during the course of the discussion. The Assembly adopted the text on 9 December by a recorded vote of 85 to 0, with 32 abstentions, as resolution 2673 (XXV).

By the preambular parts of this text, the Assembly among other things recalled the fundamental principle that a distinction must be made at all times between combatants and persons not taking part in hostilities. It considered it essential for the United Nations to obtain complete information about armed conflicts and that journalists, whatever their nationality, had an important part to play in that regard. It noted with regret that journalists engaged in missions in areas where an armed conflict was taking place sometimes suffered as a result of their professional duty, which was to inform the public objectively.

The Assembly also noted the appeal made by the Secretary-General on 30 September 1970 on behalf of missing journalists. It recognized that certain types of protection could be granted to journalists under various provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, but noted that such provisions did not cover some categories of journalists engaged in dangerous missions and did not correspond to their current needs. It also expressed its conviction of the need for an additional humanitarian international instrument to ensure the better protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, particularly in areas where an armed conflict was taking place.

By the operative parts of the text, the Assembly:

(1) expressed its grave concern about the fate of press correspondents carrying out dangerous missions;

(2) expressed its deepest regret that some of those correspondents had paid with their lives for their conscientious approach to their missions;

(3) invited all States and all authorities who were parties to an armed conflict to respect and apply in all circumstances the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Conventions in so far as they

were applicable—in particular, to war correspondents who accompanied armed forces but were not actually a part of them;

(4) invited the Economic and Social Council to request the Human Rights Commission to consider at its 1971 session the possibility of preparing a draft international agreement ensuring the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions and providing, among other things, for the creation of a universally recognized and guaranteed identification document;

(5) invited the Human Rights Commission to consider the question as a matter of priority at its 1971 session so that a draft international agreement might be adopted as soon as possible by the Assembly or by some other appropriate international body;

(6) asked the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate international organizations, to report on this question to the Assembly in 1971; and

(7) decided to give the highest priority to the question at its 1971 session.

(For text of resolution 2673 (XXV), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN POPULATIONS IN ARMED CONFLICTS

The fifth resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1970 on respect for human rights in armed conflicts was based on a Norwegian proposal setting forth certain basic principles for the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

Among other things, the General Assembly thereby: noted that in the present century the international community had accepted an increased role and new responsibilities for the alleviation of human suffering in any form and in particular during armed conflicts; recalled that to this end a series of international instruments had been adopted, including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949; and recognized the importance of the strict application of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949.

The Assembly then affirmed the following basic principles for the protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts, without prejudice to their future elaboration within the

framework of progressive development of the international law of armed conflict:

(1) Fundamental human rights, as accepted in international law and laid down in international instruments, continue to apply fully in situations of armed conflicts.

(2) In the conduct of military operations during armed conflicts, a distinction must be made at all times between persons actively taking part in the hostilities and civilian populations.

(3) In the conduct of military operations, every effort should be made to spare civilian populations from the ravages of war, and all necessary precautions should be taken to avoid injury, loss or damage to civilian populations.

(4) Civilian populations as such should not be the object of military operations.

(5) Dwellings and other installations that are used only by civilian populations should not be the object of military operations.

(6) Places or areas designated for the sole protection of civilians, such as hospital zones or similar refuges, should not be the object of military operations.

(7) Civilian populations, or individual members thereof, should not be the object of reprisals, forcible transfers or other assaults on their integrity.

(8) The provisions of international relief to civilian populations is in conformity with the humanitarian principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments in the field of human rights. The Declaration of Principles for International Humanitarian Relief to the Civilian Population in Disaster Situations, as laid down in resolution XXVI adopted by the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, shall apply in situations of armed conflict, and all parties to a conflict should make every effort to facilitate this application.

The General Assembly took these decisions when it adopted resolution 2675 (XXV) on 9 December 1970, by 109 votes to 0, with 8 abstentions. It was approved in the Third Committee on 1 December by 98 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions, as proposed by Norway and revised twice by the sponsor.

(For text of resolution 2675 (XXV), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 636-640, 644, 645.
Plenary Meeting 1693.

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters VI and XXIII (Other decisions, p.87).

E/AC.7/L.576. India, Sudan, USSR: draft resolution.
E/4868 and Corr.1.2. Report of Social Committee, paras. 22-23 and 25 (recommendation (f)).

E/4832/Add.1. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council during its resumed 48th session, 11-28 May 1970. Other decisions (on report of Commission on Human Rights), p. 15, para. (f).

GENERAL ASPECTS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1737-1740, 1780-1788, 1792-1804.
Plenary Meeting 1922.

A/7720. Respect for human rights in armed conflicts: report of Secretary-General (of 20 November 1969).

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 11.

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

A/8052. Report of Secretary-General.

A/8089. Report of Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of Population of Occupied Territories.

A/C.3/L.1798. India, Sudan, USSR: draft resolution.
A/C.3/L.1798/Rev.2,3,5. Ceylon, India, Sudan, USSR: revised draft resolution, as amended by Pakistan (A/C.3/L.1815), approved by Third Committee on 1 December 1970, meeting 1803, by roll-call vote of 68 to 1, with 42 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cameroon, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, People's Republic of Congo, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Portugal.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia,

Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Khmer Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

A/C.3/L.1815. Pakistan: amendment to 4-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1798/Rev.5.

A/8178. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution II.

RESOLUTION 2674 (xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8178, adopted by Assembly on 9 December 1970, meeting 1922, by recorded vote of 77 to 2, with 36 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Barbados, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan,* Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, People's Republic of Congo, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Brazil,* Portugal.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Khmer Republic, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

* Subsequently, Brazil and Japan advised the Secretariat that they had intended to abstain.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2597 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and noting resolution XXIII adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968,

Referring to resolution XIII and to the other pertinent resolutions on human rights in armed conflicts adopted by the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross held at Istanbul in 1969,

Expressing its deep concern in connexion with the fact that wars unleashed in violation of the Charter of the United Nations in several parts of the world lead to incalculable disasters and suffering among civilians,

Having considered with appreciation the Secretary-General's report on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,

1. Solemnly reaffirms that, in order effectively to guarantee human rights, all States should devote their efforts to averting the unleashing of aggressive wars and armed conflicts that violate the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

2. Condemns the actions of countries which, in flagrant violation of the Charter, continue to conduct aggressive wars and defy the generally accepted principles of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

3. Considers that the principles of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 should be strictly observed by all States and that States violating these international instruments should be condemned and held responsible to the world community;

4. Affirms that the participants in resistance movements and the freedom fighters in southern Africa and territories under colonial and alien domination and foreign occupation, struggling for their liberation and self-determination, should be treated, in case of their arrest, as prisoners of war in accordance with the principles of the Hague Convention of 1907 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

5. Considers that air bombardments of civilian populations and the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of all analogous liquids, materials and devices, as well as bacteriological (biological) weapons, constitute a flagrant violation of the Hague Convention of 1907, the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

6. Recognizes the necessity of developing additional international instruments providing for the protection of civilian populations and freedom fighters against colonial and foreign domination as well as against racist regimes.

A/C.3/L.1808. Australia, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Greece, Haiti, Italy, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Togo, United Kingdom, United States: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.1808/Rev.1,2 and Rev.2/Corr.1. Belgium, Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Greece, Haiti, Italy, Madagascar, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Togo, United States: revised draft resolution, as amended by Hungary (A/C.3/L.1814/Rev.1, as amended; A/C.3/L.1817, para. 1) and by 2 powers (A/C.3/L.1816, as amended), approved by Third Committee on 1 December 1970, meeting 1803, by roll-call vote of 60 to 16, with 34 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Can-

ada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Khmer Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Philippines, Rwanda, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania.

Abstaining: Botswana, Burma, Burundi, Ceylon, Chad, France, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Republic of Congo, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Republic, Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

A/C.3/L.1814. Hungary: amendments to 12-power revised draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1808/Rev.1.

A/C.3/L.1814/Rev.1. Hungary: revised amendments to 12-power revised draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1808/Rev.2 and Corr.1.

A/C.3/L.1816. United Kingdom and United States: sub-amendments to Hungarian revised amendments, A/C.3/L.1814/Rev.1.

A/C.3/L.1817. Hungary: amendments to 2-power sub-amendments, A/C.3/L.1816.

A/8178. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution IV.

RESOLUTION 2676(xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8178, adopted by Assembly on 9 December 1970, meeting 1922, by recorded vote of 67 to 30, with 20 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Khmer Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Singapore, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Guinea, Hungary, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nigeria, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, People's Republic of Congo, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia,

Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Abstaining: Botswana, Burma, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, France, Gambia, Guyana, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, United Arab Republic.

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations affirms faith in the dignity and worth of the human person,

Recalling that the United Nations has as one of its purposes the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of a humanitarian character and the promotion of respect for human rights,

Reiterating the obligation of Member States for the urgent termination of all armed aggression, as envisaged in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter and in other relevant documents of the United Nations,

Noting the obligation of Member States under the Charter to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights,

Recalling its resolutions 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2597 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it invited the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, to study, inter alia:

(a) Steps which could be taken to secure the better application of existing humanitarian international conventions and rules in all armed conflicts,

(b) The need for additional humanitarian international conventions or for other appropriate legal instruments to ensure the better protection of civilians, prisoners and combatants in all armed conflicts,

Believing, therefore, that the treatment accorded to victims of war and armed aggression is a concern of the United Nations,

Noting resolution XI, adopted by the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross held at Istanbul in 1969, calling upon all parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, of 12 August 1949, to ensure that all persons entitled to prisoner-of-war status are treated humanely and given the fullest measure of protection prescribed by the Convention, and that all parties involved in an armed conflict, no matter how it is characterized, provide free access to prisoners of war and to all places of their detention by a protecting Power or by the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Considering that the direct repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war and the repatriation or internment in a neutral country of prisoners of war who have undergone a long period of captivity constitute important aspects of human rights as advanced and preserved under the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Calls upon all parties to any armed conflict to comply with the terms and provisions of the Geneva (Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of

War, of 12 August 1949, so as to ensure the humane treatment of all persons entitled to the protection of the Convention and, inter alia, to permit regular inspection, in accordance with the Convention, of all places of detention of prisoners of war by a protecting Power or humanitarian organization such as the International Committee of the Red Cross;

2. Endorses the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to secure the effective application of the Geneva Convention of 1949;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to exert all efforts to obtain humane treatment for prisoners of war, especially for the victims of armed aggression and colonial suppression;

4. Urges compliance with article 109 of the Geneva Convention of 1949, which requires the repatriation of seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war and which provides for agreements with a view to the direct repatriation or internment in a neutral country of able-bodied prisoners of war who have undergone a long period of captivity;

5. Urges that combatants in all armed conflicts not covered by article 4 of the Geneva Convention of 1949 be accorded the same humane treatment defined by the principles of international law applied to prisoners of war;

6. Urges strict compliance with the provisions of the existing international instruments concerning human rights in armed conflicts, and urges those States which have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the relevant instruments in order to facilitate in all aspects the protection of the victims of armed conflicts.

A/C.3/L.1807. Greece: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.1809. Ceylon, Ireland, Netherlands, Philippines, United Kingdom: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.1809/Rev.1,2. Australia, Belgium, Ceylon, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, United Kingdom: revised draft resolution, approved by Third Committee on 1 December 1970, meeting 1803, by 104 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.

A/8178. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution V.

RESOLUTION 2677 (xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8178, adopted by Assembly on 9 December 1970, meeting 1922, by 111 votes to 0, with 4 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Determined to continue all efforts to eliminate the threat or use of force in international relations, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, and to bring about general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Reaffirming its desire to secure the full observance of human rights applicable in all armed conflicts pending the earliest possible termination of such conflicts,

Convinced of the continuing value of existing humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts, in particular the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the

Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949,

Realizing, however, that because existing humanitarian rules do not adequately meet all contemporary situations of armed conflict it is necessary to develop the substance of these rules and procedures for their implementation,

Reaffirming the principles contained in resolution XXIII adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968, and in General Assembly resolutions 2444(XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2597(XXIV) of 16 December 1969,

Aware of the importance and complexity of the tasks undertaken in pursuance of these resolutions, which require the continuing attention and concern of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the international community as a whole,

Noting with appreciation the two reports of the Secretary-General on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,

Recalling resolution XIII adopted unanimously by the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross held at Istanbul in 1969, concerning the reaffirmation and development of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts,

Welcoming the decision of the International Committee of the Red Cross to convene at Geneva, from 24 May to 12 June 1971, a conference on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts, to be attended by government experts,

Believing that one or more plenipotentiary diplomatic conferences of States parties to the Geneva Conventions and other interested States might be convened at an appropriate time, after due preparation, in order to adopt international legal instruments for the reaffirmation and development of humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts,

Considering that the effective implementation of humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts can best be attained if those rules are laid down in widely accepted agreements,

Emphasizing the importance of continued close collaboration between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross,

1. Calls upon all parties to any armed conflict to observe the rules laid down in the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other humanitarian rules applicable in armed conflicts, and invites those States which have not yet done so to adhere to those instruments;

2. Expresses the hope that the conference of government experts to be convened in 1971 by the International Committee of the Red Cross will consider further what development is required in existing humanitarian laws applicable to armed conflicts, and that it will make specific recommendations in this respect for consideration by Governments;

3. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To invite early comments by Governments on his reports;

(b) To transmit his reports and the comments of

Governments thereon, together with the records of relevant discussions and resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, to the International Committee of the Red Cross for consideration, as appropriate, by the conference of government experts;

(c) To present the comments received to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session and to report at that session on the results of the conference of government experts to be convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross and on any other relevant developments;

4. Decides to consider this question again, in all its aspects, at the twenty-sixth session.

PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS ENGAGED IN DANGEROUS MISSIONS

A/C.3/L.1797. Austria, Finland, France, Iran, Japan, Madagascar, Senegal: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.1797/Rev.1-3. Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Finland, France, Iran, Japan, Madagascar, Senegal: revised draft resolution, co-sponsored orally by Belgium, approved by Third Committee on 1 December 1970, meeting 1803, by roll-call vote of 81 to 0, with 31 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, Canada, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Kuwait, Malawi, Mongolia, Nigeria, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, People's Republic of Congo, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia.

A/8178. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution I.

RESOLUTION 2673 (xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8178, adopted by Assembly on 9 December 1970, meeting 1922, by recorded vote of 85 to 0, with 32 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Cam-

eroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Central African Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Kuwait, Malawi, Mongolia, Nigeria, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, People's Republic of Congo, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, in which it invited the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate international organizations, to study:

(a) Steps which could be taken to secure the better application of existing humanitarian international conventions and rules in all armed conflicts,

(b) The need for additional humanitarian international conventions or for other appropriate legal instruments to ensure the better protection of civilians, prisoners and combatants in all armed conflicts,

Recalling also the fundamental principle that a distinction must be made at all times between combatants and persons not taking part in the hostilities,

Considering that it is essential for the United Nations to obtain complete information concerning armed conflicts and that journalists, whatever their nationality, have an important role to play in that regard,

Noting with regret that journalists engaged in missions in areas where an armed conflict is taking place sometimes suffer as a result of their professional duty, which is to inform world public opinion objectively,

Bearing in mind the appeal made by the Secretary-General on 30 September 1970 on behalf of missing journalists,

Recognizing that certain types of protection can be granted to journalists under:

(a) Article 4 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, of 12 August 1949,

(b) Article 13 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, of 12 August 1949,

(c) Article 13 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, of 12 August 1949,

(d) Article 4 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,

Being aware, however, that these provisions do not cover some categories of journalists engaged in dangerous missions and do not correspond to their present needs,

Convinced of the need for an additional humanitarian international instrument to ensure the better protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions, particularly in areas where an armed conflict is taking place,

1. Expresses its grave concern about the fate of press correspondents carrying out dangerous missions;

2. Expresses its deepest regret that some of those correspondents have paid with their lives for their conscientious approach to their missions;

3. Invites all States and all authorities parties to an armed conflict to respect and apply in all circumstances the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 in so far as they are applicable, in particular, to war correspondents who accompany armed forces but are not actually a part of them;

4. Invites the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights to consider at its twenty-seventh session the possibility of preparing a draft international agreement ensuring the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions and providing, inter alia, for the creation of a universally recognized and guaranteed identification document;

5. Invites the Commission on Human Rights to consider this question as a matter of priority at its twenty-seventh session in order that a draft international agreement may be adopted as soon as possible by the General Assembly or by some other appropriate international body;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate international organizations, to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session;

7. Decides to give the highest priority to the consideration of this question at its twenty-sixth session.

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN POPULATIONS IN ARMED CONFLICTS

A/C.3/L.1806 and Rev.1,2. Norway: draft resolution and revisions, approved by Third Committee on 1 December 1970, meeting 1803, by 98 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions.

A/8178. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution III.

RESOLUTION 2675 (xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8178, adopted by Assembly on 9 December 1970, meeting 1922, by 109 votes to 0, with 8 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Noting that in the present century the international community has accepted an increased role and new responsibilities for the alleviation of human suffering in any form and in particular during armed conflicts,

Recalling that to this end a series of international instruments has been adopted, including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949,

Recalling further its resolution 2444(XXIII) of 19 December 1968 on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,

Bearing in mind the need for measures to ensure the better protection of human rights in armed conflicts of all types,

Noting with appreciation the work that is being undertaken in this respect by the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Noting with appreciation the reports of the Secretary-General on respect for human rights in armed conflicts,

Convinced that civilian populations are in special need of increased protection in time of armed conflicts,

Recognizing the importance of the strict application of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,

Affirms the following basic principles for the protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts, without prejudice to their future elaboration within the framework of progressive development of the international law of armed conflict:

1. Fundamental human rights, as accepted in international law and laid down in international instruments, continue to apply fully in situations of **armed conflict**.

2. In the conduct of military operations during armed conflicts, a distinction must be made at all times between persons actively taking part in the hostilities and civilian populations.

3. In the conduct of military operations, every effort should be made to spare civilian populations from the ravages of war, and all necessary precautions should be taken to avoid injury, loss or damage to civilian populations.

4. Civilian populations as such should not be the object of military operations.

5. Dwellings and other installations that are used only by civilian populations should not be the object of military operations.

6. Places or areas designated for the sole protection of civilians, such as hospital zones or similar refuges, should not be the object of military operations.

7. Civilian populations, or individual members thereof, should not be the object of reprisals, forcible transfers or other assaults on their integrity.

8. The provision of international relief to civilian populations is in conformity with the humanitarian principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments in the field of human rights. The Declaration of Principles for International Humanitarian Relief to the Civilian Population in Disaster Situations, as laid down in resolution XXVI adopted by the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, shall apply in situations of armed conflict, and all parties to a conflict should make every effort to facilitate this application.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN

During 1970, various questions relating to the status of women were discussed in the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

At its twenty-third session, held from 23 March to 10 April 1970, the Commission on the Status of Women discussed the following topics: the implementation of international instruments and national standards for the rights of women; the development of women's role in society; the role of women in the family; the protection of women and children in emergency or war-time, fighting for peace, national liberation and independence; a review of the Commission's programme and periodicity of its sessions; regional activities relating to the status of women; the influence of activities of foreign economic and other interests on the living conditions of women in dependent territories; and advisory services in the field of human rights.

A description of these and related matters is given in the sections that follow.

IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS FOR RIGHTS OF WOMEN

DECLARATION ON ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

In 1968, the Economic and Social Council instituted a system of reporting²² on the implementation of the 1967 Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.²³

In accordance with that procedure, and a resolution adopted by it at its 1969 session,²⁴

²² See Y.U.N., 1968, p. 577, text of resolution 1325 (XLIV).

²³ See Y.U.N., 1967, pp. 521-22, resolution 2263 (XXII), containing text of Declaration.

²⁴ See Y.U.N., 1969, p. 517.

the Commission on the Status of Women at its session in March-April 1970 considered a report of the Secretary-General—based on replies received up to 10 January 1970 from 47 Governments, two specialized agencies and 12 non-governmental organizations—relating to the publicity they had given to the Declaration and action taken to comply with its provisions.

The Commission also had before it a report on the publicity given to the Declaration by the United Nations.

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

With regard to implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, adopted by the General Assembly in 1952,²⁵ the Commission on the Status of Women had before it at its 1970 session a report by the Secretary-General which showed that relevant provisions of constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments of most countries guaranteed women equal political rights with men. The report also indicated, however, that in some countries women still did not have the right to vote or that right was restricted in some way.

A further report, including information furnished by Member States on the implementation of the Convention, was prepared for the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session later in 1970.

PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

On 6 April 1970, the Commission on the Status of Women asked the Secretary-General to prepare for the Commission's information at each of its sessions a summary of those parts of the periodic reports on human rights which related to the status of women. It decided to consider at future sessions any relevant information in the Secretary-General's summary in connexion with the implementation of international instruments relating to the status of women, including the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. (See also pp. 568-69.)

THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S ROLE IN SOCIETY

UNIFIED LONG-TERM PROGRAMME FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

At its 1970 session, the Commission on the Status of Women considered two reports of the

Secretary-General concerning the unified long-term programme for the advancement of women and United Nations assistance in that field. The first contained an analysis of the replies of 77 Governments and 35 non-governmental organizations to a questionnaire on the role of women in the economic and social development of their countries. In the second report, the Secretary-General reviewed the action taken relating to the long-term programme and presented a number of suggestions for the Commission's consideration.

The Commission adopted five resolutions within the framework of the unified long-term programme. Two of these dealt specifically with the programme, two with the employment of women by the organizations of the United Nations system, and one with family responsibilities of working women.

By the first of the resolutions dealing with the long-term programme, the Commission among other things asked the Secretary-General to forward his second report to United Nations Member States, members of the specialized agencies concerned, the United Nations Children's Fund and other organizations, together with the resolutions adopted by the Commission and comments and suggestions of its members, and to present an analysis of replies received, if possible to the Commission's next session. He was also asked to examine the possibility of rendering to Member States—under the human rights advisory services programme—new types of assistance in the field of the status of women, and to establish and maintain a list of experts and consultants who would be available to Governments on request.

The Commission also asked the Secretary-General to undertake a study showing the extent to which existing international conventions already contained provisions relating to rights covered by the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the measures of implementation provided under such conventions, and the status of ratifications and accessions to them. The Secretary-General, Member States and organizations concerned

²⁵ See Y.U.N., 1952, pp. 484-85, text of resolution 640(VII), containing text of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women.

were asked to increase their efforts to publicize the Commission's work, especially in connexion with the celebration in 1970 of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The second resolution on the long-term programme recommended a text for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly and was directed primarily towards encouraging the expansion of technical co-operation activities to assist women. It also set forth in an annex a number of general objectives and targets which it was hoped might be achieved during the Second United Nations Development Decade (the 1970s).

The Economic and Social Council approved the Commission's proposal, with some minor changes, as its resolution 1511(XLVIII), which it adopted on 28 May 1970, by 25 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

At its twenty-fifth session later in 1970, the General Assembly adopted the text unanimously on 15 December as its resolution 2716(XXV) on the recommendation of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, which approved it unanimously, as amended, on 11 December.

By this, the General Assembly among other things recommended that certain objectives and targets—set forth in an annex—should be achieved as widely as possible during the Second United Nations Development Decade. States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and all organs and agencies within the United Nations system were invited to co-operate in achieving these objectives and targets.

The Assembly also recommended that concerted efforts be made to increase the resources available for technical co-operation projects that advanced the status of women, and that consideration be given to allocating a specific percentage of the available funds for that purpose. The Secretary-General was asked to make available to the Commission on the Status of Women information on the extent to which women were participating in, and benefiting from, technical co-operation projects.

The Assembly also recommended that conferences, seminars and similar meetings at the regional and international levels should be or-

ganized with the participation, wherever possible, of ministers, of high government officials and specialists concerned with problems of development, and of representatives of non-governmental organizations concerned, to consider ways and means of promoting the status of women within the framework of over-all development.

It was also suggested by the Assembly that the continuous education of adults be encouraged with a view to changing their attitudes towards the roles to be played by men and women in order to help them to assume their responsibilities in society. Notwithstanding these provisions, the Assembly noted that the family, as the corner-stone of society, must be protected.

In the annex to the resolution, nine general objectives were formulated in which special emphasis was placed on the need to develop effective large-scale educational and informational programmes, using all types of mass media and other available means to make the population aware of the norms established by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in conventions, recommendations, declarations and resolutions adopted under their auspices; and on the need for assessing women's contribution to national development so that realistic targets could be established by 1980 and for elaborating programmes conducive to the advancement of the status of women within the framework of over-all national development plans.

Minimum targets to be achieved during the Second United Nations Development Decade were also set forth in the annex to the resolution and included measures relating to: education; training and employment; health and maternity protection; and administration and public life.

(For text of resolution 2716(XXV) and its annex, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

In another resolution adopted at its 1970 session, the Commission on the Status of Women among other things recommended to the Secretary-General, to the Directors-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and to the Execu-

tive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), that they make a special effort to appoint qualified women to fill future vacancies in the highest ranks of the international civil service. The Secretary-General was asked to transmit the Commission's resolution to Member States so that they could in due course publicize vacancies and encourage the candidatures of their most qualified women nationals for such posts.

The Economic and Social Council, acting on another, related, recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, adopted on 28 May resolution 1510(XLVIII), which was endorsed by the General Assembly later in 1970 when it adopted resolution 2715 (XXV) on 15 December.

By this, among other things the Assembly: expressed the hope that the United Nations, including its special bodies and all inter-governmental agencies in the United Nations system, would set an example with regard to opportunities they afforded for the employment of women at senior and other professional levels; urged them to take or continue to take appropriate measures to ensure equal opportunities for the employment of women at these levels; and asked the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Assembly on the composition of the Secretariat data on the employment of women at senior and other professional levels by the secretariats of the above-mentioned bodies, including their numbers and the positions they occupied.

(For details and texts of resolutions 1510 (XLVIII) and 2715 (XXV), see pp. 831-33.)

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES OF WORKING WOMEN

Also within the framework of the unified long-term programme, on 8 April 1970 the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a resolution which, among other things, called on the Secretary-General to suggest to Governments that they organize—in collaboration with the specialized agencies concerned and non-governmental organizations interested in the problem—surveys in their respective countries with a view to obtaining direct information and opinions from working women concerning their family responsibilities. The results of the surveys

were to be brought to the Commission's attention by the Secretary-General.

The Commission also decided to carry out relevant studies, in the light of the surveys, to consider the need for an educational campaign to provide guidance on the sharing of responsibilities within the family, bearing in mind the rapid changes taking place in the structure of labour in human society owing to the growth of women's participation in paid work.

WOMEN'S SERVICE AS MEANS OF ENABLING WOMEN TO WORK WITHOUT PAY FOR BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY

During its 1970 session, the Commission on the Status of Women considered a report by the Secretary-General containing a summary of replies from 15 Governments on their experience relating to women's service as a means of enabling women to work without pay for the benefit of the community. It adopted a resolution by which, among other things, it expressed the hope that regional seminars on women's civic service would be organized within the framework of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; and invited the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission any subsequent information, together with reports on any seminars that might be held on women's civic service.

(See also pp. 559-61.)

ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION

At its 1970 session, the Commission on the Status of Women considered two reports by UNESCO—the first containing an analysis of replies received from Governments on co-education and a synthesis of information furnished by non-governmental organizations on the same question. The second report dealt with the equal access of women to literacy and was also accompanied by a report from non-governmental organizations.

In a resolution on co-education, the Commission among other things expressed the hope that United Nations Member States would give girls and women access in co-educational establishments to the same curricula and instruction at all levels as were offered to boys and men, and that they would undertake studies on the results of co-education and its psychological

effects on boys and girls. It recommended that scholarships, loans and adequate facilities be provided to ensure the enrolment of girls and women in co-educational establishments and that a public education campaign in favour of equal access to education be undertaken. The Commission asked UNESCO and other specialized agencies concerned to include in their reports to the Commission information on the development of co-education, and the access of girls and women to education, training and careers corresponding to their aptitudes and qualifications.

With respect to the elimination of illiteracy among women, the Commission on the Status of Women proposed a text for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, which the Council adopted unanimously on 28 May 1970 as its resolution 1512(XLVIII), as recommended by its Social Committee.

By this, the Council among other things appealed to Member States, non-governmental organizations and other voluntary organizations to intensify their efforts to enable women in both rural and urban regions to start or continue their education, making full use of all the available adult education programmes. The Council requested UNESCO to assign an important place in its functional literacy programmes to women who were still illiterate and to assist all governmental and non-governmental literacy undertakings by acquainting them with modern techniques for overcoming illiteracy.

The Council also suggested certain activities which non-governmental organizations should undertake or continue, aimed at public opinion, national parliaments and public authorities.

(For text of resolution 1512(XLVIII), see **DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.**)

ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Commission on the Status of Women at its 1970 session considered reports by ILO which had a bearing on the employment of women and on repercussions of scientific and technological progress on the conditions of work and employment of women. It also had before it the report of the seminar on the effects of scientific and technological developments on the status of women, held at Iasi, Romania, in August 1969.²⁶

The Commission on 3 April adopted a draft resolution which the Economic and Social Council endorsed unanimously on 28 May as its resolution 1513(XLVIII), as recommended by its Social Committee.

By this, the Council among other things noted with satisfaction the attention being given by the United Nations to examining the effects of scientific and technological progress on the status of women in contemporary society. It also drew the attention of Member States and interested international organizations to the conclusions of the seminar on that topic held at Iasi, Romania, in 1969.

The Council then requested Member States to: (a) make available, for boys and girls equally, appropriate general education that would prepare the ground for flexible vocational training; (b) ensure equal access to continuing adult education, accelerated vocational and other training and re-training; (c) see to it that new opportunities for employment were accorded on the basis of individual ability and aptitudes, irrespective of sex and without division of work into men's and women's work; (d) see to it that no reduction was permitted in the employment of women, in particular in skilled work; and (e) pay special attention to the problems of environment, social installations, hygiene and occupational safety associated with scientific and technological progress.

The Council asked the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned—particularly ILO—as well as Member States, to continue to study the repercussions of scientific and technological progress on the conditions of work and employment of women and to report periodically on the question to the Commission on the Status of Women.

The Council also requested ILO to study ways of evaluating work which would permit the efficient implementation of the principle of real equality of pay for women and men for equal work, and to continue its review of international conventions in the light of the changes brought about by scientific and technological progress.

(For text of resolution 1513(XLVIII), see **DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.**)

²⁶See Y.U.N., 1969, p. 522.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

STATUS OF WOMEN AND FAMILY PLANNING

The Commission on the Status of Women considered the question of the status of women and family planning on the basis of a progress report by its Special Rapporteur, who had been appointed by the Economic and Social Council in 1968 to undertake the study of the relationship between the status of women and family planning.²⁷ The study was initially to be based on national surveys or case studies, but the Special Rapporteur, Mrs. Helvi Sipilä, said that few Governments had been able to undertake such studies and she suggested that the preparation of detailed guidelines might be an aid.

The Commission invited the Special Rapporteur to continue the study as outlined in her progress report and asked her to prepare guidelines—in collaboration with the Secretary-General—that would assist Governments in undertaking national surveys and aid United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations in further work on the subject.

The Commission also asked Member States to furnish the necessary information in accordance with such guidelines and invited the Special Rapporteur to consider, as a means of assisting her and within the resources available, holding consultations at the regional and national levels with appropriate national and international officials, experts and women leaders.

STATUS OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER

When the Commission on the Status of Women at its 1970 session considered the question of the status of the unmarried mother, it had before it a study prepared for the Commission by the Secretary-General, based in large part on a study prepared for the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights on discrimination against persons born out of wedlock, and on the series of regional seminars on the status of women in family law organized under the human rights advisory services programme during 1961-1964. The Secretary-General's study dealt primarily with law and practice relating to the unmarried mother.

The Commission on the Status of Women expressed the hope that the Secretary-General's

study would be given wide dissemination in an appropriate form, and proposed two draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

One of these set forth a number of general principles designed to eliminate any prevailing legal and social discrimination against the unmarried mother. The Economic and Social Council decided on 28 May 1970 to take no action on the draft resolution and asked the Secretary-General to forward it to Governments for their comments in order that the Commission might reconsider the draft in the light of replies received.

The other text proposed by the Commission was adopted unanimously by the Economic and Social Council on 28 May as its resolution 1514 (XLVIII), on the recommendation of its Social Committee.

By this, the Council among other things urged United Nations Members and members of the specialized agencies that had not yet done so to take adequate measures of social assistance in favour of the unmarried mother and the child born out of wedlock, and invited study by Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations of the problems posed by the integration of the unmarried mother and her child in all spheres of society.

The Council also invited Member States to elaborate for adolescents of both sexes educational programmes aimed at making them aware of their future family responsibilities. It invited the Secretary-General to devote a part of the report on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the study of the problems posed by the integration of the unmarried mother and her child in all spheres of society on the basis of information furnished by Member States and by specialized agencies.

(For text of resolution 1514(XLVIII), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

PROTECTION OF WOMEN
AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY
AND OTHER SITUATIONS

At its 1970 session, the Commission on the Status of Women had before it a report by the

²⁷ See Y.U.N., 1968, pp. 579-80, text of resolution 1326 (XLIV).

Secretary-General on the protection of women and children in emergency or war-time, fighting for peace, national liberation and independence. The Commission submitted a draft resolution for consideration by the Economic and Social Council, which endorsed it as resolution 1515(XLVIII) on 28 May 1970—by 22 votes to 0, with 4 abstentions—on the Social Committee's recommendation.

By this, the Council among other things renewed its appeal to women throughout the world to contribute, in their families and communities, to the establishment of peace and justice and towards finding a just solution to armed conflict.

It called upon States to abide fully by their obligations under the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and other rules of international law concerning respect for human rights in armed conflicts.

The Council then asked the Secretary-General: (a) to give particular attention—in his study on respect for human rights in armed conflicts—to the question of protection of women and children in emergency or war-time; (b) to consider further measures of promoting throughout the world a wider knowledge of the plight of women and children victims of armed conflicts, and of the existing international rules providing protection for women and children in armed conflicts; and (c) to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session a report containing information available from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other appropriate United Nations bodies and the International Committee of the Red Cross, on the conditions of women and children in emergency and armed conflicts in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence.

The Council then requested the General Assembly to consider the possibility of drafting a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency or war-time. It also decided that the question should again be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session.

(For text of resolution 1515(XLVIII), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

At the General Assembly's twenty-fifth session later in 1970, a draft resolution on the subject, proposed by Algeria, Kenya, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Syria and the USSR in the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee), was not pressed to a vote.

By this text, the Assembly would, among other things, have expressed its concern with the tragic situation of women and children in the occupied territories of the Middle East, in southern Africa and in other parts of the world. It would have asked the Secretary-General—making use of the services of UNRWA, UNICEF, the International Red Cross and other appropriate organizations—to submit in 1971 a report on the situation of women and children in conditions of war in the Middle East, and also in southern Africa, and in emergency or fighting for peace, national liberation and independence in other parts of the world.

The Assembly would also have requested the Commission on the Status of Women to prepare a draft declaration on this question for submission to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

PERIODICITY OF COMMISSION SESSIONS AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Commission on the Status of Women on 9 April 1970 asked the Economic and Social Council—when it considered the question of the calendar of conferences at its session in July 1970—to accede to a 1969 request of the General Assembly²⁸ and reconsider its decision of 8 August 1969²⁹ that the Commission should meet biennially, so that the Commission might continue to meet annually, preferably three to four months after the General Assembly.

In this connexion, the Council's Committee for Programme and Co-ordination recommended, at its session in April-May 1970, that the Commission should meet biennially.

On 31 July 1970, without the adoption of a formal resolution, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed its decision of 8 August 1969 that the Commission on the Status of Women should meet biennially, with effect from 1 January 1971.

²⁸ See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 524-25, text of resolution 2587 (XXIV).

²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 521.

On 28 May 1970, the Council, in unanimously adopting resolution 1517(XLVIII) as recommended by its Social Committee, approved the programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

(For text of resolution 1517(XLVIII), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

INCREASED ACTIVITIES RELATING TO STATUS OF WOMEN AT REGIONAL LEVEL

On 9 April 1970, the Commission on the Status of Women approved a draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council on the question of increased activities relating to the status of women at the regional level.

By this text, the Economic and Social Council would, among other things, express the belief that the Commission on the Status of Women would benefit greatly in its work by the establishment of regional inter-governmental commissions in parts of the world where they did not yet exist. It would recommend the establishment of such commissions to make more effective the resolutions and measures adopted in favour of women and to promote wider integration of women into all spheres of development of their countries.

The Council would also ask the Secretary-General to assist, within the limits of the resources available to him, in establishing preparatory bodies which would consider the steps necessary to create the recommended regional commissions for the status of women. He would also be requested by the Council to invite the regional economic commissions to take whatever action might be necessary to incorporate programmes that would increase the participation of women in their regional activities, to send observers on economic and social development to meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, and to include in their reports to the Council information on steps taken to integrate women in the economic and social development of their countries.

The Council's Social Committee approved this text on 25 May by 12 votes to 2, with 11 abstentions. The Council, however, decided on 28 May to refer the draft resolution back to the Commission on the Status of Women for more detailed consideration. The Council further de-

cided to transmit the draft to Governments represented on the Commission in order to ascertain their views on it.

Also considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its 1970 session was the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN INTERESTS ON LIVING CONDITIONS OF WOMEN IN DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

At its 1970 session, the Commission on the Status of Women again considered the question of the influence of activities of foreign economic and other interests on the living conditions of women in dependent territories.³⁰ On 9 April, it adopted a text for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, which was endorsed by the Council—as its resolution 1516 (XLVIII)—on 28 May by 16 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions, on the recommendation of the Council's Social Committee, where it was approved on 25 May by 18 votes to 0, with 7 abstentions.

By this text, the Council among other things requested the General Assembly to invite the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the question of the influence of activities of foreign economic and other interests on the living conditions of women in dependent territories, in order that the study might be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session.

(For text of resolution 1516 (XLVIII), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

ADVISORY SERVICES

Two of the resolutions which were adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its 1970 session, and which are described above, had a bearing on the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights.

In connexion with the unified long-term programme for the advancement of women, the Commission asked the Secretary-General to examine the possibility of rendering to Member

³⁰ Ibid., p. 516.

States, under the advisory services programme, new types of assistance in the field of the status of women.

In its resolution relating to women's service as a means of enabling women to work without pay for the benefit of the community, the Commission expressed the hope that regional seminars on women's civic service would be organized within the framework of the advisory services programme.

The Commission also had before it at its 1970 session a report of the Secretary-General describing the current programme of advisory services in the human rights field and the report of the 1969 seminar on the effects of scientific and technological developments on the status of women held at Iasi, Romania.³¹

The Commission was informed that the Gov-

ernment of Gabon had extended an invitation to hold a seminar on the status of women in 1971.

A seminar on the participation of women in the economic life of their countries (with reference to article 10 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) was held at Moscow, USSR, from 8 to 21 September 1970. It was attended by representatives of 29 Governments, observers from three Governments and observers from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

(For further details about the advisory services programme, see pp. 559-61.)

³¹ See footnote 26.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS FOR RIGHTS OF WOMEN

DECLARATION ON ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapter II A.

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapter II B.

A/8003 and Corr.1. Report of Economic and Social Council, 9 August 1969-31 July 1970, Chapter IX N, paras. 353-354.

A/8132 and Add.1. Report of Secretary-General.

PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapters II C and XII (resolution 1 (XXIII)).

THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S ROLE IN SOCIETY

UNIFIED LONG-TERM PROGRAMME FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 644-647.
Plenary Meeting 1694.

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapters III A and XII (resolutions 2 (XXIII), 3 (XXIII) and 4 (XXIII)), and Chapter XIII (draft resolutions I and II),

E/4831, Chapter XIII. Draft resolution II as submitted by Commission, as orally revised, approved by Social Committee on 25 May 1970, meeting 647, by 21 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

E/4846/Rev.1. Report of Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its 5th session, 27 April-12 May 1970, Chapter III C (2).

E/4870. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution II.

RESOLUTION 1511(XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4870, adopted by Council on 28 May 1970, meeting 1694, by 25 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

The Economic and Social Council
Invites the General Assembly to adopt the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,
"Recalling its resolution 1777(XVII) of 7 December 1962 initiating the study of a unified, long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women,

"Recalling also the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted on 7 November 1967, and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development adopted on 11 December 1969,

"Noting resolution IX of the International Conference on Human Rights, held in Teheran in 1968, on measures to promote women's rights in the modern world, including a unified, long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women which established guidelines for such a programme,

"Noting also that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2571 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969 arrangements should be made 'to keep under systematic scrutiny the progress towards achieving the

goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to identify shortfalls in their achievement and the policies that are not consistent with the attainment of those objectives and to recommend positive measures, including new goals and policies as needed.'

"Expressing the hope that general and complete disarmament will allow for the use of the resources released progressively for purposes of economic and social progress of all peoples and in particular elaboration of programmes designed to advance the status of women,

"Believing that a programme of concerted international action, planned on a long-term basis, will advance the status of women and increase their effective participation in all sectors,

"Considering that the success of such a programme will require intensified action on the part of Member States at the national and regional levels, as well as maximum use of the methods and techniques available through the United Nations system of organizations,

"Believing that an important step in the further development of such a programme would be the establishment of concrete objectives and minimum targets,

"1. Recommends that the objectives and targets set forth in the annex to the present resolution should be achieved as widely as possible during the Second United Nations Development Decade;

"2. Invites States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies and all organs and agencies within the United Nations system to co-operate in achieving these objectives and targets, and hopes that adequate staff and resources will be made available for this purpose;

"3. Recommends that concerted efforts be made to increase the resources available for technical co-operation projects which advance the status of women and that consideration be given to allocating a specific percentage of the available funds for this purpose;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission on the Status of Women, if possible at its twenty-fourth session, information on the extent to which women are participating in, and benefiting from, technical co-operation projects;

"5. Recommends that conferences, seminars and similar meetings at the regional and international levels be organized with the participation, wherever possible, of ministers, high government officials and specialists concerned with problems of development, and of representatives of non-governmental organizations concerned with this problem to consider ways and means of promoting the status of women within the framework of over-all development;

"6. Draws attention to the important role that may also be played in this respect by the regional training and research institutes for social development, to be established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1406(XLVI) of 5 June 1969;

"7. Suggests that the continuous education of adults be encouraged in order to help to change in particular their attitude of mind towards the roles to be played by men and women in order to help them to assume their responsibilities in society.

"ANNEX

"I. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

"(1) The ratification of, or accession to, the relevant international conventions relating to the status of women.

"(2) The enactment of legislation to bring national laws into conformity with international instruments relating to the status of women, including in particular the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

"(3) The taking of effective legal and other measures to ensure the full implementation of these instruments.

"(4) The development of effective large-scale educational and informational programmes using all mass media and other available means to make all sectors of the population in rural as well as urban areas fully aware of the norms established by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the conventions, recommendations, declarations and resolutions adopted under their auspices and to educate public opinion and enlist its support for all measures aimed at achieving the realization of the standards set forth.

"(5) The assessment and evaluation of women's contribution to the various economic and social sectors in relation to the country's over-all development plans and programmes, with a view to the establishment of specific objectives and minimum targets which might realistically be achieved by 1980 to increase the effective contribution of women to the various sectors.

"(6) The study of the positive and negative effects of scientific and technological change on the status of women, with a view to ensuring continuous progress, especially as regards the education and training as well as the living conditions and employment of women.

"(7) The elaboration of short-term and long-term programmes to achieve these specific objectives and minimum targets, where possible within the framework of over-all national development plans or programmes, and the provision of adequate funds for programmes which advance the status of women.

"(8) The establishment of machinery and procedures to make possible the continuous review and evaluation of women's integration into all sectors of economic and social life and their contribution to development.

"(9) The full utilization of the desire and readiness of women to devote their energies, talents and abilities to the benefit of society.

"II. MINIMUM TARGETS TO BE ACHIEVED DURING THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

"A. Education

"(1) The progressive elimination of illiteracy, ensuring equality in literacy between the sexes, especially among the younger generation.

"(2) Equal access of boys and girls to education at the primary and secondary levels and at educational

institutions of all types, including universities and vocational, technical and professional schools.

"(3) Decisive progress in achieving free and compulsory education at the primary level and in achieving free education at all levels.

"(4) The establishment of the same choice of curricula for boys and girls, the same examinations, equally qualified teaching staff, and the same quality of school premises and equipment, whether the institutions are co-educational or not, and equal opportunities to receive scholarships and grants.

"(5) The achievement of equality in the percentage of boys and girls receiving primary education and of a substantial increase in the number of girls at all educational levels, in particular in the field of technical and professional education.

"(6) The establishment of educational policies that take account of employment needs and opportunities and of scientific and technological change.

"B. Training and employment

"(1) Provision of the same vocational advice and guidance to members of both sexes.

"(2) Equal access of girls and women to vocational training and retraining at all levels, with a view to achieving their full participation in the economic and social life of their countries.

"(3) Universal acceptance of the principle of equal pay for equal work and the adoption of effective measures to implement it.

"(4) Full acceptance of the policy of non-discrimination in relation to the employment and treatment of women and measures to give effect to that policy on a progressive basis.

"(5) A substantial increase in the numbers of qualified women employed in skilled and technical work and in all higher levels of economic life and in posts of responsibility.

"C. Health and maternity protection

"(1) The progressive extension of measures to ensure the protection of maternity, with a view to ensuring paid maternity leave with the guarantee of returning to former or equivalent employment.

"(2) The development and extension of adequate child care and other facilities to assist parents with family responsibilities.

"(3) The adoption of measures for the creation and development of a wide network of special medical establishments for the protection of the health of the mother and child.

"(4) Making available to all persons who so desire the necessary information and advice to enable them to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to prepare them for responsible parenthood, including information on the ways in which women can benefit from family planning.

"D. Administration and public life

"(1) A substantial increase in the number of women participating in public and government life at the local, national and international levels. Special attention might be paid to training women for such

participation, especially in middle-level and higher posts.

"(2) A substantial increase in the number of qualified women holding responsible posts at the executive and policy-making levels, including those related to over-all development planning."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1817-1820.

Plenary Meetings 1930, 1932.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I B 2.

A/8003 and Corr.1. Report of Economic and Social Council, 9 August 1969-31 July 1970, Chapter IX N, paras. 360-362.

A/C.3/L.1769. Report of Economic and Social Council. Chapter IX N: Status of women. Note by Secretary-General, transmitting, inter alia, text of Economic and Social Council resolution 1511 (XLVIII), as amended by Argentina and Uruguay (A/C.3/L.1847), by Saudi Arabia (A/C.3/L.1838, paras. 1 and 2, as amended), and by 12 powers (A/C.3/L.1846), approved unanimously by Third Committee on 11 December 1970, meeting 1819.

A/C.3/L.1838. Saudi Arabia: amendment to Council resolution 1511 (XLVIII).

A/C.3/L.1846. Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Somalia, Zambia: amendment, co-sponsored orally by Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Niger, Sierra Leone and United Republic of Tanzania, to Council resolution 1511 (XLVIII).

A/C.3/L.1847. Argentina and Uruguay: amendment to Council resolution 1511 (XLVIII).

A/8173/Add.1. Report of Third Committee (part II) (on report of Economic and Social Council), draft resolution III.

RESOLUTION 2716(xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8173/Add.1, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1970, meeting 1930, unanimously (114-0).

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1777(XVII) of 7 December 1962 initiating the study of a unified, long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, adopted on 7 November 1967, and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, adopted on 11 December 1969,

Noting resolution IX of the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968, on measures to promote women's rights in the modern world, including a unified, long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women, which established guidelines for such a programme,

Noting also that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2571 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969 and with paragraph 79 of Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, concerning the International Development Strategy for the Second United

Nations Development Decade, arrangements should be made to keep under systematic scrutiny the progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Decade, to identify shortfalls in their achievement and the policies that are not consistent with the attainment of those objectives and to recommend positive measures, including new goals and policies as needed.

Expressing the hope that general and complete disarmament under effective international control will allow for the use of the resources released progressively for purposes of economic and social progress of all peoples, including the elaboration of programmes designed to advance the status of women,

Believing that a programme of concerted international action, planned on a long-term basis, will advance the status of women and increase their effective participation in all sectors,

Considering that the success of such a programme will require intensified action on the part of Member States, at the national and regional levels, as well as maximum use of the methods and techniques available through the United Nations system of organizations,

Believing that an important step in the further development of such a programme would be the establishment of concrete objectives and minimum targets,

1. Recommends that the objectives and targets set forth in the annex to the present resolution should be achieved as widely as possible during the Second United Nations Development Decade;

2. Invites States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies and all organs and agencies within the United Nations system to co-operate in achieving these objectives and targets, and hopes that adequate staff and resources will be made available for this purpose;

3. Recommends that concerted efforts should be made to increase the resources available for technical co-operation projects which advance the status of women and that consideration be given to allocating a specific percentage of the available funds for this purpose;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission on the Status of Women, if possible at its twenty-fourth session, information on the extent to which women are participating in, and benefiting from, technical co-operation projects;

5. Recommends that conferences, seminars and similar meetings at the regional and international levels should be organized with the participation, wherever possible, of ministers, high government officials and specialists concerned with problems of development, and of representatives of non-governmental organizations concerned with this problem, to consider ways and means of promoting the status of women within the framework of over-all development;

6. Draws attention to the important role that may also be played in this respect by the regional training and research centres for social development to be established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1406 (XLVI) of 5 June 1969;

7. Suggests that the continuous education of adults be encouraged with a view to changing in particular their attitude of mind towards the roles to be played

by men and women in order to help them to assume their responsibilities in society;

8. Notes, notwithstanding the provisions of all the preceding paragraphs, that the family, as the cornerstone of society, must be protected.

ANNEX

I. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. The ratification of, or accession to, the relevant international conventions relating to the status of women.

2. The enactment of legislation to bring national laws into conformity with international instruments relating to the status of women, including in particular the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

3. The taking of effective legal and other measures to ensure the full implementation of these instruments.

4. The development of effective large-scale educational and informational programmes using all mass media and other available means to make all sectors of the population in rural as well as urban areas fully aware of the norms established by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the conventions, recommendations, declarations and resolutions adopted under their auspices, and to educate public opinion and enlist its support for all measures aimed at achieving the realization of the standards set forth.

5. The assessment and evaluation of the contribution of women to the various economic and social sectors in relation to the country's over-all development plans and programmes, with a view to establishing specific objectives and minimum targets which might realistically be achieved by 1980 to increase the effective contribution of women to the various sectors.

6. The study of the positive and negative effects of scientific and technological change on the status of women with a view to ensuring continuous progress, especially as regards the education and training as well as the living conditions and employment of women.

7. The elaboration of short-term and long-term programmes to achieve these specific objectives and minimum targets, where possible within the framework of over-all national development plans or programmes, and the provision of adequate funds for programmes which advance the status of women.

8. The establishment of machinery and procedures to make possible the continuous review and evaluation of women's integration into all sectors of economic and social life and their contribution to development.

9. The full utilization of the desire and readiness of women to devote their energies, talents and abilities to the benefit of society.

II. MINIMUM TARGETS TO BE ACHIEVED DURING THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

A. Education

1. The progressive elimination of illiteracy, ensuring equality in literacy between the sexes, especially among the younger generation.

2. Equal access of boys and girls to education at the primary and secondary levels and at educational in-

stitutions of all types, including universities and vocational, technical and professional schools.

3. Decisive progress in achieving free and compulsory education at the primary level and in achieving free education at all levels.

4. The establishment of the same choice of curricula for boys and girls, the same examinations, equally qualified teaching staff, and the same quality of school premises and equipment, whether the institutions are co-educational or not, and equal opportunities to receive scholarships and grants.

5. The achievement of equality in the percentage of boys and girls receiving primary education and of a substantial increase in the number of girls at all educational levels, in particular in the field of technical and professional education.

6. The establishment of educational policies that take account of employment needs and opportunities and of scientific and technological change.

B. Training and employment

1. Provision of the same vocational advice and guidance to members of both sexes.

2. Equal access of girls and women to vocational training and retraining at all levels, with a view to achieving their full participation in the economic and social life of their countries.

3. Universal acceptance of the principle of equal pay for equal work and the adoption of effective measures to implement it.

4. Full acceptance of the policy of non-discrimination in relation to the employment and treatment of women, and measures to give effect to that policy on a progressive basis.

5. A substantial increase in the numbers of qualified women employed in skilled and technical work, and at all higher levels of economic life and in posts of responsibility.

6. A substantial increase in the opportunities for involvement of women in all facets of agricultural development and agricultural services.

C. Health and maternity protection

1. The progressive extension of measures to ensure maternity protection, with a view to ensuring paid maternity leave with the guarantee of returning to former or equivalent employment.

2. The development and extension of adequate child care and other facilities to assist parents with family responsibilities.

3. The adoption of measures for the creation and development of a wide network of special medical establishments for the protection of the health of the mother and child.

4. Making available to all persons who so desire the necessary information and advice to enable them to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to prepare them for responsible parenthood, including information on the ways in which women can benefit from family planning. Such information and advice should be based on valid and proven scientific expertise, with due regard to the risks that may be involved.

D. Administration and public life

1. A substantial increase in the number of women participating in public and government life at the local, national and international levels. Special attention might be paid to training women for such participation, especially in middle-level and higher posts.

2. A substantial increase in the number of qualified women holding responsible posts at the executive and policy-making levels, including those related to overall development planning.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION

Social Committee, meetings 644-647.

Plenary Meeting 1694.

ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapters III C and XII (resolution 6(XXIII)).

E/4831, Chapter XIII. Draft resolution III, as submitted by Commission, approved unanimously by Social Committee on 25 May 1970, meeting 647.

E/4870. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution III.

RESOLUTION 1512(XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4870, adopted unanimously by Council on 28 May 1970, meeting 1694.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on equal access of women to literacy,

Considering that illiteracy is one of the main obstacles to the progress of women in general and to the effective exercise of their rights and responsibilities in particular,

Considering also that progress in eliminating illiteracy and in raising the standard of general education at all levels would not fail to bring about an improvement whereby all citizens, and more particularly women, would contribute more fully to the development of their countries,

1. Appeals to Member States, non-governmental organizations and other voluntary organizations to intensify their efforts to ensure that all the necessary steps are taken and every facility provided to enable women in both rural and urban regions to start or continue their education, making full use of all the available adult education programmes;

2. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to assign an important place in its functional literacy programmes to women who are still illiterate and to give assistance to all governmental and non-governmental literacy undertakings, inter alia, by acquainting them with modern techniques and methods for overcoming illiteracy;

3. Suggests that non-governmental organizations should undertake or continue activities aimed at public opinion, national parliaments and public authorities, with the express aim of:

(a) Securing the signing and ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education

adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1960;

(b) Raising the standard of literacy among adults, particularly among women, on account of their having lagged so far behind;

(c) Helping to train leaders for literacy campaigns and to devise methods of stimulating the interest of

ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

ST/TAO/HR/37. Seminar on Effects of Scientific and Technological Developments on Status of Women, Iasi, Romania, 5-18 August 1969.

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapter III D.

E/4831, Chapter XIII. Draft resolution IV, as submitted by Commission, as orally amended by Greece, approved unanimously by Social Committee on 25 May 1970, meeting 647.

E/4870. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution IV.

RESOLUTION 1513 (XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4870, adopted unanimously by Council on 28 May 1970, meeting 1694.

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1328(XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and 1394(XLVI) of 5 June 1969 concerning the repercussions of scientific and technological progress on the status of women workers,

Considering that the progress of science and its technological applications opens up wide prospects of economic, social and cultural progress and of improving the standard of living,

Noting that modern scientific and technological progress requires the highest level of vocational training of workers,

Bearing in mind that the introduction of the latest techniques, mechanization and automation of production processes give women access to many new vocations,

Considering that general education and vocational training acquire exceptional importance under conditions of scientific and technological progress,

Considering that scientific and technological progress gives rise to numerous and complex problems, according to the regions, categories of workers, occupational sectors and individuals,

Noting that some unfavourable consequences of scientific and technological progress weigh more heavily upon the status of women workers,

Noting in that connexion the low degree of skill of most women workers and the difficulty of changing occupations resulting therefrom,

Noting also women's limited geographical mobility, due usually to their family responsibilities,

Aware of the need for preparation, guidance and vocational training constantly adjusted to scientific and

technological progress and to the requirements of economic development,

1. Notes with satisfaction the attention being given by the United Nations to examining the effects of scientific and technological developments on the status of women in contemporary society;

2. Draws the attention of Member States and of interested international organizations to the conclusions of the European Seminar on that topic, held at Iasi, Romania, from 5 to 18 August 1969 by the United Nations in co-operation with the Romanian Government;

3. Requests Member States:

(a) To make provision in school programmes for appropriate general education that prepares the ground for a flexible vocational training which can be adjusted at all times to the structure of employment, and to which girls and boys have equal access under the same conditions;

(b) To ensure that lifelong adult education, accelerated vocational training and vocational and other retraining are available to men and women under the same conditions;

(c) To see to it that new opportunities for employment are accorded on the basis of individual ability and aptitudes, irrespective of sex and without division of work into men's and women's work;

(d) To see to it that no reduction is permitted in the employment of women, in particular in skilled work;

(e) To pay special attention to the problems of environment, social installations, hygiene and occupational safety associated with scientific and technological progress;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned, in particular the International Labour Organisation, as well as Member States, to continue to study the repercussions of scientific and technological progress on the conditions of work and employment of women and to submit periodic reports on that question to the Commission on the Status of Women;

5. Requests the International Labour Organisation to study ways of evaluating work which would permit the efficient implementation of the principle of real equality of pay for women and men for equal work;

6. Requests the International Labour Organisation to continue its review of international conventions from the point of view of the changes that occur as a result of scientific and technological progress.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION

Social Committee, meetings 644-647.

Plenary Meeting 1694.

The Status of the Unmarried Mother: Law and Practice. Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/540/Rev.1). U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.IV.4.

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chap-

ters IV and XII (resolutions 7 (XXIII) and 8 (XXIII)), and Chapter XXIII (draft resolutions V and VI).

E/4831, Chapter XIII. Draft resolution V, as submitted by Commission, approved unanimously by Social Committee on 25 May 1970, meeting 647.

E/4870. Report of Social Committee, para. 7, and draft resolution V.

RESOLUTION 1514 (XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4870, adopted unanimously by Council on 28 May 1970, meeting 1694.

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that the number of unmarried mothers is still increasing in some countries,

Noting further that owing to her status and the inadequacy of measures of social protection in her favour, the unmarried mother and her child are still the subject of discrimination in many countries,

Considering that as a human being the unmarried mother is entitled to respect for her dignity and for her well-being and that of her child,

Mindful that there can be no satisfactory progress for humanity as a whole without more rapid progress as regards the status of all women,

Considering that the integration of the unmarried mother and her child in society is a complex problem which calls for thorough study,

1. Urges the States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies that have not yet done so to take adequate measures of social assistance in favour of the unmarried mother and the child born out of wedlock;

2. Invites Member States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned to study the problems posed by the integration of the unmarried mother and her child in all spheres of society;

3. Invites Member States to elaborate for adolescents of both sexes educational programmes aimed at making them aware of their future family responsibilities;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to devote a part of the report on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the study of the problems posed by the integration of the unmarried mother and her child in all spheres of society on the basis of the information furnished by Member States and the specialized agencies concerned.

E/4832/Add.1. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council during its resumed 48th session, 11-28 May 1970. Other decisions, p. 15.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND OTHER SITUATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 644-647.
Plenary Meeting 1694.

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapter V.

E/4831, Chapter XIII. Draft resolution VII, as submitted by Commission, and as orally amended by Pakistan, approved by Social Committee on 25 May 1970, meeting 647, by 21 votes to 0, with 4 abstentions.

E/4870. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution VI.

RESOLUTION 1515 (XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4870, adopted by Council on 28 May 1970, meeting 1694, by 22 votes to 0, with 4 abstentions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 4 (XXII) adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on protection of women and children in emergency or wartime, fighting for peace, national liberation and independence,

Bearing in mind resolutions I and XXIII adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights and the fact that the General Assembly has taken concrete steps towards the implementation of those resolutions,

Noting that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 which provides for important safeguards for the protection of women and children, is not fully implemented in the course of armed conflicts and in occupied territories,

Taking note of the report of the Special Working Group of Experts established under resolution 6 (XXV) of the Commission on Human Rights,

Fully convinced that the protection of women and children during emergency and wartime is contemplated by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Noting that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2597 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, has requested the Secretary-General, in pursuance of his study on respect for human rights in armed conflicts, to give special attention to the need for better application of existing humanitarian international conventions and rules to such conflicts,

Having received the Secretary-General's report on protection of women and children in emergency or wartime, fighting for peace, national liberation and independence, concerning the conditions of women and children in the occupied territories in the Middle East and the steps taken by the United Nations with respect to human rights in armed conflicts,

1. Renews its solemn appeal to all women throughout the world to make every effort to contribute, in their families and in their communities, to the establishment of peace and justice and towards finding a just solution to armed conflicts;

2. Calls upon States to abide fully by their obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of

12 August 1949 and other rules of international law concerning respect for human rights in armed conflicts;

3. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To give particular attention, in pursuing his study on respect for human rights in armed conflicts, to the question of protection of women and children in emergency or wartime;

(b) To consider further measures of promoting throughout the world a wider knowledge of the plight of women and children victims of armed conflicts, and of the existing international rules which provide protection for women and children in armed conflicts;

(c) To submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fourth session a report containing information available from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as from any other appropriate United Nations bodies, on the conditions of women and children in emergency and armed conflicts in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence;

4. Requests the General Assembly to consider the possibility of drafting a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency or wartime;

5. Decides to include the question of the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflicts in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence in the agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1818, 1819.

A/7944 (S/9618). Situation in Middle East. Letter of 27 January 1970 from Jordan.

A/7945 (S/9623). Situation in Middle East. Letter of 29 January 1970 from Israel.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I B 7.

A/8003 and Corr.1. Report of Economic and Social Council, 9 August 1969-31 July 1970, Chapter IX N, paras. 381-383.

A/C.3/L.1844. Mongolia, Morocco, Syria, USSR: draft resolution, co-sponsored orally by Algeria, Kenya, Mali and Niger.

A/8173/Add.1. Report of Third Committee (part II) (on report of Economic and Social Council), paras. 23-24.

PERIODICITY OF COMMISSION SESSIONS AND WORK PROGRAMME

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—49TH SESSION

Co-ordination Committee, meeting 410.

Social Committee, meeting 647.

Plenary Meeting 1722.

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women

on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapters VI A and XII (resolution 9(XXIII)).

E/4846/Rev.1. Report of Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its 5th session, 27 April-12 May 1970, para. 102.

E/4870. Report of Social Committee, paras. 4 and 8.

E/4900. Calendar of conferences and meetings for 1971 and tentative programme for 1972. Memorandum by Secretary-General.

E/4924. Report of Co-ordination Committee, para. 5.

E/4904. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council during its 49th session, 6-31 July 1970. Other decisions, p. 29.

REPORT OF COMMISSION

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION

Social Committee, meetings 644-647.

Plenary Meeting 1694.

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, Geneva, Switzerland, 23 March-10 April 1970. (For list of documents before Commission, see Annex II.)

E/4831 (Summary). Summary of report of Commission on Status of Women.

E/4870. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution IX, as proposed by Committee Chairman, approved without objection by Committee on 25 May 1970, meeting 647.

RESOLUTION 1517(XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4870, adopted unanimously by Council on 28 May 1970, meeting 1694.

The Economic and Social Council

1. Takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its twenty-third session;

2. Endorses the programme of work contained in chapter VI of that report.

INCREASED ACTIVITIES RELATING TO STATUS OF WOMEN AT REGIONAL LEVEL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION

Social Committee, meetings 644-647.

Plenary Meeting 1694.

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapter VIII.

E/4831, Chapter XIII. Draft resolution VIII, as submitted by Commission, approved by Social Committee on 25 May 1970, meeting 647, by 12 votes to 2, with 11 abstentions.

E/4870. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution VII.

E/4832/Add.1. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council during its resumed 48th session, 11-28 May 1970. Other decisions, p. 15.

INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN INTERESTS
ON LIVING CONDITIONS OF
WOMEN IN DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 644-647.
Plenary Meeting 1694.

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapters IX and XII (resolution 10(XXIII)).

E/4831, Chapter XIII. Draft resolution IX, as submitted by Commission, approved by Social Committee on 25 May 1970, meeting 647, by 18 votes to 0, with 7 abstentions.

E/4870. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution VIII.

RESOLUTION 1516(XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4870, adopted by Council on 28 May 1970, meeting 1694, by 16 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2189 (XXI) of 13 December 1966, 2288(XXII) of 7 December 1967, 2425(XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and 2554 (XXIV) of 12 December 1969 condemning the activities of foreign economic and other interests in dependent Territories which lead to the exploitation of colonial countries and peoples,

Noting that, in its resolution 2554 (XXIV) the General Assembly requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue its study of the problem of the activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session,

Considering also the request made by the Commission on the Status of Women in the operative para-

graph of its resolution 3(XXII) of 3 February 1969 requesting the Special Committee to devote a part of the report which it was to present to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session to the influence of activities of foreign economic and other interests on the living conditions of women in dependent Territories, in order that the study might be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-third session,

Noting that in paragraph 17 of its report the Special Committee expressed its readiness to take appropriate action on that request in the light of any decision that might be taken in that regard by the General Assembly,

Requests the General Assembly to invite the Special Committee to study the question of the influence of activities of foreign economic and other interests on the living conditions of women in dependent Territories, in order that the study may be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fourth session.

ADVISORY SERVICES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 644-647.
Plenary Meeting 1614.

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapters III and XII (resolutions 4(XXIII) and 5(XXIII) and Chapter VIII.

ST/TAO/HR/37. Seminar on Effects of Scientific and Technological Developments on Status of Women, Iasi, Romania, 5-18 August 1969.

ST/TAO/HR/41. Seminar on Participation of Women in Economic Life of Their Countries (with reference to implementation of article 10 of Declaration on Elimination of Discrimination against Women). Moscow, USSR, 8-21 September 1970.

A/8003 and Corr.1. Report of Economic and Social Council, 9 August 1969-31 July 1970, Chapter IX 0.

ADVISORY SERVICES IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, established by the General Assembly in 1955,³² the United Nations organizes, at the request of Governments, seminars for the exchange of experience concerning human rights problems, and also provides the services of experts and fellowships.

ACTIVITIES IN 1970

During 1970, two international seminars, one on the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights, the other on the participation of women in the economic life of their

countries, as well as a regional seminar on the realization of economic and social rights with particular reference to developing countries, were organized as a part of the advisory services programme. The programme for 1970 also included the holding of an international seminar relating to legal aid which had to be postponed until a later date.

The international seminar on the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human

³² See Y.U.N., 1955. pp. 164-65, text of resolution 926 (X).

rights, held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from 2 to 12 June 1970, was the first on this topic under the advisory services programme.

Among the topics discussed were: aspirations of youth concerning the standards that should prevail in the accomplishment of present-day humanitarian demands; the role of youth in the implementation of human rights standards; education of youth with regard to human rights and fundamental freedoms; participation of youth in national development; and involvement of youth in international co-operation for the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The second international seminar, on the participation of women in the economic life of their countries (with reference to the implementation of article 10 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), took place in Moscow, USSR, from 8 to 21 September 1970.

The seminar discussed the following topics: the extent of women's participation in the economic life of their countries; preparation of women for participation in economic life; conditions and measures required to enable women to combine work, family and civic responsibilities; and the role of Governments, non-governmental organizations and society as a whole in the implementation of article 10 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The regional seminar on the realization of economic and social rights, with particular reference to developing countries, was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 23 June to 4 July 1970.

Among the topics discussed were: consideration of the material and other conditions necessary for the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights at the national level; review of steps and measures, including constitutional provisions, legislation, administrative regulations and procedures and court decisions, taken at the national level; and the role of international action for the achievement of economic, social and cultural rights in developing countries.

A total of 46 fellowship awards were granted in 1970 to recipients from the following 30 countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Bolivia, Burundi, Canada, China, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guy-

ana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR, and the United Arab Republic. The programme for 1970 included several awards on questions relating to the status of women, the administration of justice in family courts and the rights of the child, and on two new topics—the functions of the Procurator-General's office in the promotion of human rights, and respect for human rights in armed conflicts.

In 1970, at the request of Cameroon, the Secretary-General continued to provide the services of an expert to advise on the promotion in that country of the participation of women in national affairs and national development, with particular emphasis on community development.

ACTION BY UNITED NATIONS BODIES

During 1970, attention was given to the advisory services programme by various United Nations bodies, including the Commissions on Human Rights and on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

In connexion with the possibility of establishing a regional commission on human rights for Africa, the Human Rights Commission, at its 1970 session, among other things asked the Secretary-General to extend all appropriate assistance under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights. (See also page 570.)

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its session in March-April 1970, asked the Secretary-General, in connexion with the unified long-term programme for the advancement of women, to examine the possibility of rendering to Member States—under the advisory services programme—new types of assistance in the field of the status of women.

In a resolution relating to women's service as a means of enabling women to work gratuitously for the benefit of the community, the Commission expressed the hope that regional seminars on women's civic service would be organized within the framework of the advisory

services programme. (See also pp. 544 and 546.)

The Economic and Social Council, at its session in July 1970, endorsed the action of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme which, at its session in January 1970, had taken note of the programme of technical co-operation for 1971 set out in the Secretary-General's report, including an ap-

propriation of \$250,000 for advisory services in the field of human rights.

At its twenty-fifth session later in the year, the General Assembly, in resolution 2738 A (XXV) on the 1971 United Nations budget, appropriated funds for technical programmes, including \$250,000 for the 1971 programme of advisory services in the field of human rights.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

- E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters VII and VIII, and Chapter XXIII (resolution 6(XXVI) and other decisions, p. 88).
 E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapters III A and B and VII, and Chapter XII (resolutions 4(XXIII) and 5(XXIII)).
 A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 22.
 A/8003 and Corr.1. Report of Economic and Social Council, 9 August 1969-31 July 1970, Chapter IX O.

REPORTS OF SEMINARS

- ST/TAO/HR/39. Seminar on Role of Youth in Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, 2-12 June 1970.
 ST/TAO/HR/40. Seminar on Realization of Economic and Social Rights with Particular Reference to Developing Countries, Lusaka, Zambia, 23 June-4 July 1970.
 ST/TAO/HR/41. Seminar on Participation of Women in Economic Life of Their Countries (with reference to implementation of article 10 of Declaration on Elimination of Discrimination against Women), Moscow, USSR, 8-21 September 1970.

OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMINALS AND PERSONS COMMITTING CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

In 1970, various United Nations organs again considered the question of the punishment of war criminals and persons committing crimes against humanity, which had been under consideration since 1965.

During the year, replies and comments were received from Governments on matters dealt with in a 1969 study prepared by the Secretary-General on ensuring the arrest, extradition and punishment of persons responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity,³³ and in response to a General Assembly resolution of 15 December 1969.³⁴

At its session in February-March 1970, the Commission on Human Rights considered the question and adopted a draft resolution for consideration by the Economic and Social Council. It also decided to keep the item on its agenda. In another decision the Commission among other things called upon all States to observe strictly the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and considered that "grave

breaches" of the Conventions, as defined by those Conventions, constituted war crimes and were an affront to humanity in addition to being crimes.

On 27 May, the Economic and Social Council approved the draft resolution recommended by the Human Rights Commission as its resolution 1500(XLVIII). It adopted the text by a vote of 16 to 2, with 9 abstentions, on the recommendation of its Social Committee, where it was approved on 19 May by 8 votes to 2, with 12 abstentions. On a proposal by the USSR, the text was recommended to the General Assembly for adoption.

(For text of resolution 1500(XLVIII), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

The General Assembly, at its twenty-fifth session later in 1970, adopted the text on 15 December—as amended in the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee—as resolution 2712(XXV), by 55 votes to 4, with 33 abstentions.

³³ See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 537-38.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 549-50, text of resolution 2583(XXIV).

By this text, the General Assembly among other things welcomed the fact that the 1968 Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity³⁵ entered into force on 11 November 1970, and noted with regret that numerous United Nations decisions on the question of the punishment of war criminals were not being fully complied with.

The Assembly expressed its concern that in present-day conditions—as a result of aggressive wars and policies and practices of racism, apartheid and colonialism—war crimes and crimes against humanity were being committed in various parts of the world.

By the operative parts of the text, the Assembly:

(1) drew attention to the fact that many war criminals and persons who had committed crimes against humanity were continuing to take refuge in the territories of certain States and were enjoying protection;

(2) called upon all States to take measures to arrest such persons and extradite them to the countries where they had committed the crimes, so that they could be brought to trial and punished in accordance with the laws of those countries;

(3) condemned the war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed as a result of aggressive wars and the policies of racism, apartheid and colonialism, and called upon the States concerned to bring to trial persons guilty of such crimes;

(4) also called upon all States concerned to intensify their co-operation in the collection and exchange of information which would contribute to the detection, arrest, extradition, trial and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity;

(5) again requested the States concerned which had not already done so to take the necessary measures for the thorough investigation of war crimes and crimes against humanity and for the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of all war criminals and persons guilty of crimes against humanity who had not yet been brought to trial or punished;

(6) asked States which had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to

War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity as soon as possible;

(7) appealed to Governments to inform the Secretary-General as to the measures they had taken or were taking in that regard;

(8) also appealed to States which had not yet become parties to the Convention strictly to observe the provisions of the Assembly's resolution of 15 December 1969 (2583 (XXIV))³⁶ to the effect that they should refrain from action running counter to the main purposes of the Convention; and

(9) asked the Secretary-General to continue, in the light of the comments submitted by Governments, the study of the question of war crimes and crimes against humanity and criteria for determining compensation to the victims of such crimes, in order to report to the Assembly at its twenty-sixth (1971) session.

(For text of resolution 2712 (XXV), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

This text reflected amendments put forward in the Third Committee to the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council. Thus, Poland proposed the addition of the preambular paragraph by which the Assembly welcomed the entry into force of the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, and the operative paragraph by which the General Assembly requested States which had not done so to become parties to the Convention as soon as possible. The preambular paragraph was adopted by a vote of 50 to 4, with 34 abstentions; the operative paragraph by a vote of 37 to 4, with 50 abstentions.

The Byelorussian SSR proposed the addition of two operative paragraphs by which the Assembly appealed to all States to supply the Secretary-General with information on measures they had taken or were taking to become parties to the Convention, and by which the Assembly appealed to States not already parties to the Convention strictly to observe the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2583 (XXIV) to the effect that they should refrain from action running counter to the main purposes of the

³⁵ See Y.U.N., 1968, pp. 608-10, resolution 2391 (XXIII), containing text of Convention.

³⁶ See footnote 34.

Convention. The first paragraph was adopted by a vote of 41 to 5, with 46 abstentions, after a suggestion by the United States—to replace the words "all States" by the word "Governments"—had been adopted by 32 votes to 24, with 26 abstentions. The second paragraph proposed by the Byelorussian SSR was adopted by 40 votes to 4, with 46 abstentions. Separate votes were taken on certain parts of the text, and the draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was approved by the Third Committee on 8 December 1970 by a roll-call vote of 47 to 4, with 41 abstentions.

A draft resolution put forward by Saudi Arabia in the Third Committee was not pressed to a vote. By it, the General Assembly among other things would have decided to call on the Sixth (Legal) Committee or any other appropriate organ of the United Nations to study as soon as possible the draft optional protocol³⁷ (to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity) and to report the results of its deliberations to the General Assembly.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

In response to a request by the General Assembly in 1968,³⁸ the Secretary-General in 1970 submitted a preliminary report on human rights problems arising from developments in science and technology.

In preparing the report—which comprised a summary account of studies on the question already made or in progress—the Secretary-General consulted Governments, the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, the specialized agencies, regional organizations, other inter-governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, national academies, institutes of learning and other institutions, and individual scholars.

The report discussed the problem under the following main headings: (a) respect for the privacy of individuals and the integrity and sovereignty of nations in the light of advances in recording and other techniques; (b) protection of the human personality and its physical and intellectual integrity in the light of the advances in biology, medicine and biochem-

istry; (c) uses of electronics which might affect the rights of the person and the limits which should be placed on such uses in a democratic society; (d) other problems in connexion with human rights arising from developments in science and technology; and (e) the balance which should be established between scientific and technological progress and the intellectual, spiritual, cultural and moral advancement of humanity.

A preliminary memorandum by the World Health Organization (WHO) was submitted later in the year by the Secretary-General. It concerned health aspects of human rights and scientific and technological developments.

At its session in February-March 1970, the Commission on Human Rights, lacking time to study the substantial documentation involved, transmitted the report through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly. It decided to examine the report at its 1971 session, in the light of decisions by the General Assembly and as supplemented by such information as might be collected in the meantime, particularly that submitted by Governments and the competent specialized agencies.

The Economic and Social Council decided on 27 May 1970 to transmit the preliminary report to the General Assembly.

Later in 1970, at its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly among other things asked the Secretary-General to continue to study the problems relating to human rights arising from developments in science and technology. The Human Rights Commission was asked to give priority at its 1971 session to the examination of the preliminary report—as supplemented by available further information, including WHO'S preliminary memorandum—and to transmit to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, its suggestions and recommendations.

The Assembly also decided to give priority to the item at its 1971 session.

The Assembly took these decisions on 15 December when it unanimously adopted resolution 2721 (XXV) on the recommendation of its

³⁷ See Y.U.N., 1968, pp. 592-93.

³⁸ See Y.U.N., 1968, pp. 615-16, text of resolution 2450 (XXIII).

Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee. The Committee approved it unanimously on 11 December, as orally amended by Sierra Leone and by its sponsors, which were Finland, France, Iran, Japan, the Philippines and Sweden.

(For text of resolution 2721 (XXV), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below. See also pp. 441-48.)

TRADE UNION RIGHTS

In 1970, in accordance with a request by the Economic and Social Council in 1969,³⁹ the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts established by the Commission on Human Rights continued its investigations into infringements of trade union rights in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia.

In its report to the Economic and Social Council's session in May 1970, the Ad Hoc Working Group reiterated the conclusions contained in its 1969 report.⁴⁰

With regard to South Africa, the Working Group said, among other things, that the Bantu Laws Amendment Bill submitted to the South African House of Assembly in 1969 was a further attempt at suppressing the rights of African workers. Normal safety measures for African miners did not exist and the compensation paid to the families of African workers who died in mine accidents was totally inadequate.

The Working Group further condemned the migratory labour system and the "Bantustan" system, whose purpose was to restrict freedom of employment for African workers and to provide a pool of cheap labour for white employers.

With regard to the situation in Namibia, the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts concluded that the South West Africa Affairs Act of 1969 had, illegally, further extended the direct control of the South African Government over various mining and labour matters in the territory. The Working Group denounced the system of reserves or "native areas" which were intended by the South African authorities to be reservoirs of cheap labour for industrial areas in Namibia and South Africa. Furthermore, the African workers had no say in the preparation or implementation of "labour contracts," under which they were recruited in native reserves.

With regard to Southern Rhodesia, the Ad Hoc Working Group said it had every reason to believe that repression against African trade unionists continued unabated. Africans were denied the educational opportunities available to Europeans, and employment opportunities for Africans—even in unskilled and low-paying jobs—were decreasing. The condition of African agricultural workers, who had no right of collective bargaining, was found to be deplorable.

The Working Group once again drew the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the responsibility of the United Kingdom Government in the evolution of the present unhappy situation with regard to trade union rights in Southern Rhodesia, and it stressed the need for urgent intervention by that Government in Southern Rhodesia.

At its session in May 1970, the Economic and Social Council had before it—in addition to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group—a report concerning infringements of trade union rights in the Portuguese colonies in Africa, prepared by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) at the request of the Council.

On 28 May, the Economic and Social Council among other things endorsed the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts and thanked ILO for its report. It condemned the continuing suppression of trade union rights in southern Africa and called for an end to such suppression and for the immediate and unconditional release of all persons imprisoned for their trade union activities.

The Council also authorized the Ad Hoc Working Group to investigate the conditions of: (a) the African producers of primary products in the Portuguese colonies in Africa; (b) the sector of unorganized labour, such as farm labour, in those colonies; and (c) workers from Mozambique and Angola who were or had been employed in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia. The Working Group was further authorized to investigate the factors leading to discrimination in these sectors.

The Working Group was asked by the Coun-

³⁹ See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 546-48, text of resolution 1412 (XLVI).

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 534-35.

cil to make these inquiries in co-operation with ILO, other specialized agencies concerned and the major international trade union organizations.

The Secretary-General was asked to assist the Working Group and to give maximum publicity to its report.

The Council took these decisions when it adopted—by a roll-call vote of 17 to 0, with 9 abstentions—resolution 1509(XLVIII), as proposed by Ghana, India, Kenya, the People's Republic of the Congo and Yugoslavia, and as orally amended by them.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

Between 16 June and 2 September, the Ad Hoc Working Group heard a number of witnesses, with a view to submitting a further report to the Economic and Social Council in 1971.

EDUCATION OF YOUTH IN THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

At its 1970 session, the Commission on Human Rights, in response to a 1968 request by the General Assembly,⁴¹ again considered the question of the education of youth all over the world with a view to the development of its personality and the strengthening of its respect for the rights of man and fundamental freedoms.

At its 1969 session,⁴² the Commission had asked the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for a report on the question, to be supplemented by the Secretary-General with other pertinent data. These reports were before the Commission in 1970.

The UNESCO report described the agency's methods and programmes used in educating youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Secretary-General's report contained information submitted by United Nations Member States, by UNESCO and other interested specialized agencies or their members, by four regional economic commissions, by the United Nations Children's Fund and by inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

On 25 March the Commission decided to re-sume consideration of the question as a matter of priority at its 1971 session, and asked the

Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNESCO to bring to the Commission's attention such supplementary documentation as would facilitate its consideration of the question.

At its twenty-fifth session later in 1970, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (2633 (XXV)) on the question of youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development.

Among other things, the Assembly stressed 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. It called upon Governments, all institutions of learning, the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to act so 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.

(For details and text of resolution 2633 (XXV), see pp. 581-83.)

The Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Government of Yugoslavia, organized, on a world-wide basis, a seminar on the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights, which was held at Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from 2 to 12 June 1970. (See also pp. 559-61.)

QUESTION OF CREATION OF POST OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The question of the creation of the post of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which had been before the General Assembly and other United Nations organs since 1965, was again before the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session in 1970. In response to an

⁴¹See Y.U.N., 1968, pp. 612-13, text of resolution 2447 (XXIII).

⁴²See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 540-41.

Assembly request in 1969,⁴³ the Secretary-General in 1970 submitted an analytical study relating to two 1967 resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the question.⁴⁴

Debate in the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee on the question revealed a wide divergence of views on the desirability of establishing the proposed office.

Supporters of the proposal—among them Costa Rica, France and the United States—maintained that the consistently heavy agenda of existing United Nations bodies dealing with human rights showed that the programme and activities of the United Nations in that field needed to be rationalized and stimulated.

Those opposed to creation of the new office—including Ceylon, Saudi Arabia and the USSR—argued that its activities would duplicate the work of existing machinery and would lead to unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

During its consideration of the question, the Third Committee had before it the text of the draft resolution on establishing the office of High Commissioner recommended by the Economic and Social Council in 1967 (1237(XLII))⁴⁵ and amendments thereto submitted by the USSR and by India; a draft resolution submitted by Ceylon and amendments thereto submitted by Afghanistan, Canada, Costa Rica, France, the Netherlands, the United States and Uruguay and sub-amendments to these by Saudi Arabia and by the USSR; and two draft resolutions submitted by Saudi Arabia.

The Third Committee eventually decided to recommend to the General Assembly that debate on the item be adjourned to the next session of the Assembly. This action, taken on a proposal by Ceylon, was adopted on 7 December by a roll-call vote of 54 to 38, with 15 abstentions.

On 14 December, by a recorded vote of 80 to 1, with 11 abstentions, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item to its twenty-sixth session in 1971.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

As in previous years, the General Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee had before it in 1970 a draft Con-

vention and a draft Declaration on Freedom of Information. The draft Declaration had been completed and adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1960; the draft Convention had been before the General Assembly since 1959. In 1959, 1960 and 1961, the Third Committee had adopted the preamble and articles 1 through 4 of the draft Convention.⁴⁶ In 1969, the General Assembly, again unable to take any substantive action on freedom of information because of its heavy programme of work, decided to give priority to the question at its twenty-fifth session in 1970.⁴⁷

However, in 1970 the Assembly was again unable to consider the draft Declaration or draft Convention on Freedom of Information. On 15 December, by 98 votes to 0, with 16 abstentions, it decided to give priority to this item at its twenty-sixth (1971) session, taking into account that consideration of the draft Declaration had been deferred for a decade, and that the draft Convention on Freedom of Information had been before the Assembly for 18 years.

The Assembly took this decision in adopting resolution 2722 (XXV), as recommended by the Third Committee, where it was adopted on 11 December by 67 votes to 0, with 15 abstentions, on a proposal by Afghanistan, the Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

COMMUNICATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

According to a procedure consolidated by the Economic and Social Council in 1959,⁴⁸ communications addressed to the United Nations dealing with the principles involved in promoting universal respect for, and observance of, human rights are summarized in a non-confi-

⁴³ See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 554-55, text of resolution 2595 (XXIV).

⁴⁴ See Y.U.N., 1967, pp. 542-43, texts of resolutions 1237(XLII) and 1238(XLII).

⁴⁵ See footnote 44.

⁴⁶ See Y.U.N., 1959, pp. 212-14; Y.U.N., 1960, pp. 335-37; and Y.U.N., 1961, pp. 306-7.

⁴⁷ See Y.U.N., 1969, p. 552, text of resolution 2596 (XXIV).

⁴⁸ See Y.U.N., 1959, p. 221, text of resolution 728F(XXVIII).

dential list distributed every year to the Commission on Human Rights.

Other communications concerning human rights—largely complaints alleging denial or violation of such rights—are summarized in a confidential list furnished every year to the members of the Commission in private meeting. The identity of the writers is not disclosed unless they have indicated that there is no objection to disclosure. Copies of the communications summarized in the confidential list are sent to any United Nations Member State referred to in the communications, and any reply which a Government might send is submitted to the Commission, together with the confidential list.

By a Council resolution of 1967,⁴⁹ the Commission and its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities were authorized to examine information relevant to: gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as exemplified by the policy of apartheid as practised in the Republic of South Africa and in Namibia (South West Africa), a territory under the direct responsibility of the United Nations and illegally occupied by South Africa; and to racial discrimination as practised in Southern Rhodesia.

The Human Rights Commission was also authorized, in appropriate cases, to make a thorough study of situations which revealed a consistent pattern of such violations and to report, with recommendations, to the Economic and Social Council.

The Council established additional procedures for dealing with alleged infringements of trade union rights (1950 and 1953) and with information relating to forced labour (1956), notwithstanding the provisions referred to above. Such communications are also included in the confidential list.

A confidential document of a statistical nature, based on the confidential lists of communications without disclosing either the names of the writers or the countries to which they relate, is also presented to the Commission.

In 1970, the Secretary-General submitted a non-confidential list of communications and a confidential list of communications to the Commission's 1970 session, together with a statistical summary of the confidential list.

(See also pp. 527-29.)

STUDY OF REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

At its 1970 session, the Commission on Human Rights considered the question of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the study of special problems relating to human rights in developing countries.⁵⁰

The Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General containing replies from 23 Governments to a request for information with a view to exchanging experience among States on the effectiveness of the methods and means used by them in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

The Special Rapporteur, Manouchehr Ganji, submitted a preliminary report in which he outlined the framework of a comprehensive report on the question. Commission members described efforts of their Governments to ensure to their nationals the enjoyment and protection of the rights in question, and made suggestions about matters which the Special Rapporteur should take into account in preparing the comprehensive report.

These included: (a) the effectiveness of the norms and principles contained in international instruments; (b) the degree of co-ordination between United Nations bodies which contributed to the realization of the rights under study; (c) conditions regarding the realization of economic, social and cultural rights in countries having different social systems; (d) problems encountered in the process of realization of economic, social and cultural rights and measures applied by Governments in order to overcome those problems; (e) the respective role and responsibility, with respect to the creation of real guarantees and material conditions, of State organs, semi-State organs and private institutions in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights; (f) the practical influence of the enjoyment of those rights in enhancing the dignity of the individual; and (g) the significance of effecting basic socio-economic trans-

⁴⁹ See Y.U.N., 1967, p. 512, text of resolution 1235(XLII).

⁵⁰ See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 543-44.

formations in countries for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

At its May 1970 session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1502 (XLVIII)—by 26 votes to 0, with 1 abstention—on the recommendation of the Human Rights Commission, and as approved by the Council's Social Committee on 19 May by 21 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

By this text, the Council asked the Special Rapporteur to complete his study as soon as possible, taking into account the views expressed by the Human Rights Commission, and to submit his final report to the Commission if possible at its 1971 session, but not later than at its 1972 session.

The Council also asked the Secretary-General to continue providing the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance and urged all Governments that had not already done so to submit information on the effectiveness of methods and means used by them in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

(For text of resolution 1502(XLVIII), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

The Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Government of Zambia, organized in 1970 a regional seminar on the realization of economic and social rights, with particular reference to developing countries. The seminar was held at Lusaka, Zambia, from 23 June to 4 July. (See also pp. 559-61.)

PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

At its 1970 session, the Commission on Human Rights considered periodic reports submitted by Governments and specialized agencies on economic, social and cultural rights, as well as additional reports on civil and political rights received during the latter part of 1969.

In accordance with a schedule established by the Economic and Social Council in 1965,⁵¹ reports are submitted for consideration in 2 continuing three-year cycle: in the first year, on civil and political rights; in the second year, on economic, social and cultural rights; and in the third year, on freedom of information.

Reports on economic, social and cultural rights were submitted by 33 States for the period from 1 July 1966 to 30 June 1969—together with

reports submitted by the International Labour Organisation; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the World Health Organization; the Universal Postal Union; the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization; and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—as well as comments from non-governmental organizations. They were considered by the Ad Hoc Committee on Periodic Reports on Human Rights and by the Commission on the Status of Women (see page 544) during their 1970 sessions, as well as by the Human Rights Commission.

On the recommendation of its Ad Hoc Committee, the Commission among other things expressed the belief that the reports on economic, social and cultural rights and the information available from other United Nations sources revealed the following trends, characteristics and problems of special importance and common interest:

(a) the positive influence on some Member States of United Nations instruments to promote and protect the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and guarantee their application;

(b) the growing importance attributed to those rights in law and in practice in States having different economic and social systems and at different stages of development, and particularly the interest shown by them in the study of problems relating to employment, to the improvement of living standards and to the environment, as well as the place accorded to problems of youth in the priorities of those States;

(c) the emphasis placed by many States on the need to combat discrimination in all its forms and on the role of education as a means of achieving progress in that field;

(d) the efforts made to devise legal and administrative procedures to facilitate the implementation of those rights and the application of systems for the verification of such implementation and to ensure fuller participation by the population;

(e) the realization on the part of many States that the difficulties which they were encounter-

⁵¹ See Y.U.N., 1965, pp. 487-88, text of resolution 1074C (XXXIX).

ing derived from the inadequacy of economic resources that could be allocated for the attainment of those rights, as well as from circumstances not within their own control; and

(f) the fact that the realization of those rights in the developing countries depended not on the developing countries alone but also on international action by the United Nations, by the specialized agencies and by the international community, especially in the field of development.

The Commission affirmed the need for increasing the resources available to the various bodies of the United Nations system concerned with technical and financial assistance, with a view to promoting international co-operation required in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights so that those bodies might be in a better position to provide Member States—and particularly the developing countries—with the assistance they might require in reaching solutions to the problems and difficulties experienced in that field.

The Human Rights Commission invited States to participate in a spirit of international co-operation in the periodic reporting system, which represented a source of information on the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms and was a valuable incentive to Governments to promote those rights. It asked Governments to give precedence in their reports to comments concerning the specific application of measures for the promotion of human rights and, if they so wished, to give detailed consideration to aspects of such application in which they had special experience.

Governments were also asked by the Commission to include in their reports a review of the status of their ratification of, or accession to, the relevant international human rights treaties adopted by the United Nations.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the procedure for dealing with periodic reports again be altered to allow Governments more time in which to prepare their reports, to give the Secretariat sufficient time to issue the necessary documentation and to permit members of the Ad Hoc Committee to study and evaluate the material carefully.

The Economic and Social Council, at its ses-

sion in May 1970, gave effect to this recommendation when it unanimously adopted resolution 1506(XLVIII) on 27 May, as approved without vote by its Social Committee on 20 May.

By this text, the Council authorized the Ad Hoc Committee to submit its report to the Commission within one year following the receipt of reports, notwithstanding the provisions of its resolution 1074 C (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965.⁵²

(For text of resolution 1506(XLVIII), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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 were adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1966 and opened for signature, ratification and accession.⁵³

The Assembly expressed the hope, when it adopted these instruments, that they would be signed and ratified or acceded to without delay and would come into force at an early date. The Secretary-General was asked to submit to the Assembly, at its future sessions, reports concerning the state of ratifications of the three instruments.

As at 31 December 1970, both Covenants had been ratified or acceded to by nine States and the Optional Protocol by four States. Also at the end of 1970, 46 States had signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 45 had signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and 17 had signed the Optional Protocol. The Covenants each require 35 ratifications or accessions before they enter into force, while the Optional Protocol requires 10 ratifications or accessions.

On 15 December 1970, the General Assembly decided, without objection, on the recommendation of its Third (Social, Humanitarian and

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ See Y.U.N., 1966, pp. 418-32, text of resolution 2200A (XXI), containing text of International Covenants and Optional Protocol.

Cultural) Committee, to take note of the Secretary-General's 1970 report on the question and to request him to submit another report to the Assembly's 1971 session.

SLAVERY AND PRACTICES OF APARTHEID AND COLONIALISM

At its session in August 1970, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, of the Commission on Human Rights, considered a progress report on the question of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the practices of apartheid and colonialism, submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the question, Mohamed Awad, in accordance with a 1968 resolution of the Economic and Social Council.⁵⁴

The Sub-Commission asked the Special Rapporteur to complete his task and to submit a final report to the Sub-Commission at its 1971 session. It also asked the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Special Rapporteur with the necessary assistance for the completion of his task, and asked him once again to urge those States which had not yet ratified the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, to expedite their ratification procedures.

The Sub-Commission also asked the Commission on Human Rights to recommend a draft resolution on the question for consideration by the Economic and Social Council in 1971.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

When it adopted the International Covenants on Human Rights in 1966,⁵⁵ the General Assembly considered the advisability of proposals made for the establishment of national commissions on human rights or the designation of other appropriate institutions to perform certain functions pertaining to the observance of the Covenants.⁵⁶ The Commission on Human Rights, which was asked to examine the question in all its aspects, was not able to consider the substance of the question until its session in 1970.

The Commission did, however, decide at its

1967 session to set up an ad hoc study group to examine a proposal made at that session to establish regional commissions on human rights within the United Nations family. After studying the report of that group, the Commission in 1968 asked the Secretary-General to transmit the report to Member States and regional inter-governmental organizations for their comments and to consider the possibility of arranging suitable regional seminars under the human rights advisory services programme to discuss the usefulness and advisability of the establishment of such commissions.

At its 1969 session, the Commission deferred consideration of the question until the results of a seminar to be held in Cairo, United Arab Republic, could be made available. The seminar was held from 2 to 15 September 1969 for participants from African countries to consider the establishment of regional commissions on human rights, with special reference to Africa.

At its 1969 session, the Commission deferred Commission, noting the report and conclusions of the Cairo seminar on the possibility of establishing a regional commission on human rights for Africa, asked the Secretary-General to extend all appropriate assistance under the advisory services programme and to arrange for appropriate consultation and exchange of information between the Commission and the Organization of African Unity in connexion with the possible establishment of the proposed commission.

The Commission also agreed that the question of whether or not to establish national commissions on human rights should be decided by each Government in the light of the traditions and institutions of its own country, and decided to ask the Secretary-General to forward the records of its debate on the question through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly.

The Economic and Social Council approved this decision on 27 May.

⁵⁴See Y.U.N., 1968, pp. 602-3, text of resolution 1330(XLIV).

⁵⁵See footnote 53.

⁵⁶See Y.U.N., 1966, p. 433, text of resolution 2200C(XXI) of 16 December 1966.

ACTIVITIES ARISING OUT OF
DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

At its 1970 session, the Commission on Human Rights decided to authorize continuation of investigations of human rights violations in southern Africa (see pp. 513-21) and in the territories under military occupation in the Middle East (see pp. 521-27).

Inasmuch as these decisions entailed financial implications, the Economic and Social Council on 27 May 1970 decided that the activities arising out of these Human Rights Commission decisions should be undertaken in 1970, bearing in mind the necessity to effect the maximum savings when allocating funds.

The Council also authorized the Secretary-General to inform the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the Council, taking into account the above provisions, considered the relevant programmes and expenditures to be of an urgent nature.

The Council took these decisions when it adopted—by a vote of 12 to 0, with 14 abstentions—resolution 1505(XLVIII), on the recommendation of its Social Committee, which approved it on 22 May by 12 votes to 0, with 11 abstentions, on a proposal by India, Pakistan and Sudan.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below.**)

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMINALS
AND PERSONS COMMITTING
CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 636-639.
Plenary Meeting 1693.

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters IV and XXIII (resolution 5 A and B (XXVI)).

E/4816, Chapter XXIV. Draft resolution II, as submitted by Commission on Human Rights and as orally amended by USSR, approved by Social Committee on 19 May 1970, meeting 639, by 8 votes to 2, with 12 abstentions.

E/4868 and Corr.1,2. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution II.

RESOLUTION 1500(XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4868, adopted by Council on 27 May 1970, meeting 1693, by 16 votes to 2, with 9 abstentions.

The Economic and Social Council
Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2583(XXIV) of 15 December 1969 on the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity,

"Noting with regret that the numerous decisions adopted by the United Nations on the question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity are still not being complied with fully,

"Expressing deep concern at the fact that in present-day conditions, as a result of aggressive wars and the

policies and practices of racism, apartheid and colonialism and other similar ideologies and practices, war crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed in various parts of the world,

"Convinced that a thorough investigation of war crimes and crimes against humanity, as also the arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of such crimes—wherever they may have been committed—and the establishment of criteria for determining compensation to the victims of such crimes, are important elements in the prevention of similar crimes now and in the future, and also in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the strengthening of confidence and the development of co-operation between peoples and the safeguarding of international peace and security,

"1. Draws attention to the fact that many war criminals and persons who have committed crimes against humanity are continuing to take refuge in the territories of certain States and are enjoying protection;

"2. Calls upon all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to take measures, in accordance with recognized principles of international law, to arrest such persons and extradite them to the countries where they have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, so that they can be brought to trial and punished in accordance with the laws of those countries;

"3. Condemns the war crimes and crimes against humanity at present being committed as a result of aggressive wars and the policies of racism, apartheid and colonialism and calls upon the States concerned to bring to trial persons guilty of such crimes;

"4. Also calls upon all the States concerned to intensify their co-operation in the collection and exchange of information which will contribute to the detection, arrest, extradition, trial and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity;

"5. Once again requests the States concerned, if they have not already done so, to take the necessary measures for the thorough investigation of war crimes and crimes against humanity, as defined in article I of the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, and for the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of all war criminals and persons guilty of crimes against humanity who have not yet been brought to trial or punishment;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue, in the light of the comments and observations submitted by Governments, the study of the question of the punishment of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and also of the criteria for determining compensation to the victims of such crimes in order to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1738, 1740, 1813, 1814.
Plenary Meeting 1930.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 8.

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

A/8038 and Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2. Question of punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity. Report of Secretary-General.

A/8038, Annex II. Text of draft resolution (1500 (XLVIII)) recommended by Economic and Social Council for adoption by General Assembly, as revised and as amended by Poland (A/C.3/L.1812) and Byelorussian SSR (A/C.3/L.1831 as orally sub-amended by United States), approved by Third Committee on 8 December 1970, meeting 1813, by roll-call vote of 47 to 4, with 41 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Ceylon, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen,* People's Republic of Congo, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway,

Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela.

* On 30 November 1970, Southern Yemen changed its name to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

A/C.3/L.1812. Poland: amendments to resolution, recommended by Economic and Social Council in A/8038.

A/C.3/L.1831. Byelorussian SSR: amendments to draft resolution recommended by Economic and Social Council in A/8038.

A/C.3/L.1833. Saudi Arabia: draft resolution.

A/8233. Report of Third Committee.

RESOLUTION 2712(xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8233, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1970, meeting 1930, by 55 votes to 4, with 33 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2583 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969 on the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity,

Welcoming with satisfaction the fact that the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity entered into force on 11 November 1970,

Noting with regret that the numerous decisions adopted by the United Nations on the question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity are still not being fully complied with,

Expressing deep concern at the fact that in present-day conditions, as a result of aggressive wars and the policies and practices of racism, apartheid and colonialism and other similar ideologies and practices, war crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed in various parts of the world,

Convinced that a thorough investigation of war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as the arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of such crimes—wherever they may have been committed—and the establishment of criteria for determining compensation to the victims of such crimes, are important elements in the prevention of similar crimes now and in the future, and also in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the strengthening of confidence and the development of co-operation between peoples and the safeguarding of international peace and security,

1. Draws attention to the fact that many war criminals and persons who have committed crimes against humanity are continuing to take refuge in the territories of certain States and are enjoying protection;

2. Calls upon all States to take measures, in accordance with recognized principles of international law, to arrest such persons and extradite them to the countries where they have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, so that they can be brought to trial and punished in accordance with the laws of those countries;

3. Condemns the war crimes and crimes against humanity at present being committed as a result of aggressive wars and the policies of racism, apartheid and colonialism and calls upon the States concerned to bring to trial persons guilty of such crimes;

4. Also calls upon all the States concerned to intensify their co-operation in the collection and exchange of information which will contribute to the detection, arrest, extradition, trial and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity;

5. Once again requests the States concerned, if they have not already done so, to take the necessary measures for the thorough investigation of war crimes and crimes against humanity, as defined in article I of the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, and for the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of all war criminals and persons guilty of crimes against humanity who have not yet been brought to trial or punished;

6. Requests States which have not yet become parties to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity to do so as soon as possible;

7. Appeals to Governments to provide the Secretary-General with information on the measures which they have taken or are taking to become parties to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity;

8. Also appeals to States which have not yet become parties to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity strictly to observe the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2583 (XXIV) to the effect that they should refrain from action running counter to the main purposes of that Convention;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to continue, in the light of the comments and observations submitted by Governments, the study of the question of the punishment of war crimes and crimes against humanity and the criteria for determining compensation to the victims of such crimes, in order to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Social Committee, meetings 636-640.
Plenary Meeting 1693.

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters XVIII and XXIII (resolution 14(XXVI)).

E/CN.4/1028 and Add.1-3, Add.3/Corr.1 and Add.4.5. Human rights and scientific and technological developments. Report of Secretary-General.

E/4868 and Corr.1,2. Report of Social Committee, para. 25 (recommendation (b)).

E/4832/Add.1. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council during its resumed 48th session, 11-28 May 1970. Other decisions (on report of Commission on Human Rights), p. 15, para. (b).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

General Committee, meeting 187.

Third Committee, meeting 1820.

Plenary Meeting 1930.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 15.

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

A/8055. Human rights and scientific and technological developments. Report of Secretary-General. A/8055/Add.1. Report of Secretary-General (transmitting preliminary memorandum of WHO on health aspects of human rights and scientific and technological developments).

A/C.3/L.1845. Finland, France, Iran, Japan: draft resolution, co-sponsored orally by Philippines and Sweden, as orally amended by Sierra Leone and by sponsors, approved unanimously by Third Committee on 11 December 1970, meeting 1820.

A/8256 and Corr.1. Report of Third Committee.

RESOLUTION 2721(xxv). as recommended by Third Committee, A/8256, adopted unanimously by Assembly on 15 December 1970, meeting 1930.

The General Assembly,

Believing that a proper balance should be established between scientific and technological progress and the intellectual, spiritual, cultural and moral advancement of humanity, as well as improvement in the general conditions of life,

Recalling its resolution 2450 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 on human rights and scientific and technological developments,

Noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 14(XXVI) of 26 March 1970,

Having received the preliminary report on human rights and scientific and technological developments prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2450(XXIII),

Noting also the preliminary memorandum of the World Health Organization,

Noting with regret that it has been unable to examine this question at the present session,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to study the problems relating to human rights as they arise from developments in science and technology, as provided in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2450 (XXIII);

2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-seventh session to give priority to the examination of the preliminary report on human rights and scientific and technological developments, as supplemented by such further information as may be made available to it, including the preliminary memorandum

submitted by the World Health Organization, and to transmit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, its suggestions and recommendations for the attainment of the objectives of resolution 2450(XXIII);

3. Decides to give priority to the consideration of this item at its twenty-sixth session.

TRADE UNION RIGHTS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION
Plenary Meetings 1689, 1690, 1693, 1694.

- E/4791. Report on trade union rights in southern Africa, submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1412 (XLVI), by Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts established under resolution 2(XXIII) of Commission on Human Rights.
- E/4819. Letter of 25 March 1970 from ILO (transmitting 113th report of its Governing Body's Committee on Freedom of Association, Geneva, Switzerland, 23 February 1970).
- E/4838. Report of Secretary-General on publicity given to report of Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts (E/4646), in accordance with operative paragraphs 21 and 23 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1412(XLVI).
- E/L.1324. Ghana, India, People's Republic of Congo, Yugoslavia: draft resolution, co-sponsored orally by Kenya.
- E/L.1325. Administrative and financial implications of 5-power draft resolution, E/L.1324. Note by Secretary-General.

RESOLUTION 1509 (XLVIII), as proposed by 5 powers, E/L.1324, as orally revised by sponsors, adopted by Council on 28 May 1970, meeting 1694, by roll-call vote of 17 to 0, with 9 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Bulgaria, Ceylon, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Pakistan, People's Republic of Congo, Peru, Sudan, Tunisia, USSR. Upper Volta, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Brazil, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, United Kingdom, United States.

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1412(XLVI) of 6 June 1969 in which it, inter alia, authorized the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts to continue its investigations into the infringements of trade-union rights in the Republic of South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia,

Also recalling that the Council had in the same resolution, inter alia, requested the International Labour Organisation to prepare and forward to it a comprehensive report on the position concerning the infringements of trade-union rights in the Portuguese colonies in Africa,

Having received the report of the Ad Hoc Working

Group of Experts and the report requested from the International Labour Organisation,

1. Welcomes the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts and looks forward to their report, containing conclusions and recommendations to the Council at its fiftieth session in 1971;

2. Thanks the International Labour Organisation for preparing and forwarding its report to the Council;

3. Endorses the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts contained in chapter VII, paragraphs 122-138, of its report;

4. Condemns the continuing suppression of trade-union rights in southern Africa and calls for an end to this suppression and the immediate and unconditional release of all persons imprisoned for their trade-union activities;

5. Authorizes the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, while carrying out the mandate entrusted to it by the Council in resolution 1412(XLVI), and in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation, other concerned specialized agencies and the major international trade-union organizations, to investigate the conditions of:

(a) The African producers of primary products in the Portuguese colonies in Africa;

(b) The sector of unorganized labour such as farm labour in the Portuguese colonies in Africa;

(c) Workers from Mozambique and Angola who are or have been employed in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia;

6. Further authorizes the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, again in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation, other concerned specialized agencies and the major international trade-union organizations, to investigate the factors leading to discrimination in the social field in the areas specified in paragraph 5 above;

7. Requests the Secretary-General and the regional bodies concerned to continue to give every assistance to, and extend any facilities that may be required by, the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts in order to carry out its mandate;

8. Decides to transmit the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts to the various United Nations organs mentioned in paragraph 18 of Council resolution 1412(XLVI);

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to give the maximum publicity to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, through the Office of Public Information and the Unit on Apartheid, and in co-operation with trade unions, non-governmental organizations, student, religious and other bodies, and requests him to report on this to the Economic and Social Council at its fiftieth session.

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

EDUCATION OF YOUTH IN THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March

- 1970, Chapters XIV and XXIII (resolution 12 (XXVI)).
- E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapter X.
- A/8028. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 25th session, 15 September-17 December 1970. Other decisions, p. 87.

QUESTION OF CREATION OF POST OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1737-1740, 1804-1812.
Plenary Meeting 1929.

- A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 17.
- A/8035. Report of Secretary-General.
- A/C.3/L.1768. Administrative and financial implications of Economic and Social Council resolution 1237(XLII) and amendments thereto by United Republic of Tanzania in A/8035, para. 7. Report by Secretary-General.
- A/C.3/L.1819. France: procedural motion on organization of work.
- A/C.3/L.1820. Saudi Arabia: amendments to French procedural motion, A/C.3/L.1819.
- A/G.3/L.1821. Saudi Arabia: procedural proposal concerning organization of work.
- A/G.3/L.1822. Note by Secretary-General, containing text of resolution 1237(XLII), adopted by Economic and Social Council on 6 June 1967.
- A/C.3/L.1823. Ceylon: draft resolution.
- A/C.3/L.1824 and Rev.1. Saudi Arabia: draft resolution and revision.
- A/C.3/L.1825. Saudi Arabia: draft resolution.
- A/C.3/L.1826. USSR: amendments to draft resolution contained in resolution 1237(XLII) of Economic and Social Council.
- A/C.3/L.1827. India: amendments to draft resolution contained in resolution 1237(XLII) of Economic and Social Council.
- A/C.3/L.1828. Afghanistan, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Netherlands, United States, Uruguay: amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1823.
- A/C.3/L.1829. Saudi Arabia: sub-amendments to amendments proposed by 7 powers, A/G.3/L.1828.
- A/C.3/L.1830. USSR: sub-amendments to amendments proposed by 7 powers, A/C.3/L.1828.
- A/8231. Report of Third Committee.
- A/8028. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 25th session, 15 September-17 December 1970. Other decisions, p. 86.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

General Committee, meeting 187.
Third Committee, meetings 1738, 1739, 1820.
Plenary Meeting 1930.

- A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 19.
- A/8036. Freedom of information. Note by Secretary-General. (Annex II: Draft Declaration on Freedom of Information; Annex III: Preamble and articles 1-4 of draft Convention on Freedom of Information, as approved by Third Committee; Annex IV: Articles 5-19 of draft Convention, not yet considered by Third Committee.)
- A/C.3/L.1839. Saudi Arabia: draft resolution.
- A/C.3/L.1839/Rev.1. Afghanistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia: revised draft resolution, approved by Third Committee on 11 December 1970, meeting 1820, by 67 votes to 0, with 15 abstentions.
- A/8253. Report of Third Committee.

RESOLUTION 2722 (xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8253, adopted by Assembly on 15 December 1970, meeting 1930, by 98 votes to 0, with 16 abstentions.

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 2081 (XX) of 20 December 1965 in which, inter alia, it decided to hasten the conclusion, among other instruments, of a convention on freedom of information,

Recalling further its resolution 2448 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 by which it decided, pending the completion of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, to give priority at its twenty-fourth session to the consideration and adoption of the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information,

Regretting that, despite this decision, it has not been possible to do so owing to the heavy programme of work at the current session,

Decides to give priority to the consideration of this item at its twenty-sixth session, taking into account that the consideration of the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information, which was submitted by the Economic and Social Council, has been deferred for the last decade, that the preamble and articles 1 to 4 of the draft Convention on Freedom of Information have been adopted by the Third Committee and that the draft Convention has been before the General Assembly for eighteen years.

COMMUNICATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

- E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapter XXI.
- A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 20.

STUDY OF REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION

Social Committee, meetings 636-639.
Plenary Meeting 1693.

- E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights,

on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters XII and XXIII (resolution 11 (XXVI)). E/4816, Chapter XXIV. Draft resolution IV, as submitted by Commission, approved by Social Committee on 19 May 1970, meeting 639, by 21 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

E/4816/Add.1. Financial implications of resolutions adopted by Commission on Human Rights at its 26th session.

E/4868 and Corr.1.2. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution IV.

RESOLUTION 1502(xLvIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4868, adopted by Council on 27 May 1970, meeting 1693, by 26 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

The Economic and Social Council,
Recalling its resolution 1421(XLVI) of 6 June 1969,

Noting resolution 11 (XXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights,

1. Requests the Special Rapporteur to complete his study as soon as possible, taking into account the views expressed at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, and to submit his final report to the Commission if possible at the twenty-seventh session, but in any case no later than the twenty-eighth session in 1972;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue providing to the Special Rapporteur all assistance necessary for the early completion of the report and, in particular, to urge once again those Governments and specialized agencies which have not yet done so to submit information on the effectiveness of the methods and means used by them in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 13.

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

ST/TAO/HR/40. Seminar on Realization of Economic and Social Rights with Particular Reference to Developing Countries, Lusaka, Zambia, 23 June-4 July 1970.

PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION

Social Committee, meetings 636-640.

Plenary Meeting 1693.

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters XIII and XXIII (resolution 13 (XXVI)).

E/4831. Report of Commission on Status of Women

on its 23rd session, 23 March-10 April 1970, Chapter II C.

E/4868 and Corr.1.2. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution VIII, as proposed by Committee Chairman, approved without vote by Social Committee on 20 May 1970, meeting 640.

RESOLUTION 1506(XLvm), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4868, adopted unanimously by Council on 27 May 1970, meeting 1693.

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting resolution 13 (XXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights,

Authorizes the Ad Hoc Committee on Periodic Reports on Human Rights, notwithstanding the provisions of resolution 1074C (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965 of the Council, to submit its report to the Commission on Human Rights within one year following the receipt of the reports referred to in paragraph 6 of resolution 1074C (XXXIX).

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 12.

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

STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION

Third Committee, meeting 1820.

Plenary Meeting 1930.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 10.

A/8071 and Corr.1. Status of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Report of Secretary-General.

A/8258. Report of Third Committee.

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

SLAVERY AND PRACTICES OF APARTHEID AND COLONIALISM

E/CN.4/1040. Report of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its 23rd session, 10-28 August 1970, Chapters II and VIII (resolution 1 (XXIII)).

E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapter III.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 5.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION

Social Committee, meeting 640.
Plenary Meeting 1693.

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters VII and XXIII (resolution 6 (XXVI), and Other decisions, p. 87).

E/4868 and Corr.1,2. Report of Social Committee, para. 25, recommendation (e).

E/4832/Add.1. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council, during its resumed 48th session, 11-28 May 1970. Other decisions (on report of Commission on Human Rights), p. 15, para. (e).

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I A 18.

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

ACTIVITIES ARISING OUT OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION

Social Committee, meetings 636-639, 644.
Plenary Meeting 1693.

E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters X, XI and XXIII (resolutions 8(XXVI) and 10(XXVI)).

E/4816/Add.1. Financial implications of resolutions adopted by Commission on Human Rights at its 26th session.

E/AC.7/L.575. India, Pakistan, Sudan: draft resolution, approved by Social Committee on 22 May 1970, meeting 644, by 12 votes to 0, with 11 abstentions.

E/4868 and Corr.1,2. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution VII.

RESOLUTION 1505 (XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4868, adopted by Council on 27 May 1970, meeting 1693, by 12 votes to 0, with 14 abstentions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having noted the statement of financial implications prepared by the Secretary-General on the decisions taken by the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-sixth session,

1. Decides that the activities arising out of the decisions taken by the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-sixth session in resolutions 8(XXVI) and 10(XXVI) should be undertaken in 1970, in conformity with the relevant decisions of the Com-

mission, bearing in mind the necessity to effect the maximum savings when allocating funds;

2. Authorizes the Secretary-General to inform the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the Council, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1 above, considers the relevant programmes and expenditures to be of an urgent nature.

OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—48TH SESSION

Social Committee, meetings 636-640.
Plenary Meeting 1693.

REVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

E/4816 and Add.1. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970, Chapters XV and XXIII (Other decisions, p. 88).

E/4846/Rev.1. Report of Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its 5th session, 27 April-12 May 1970, Chapter III G (1).

E/L.1310. Review of human rights programme. Note by Secretary-General.

E/4868 and Corr.1,2. Report of Social Committee, para. 25, recommendation (d).

E/4832/Add.1. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council during its resumed 48th session, 11-28 May 1970. Other decisions (on report of Commission on Human Rights), p. 15, para. (d).

REPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

E/4816. Report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, 24 February-27 March 1970. (Annex III: List of documents before Commission at its 26th session.)

E/4816, Chapter XXIV. Draft resolution VI, submitted by Commission, adopted without vote by Social Committee on 22 May 1970, meeting 644.

E/4816/Summary. Summary of report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session.

E/4816/Add.1. Financial implications of resolutions adopted by Commission on Human Rights at its 26th session.

E/4868 and Corr.1,2. Report of Social Committee, draft resolution VI.

RESOLUTION 1504 (XLVIII), as recommended by Social Committee, E/4868, taking note of report of Commission on Human Rights on its 26th session, adopted unanimously by Council on 27 May 1970, meeting 1693.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Yearbook on Human Rights for 1967. U.N.P. Sales No.: E.70.XIV.1; for 1968. U.N.P. Sales No.: E.71.XIV.1.

A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter I.

A/8001/Add.1. Introduction to report of Secretary-General, September 1970, Chapter VI.

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

A/INF/139. Human Rights Day: observance of 21st anniversary of adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Report of Secretary-General.