in East Timor (see PART FOUR, Chapter I). The Sub-Commission appreciated the Indonesian Government's new policy of openness in East Timor but regretted that more arrests, torture and summary executions were alleged to have taken place since the end of 1988, and hoped that the Government would allow representatives of human rights organizations to visit the territory. It further recommended that the Commission consider the human rights situation in East Timor at its 1990 session.

Iraq

Human Rights Commission action. On 8 March, by a roll-call vote of 17 to 13, with 9 abstentions, the Commission decided not to take action on a draft resolution by which it would have expressed concern at the human rights situation in Iraq, including the reported killing of Kurdish civilians by military attacks with the use of chemical weapons, and would have urged the Government of Iraq to ensure full respect for human rights. The Commission also would have requested its Chairman to appoint a special rapporteur to study the human rights situation in that country.

Sub-Commission action. On 31 August, by secret ballot, the Sub-Commission decided, by 14 votes to 10, to take no action on a draft resolution by which it would have recommended that the Commission study at its 1990 session the evolution of the human rights situation in Iraq.

Mass exoduses

Human Rights Commission action. On 8 March, the Commission invited Governments and international organizations to intensify their co-operation and assistance in efforts to address the causes of mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons and the problems resulting from them, and requested States to ensure implementation of the relevant international instruments to avert new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons. It encouraged the Secretary-General to continue discharging responsibilities pursuant to the 1986 report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees and look forward to his report to the General Assembly in 1989 on developments relating to the Group's recommendations. He was also urged to consolidate the system for early-warning activities in the humanitarian area by computerizing the UN Office for Research and the Collection of Information, serving as an inter-agency focal point for situation analysis and policy response, and by strengthening co-ordination within the UN system in that respect.

Report of the Secretary-General. In response to a 1988 General Assembly request and the Commission's resolution (above), the Secretary-General submitted a report on 17 October 1989 on human rights and mass exoduses. The report summarized activities of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information, which continued to monitor and provide early warning of situations that had the potential to cause mass exoduses. The Office also continued its efforts to establish a computerized early-warning system, including elaboration of criteria and co-ordination measures necessary for the operation of such a system and the development of early-warning indicators and data systems. Consultations on the subject were held with specialized agencies and NGOs, and a preliminary study was begun on co-ordination of early-warning activities with regard to potential refugee outflows.

The report also provided views and information on the question of mass exoduses and related developments received from four Governments, three UN bodies and specialized agencies, and one intergovernmental organization.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 December, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/164 without vote.

Human rights and mass exoduses

The General Assembly,

Mindful of its general humanitarian mandate under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Deeply disturbed by the continuing scale and magnitude of exoduses of refugees and displacements of population in many regions of the world and by the human suffering of millions of refugees and displaced persons,

Conscious of the fact that human rights violations are one of the multiple and complex factors causing mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, as indicated in the study of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on this subject and also in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees,

Aware of the recommendations concerning mass exoduses made by the Commission on Human Rights to its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and to special rapporteurs to be taken into account when violations of human rights in any part of the world are studied,

Deeply preoccupied by the increasingly heavy burden being imposed, particularly upon developing countries with limited resources of their own and upon the international community as a whole, by these sudden mass exoduses and displacements of population,

Stressing the need for international co-operation aimed at averting new massive flows of refugees while providing durable solutions to actual refugee situations,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/70 of 3 December 1986, in which it endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Govern-