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QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE 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 STUDY OF SPECIAL
PROBLEMS WHICH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACE IN THEIR EFFORTS
TO ACHIEVE THESE HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING: (a) PROBLEMS
RELATED TO THE RIGHT TO ENJOY AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING:
THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

By resolution 1987/19 of 10 March 1987, the Commission on Human Rights appealed to all States to pursue policies directed towards the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights and called upon them to co-operate in promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. The Commission further invited Governments, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations which had not yet done so to comment on their policies for the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report thereon to the Commission at its forty-fourth session.

The present report contains information submitted by Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/19. Any additional information will be reproduced as addenda to the present document.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]
[21 July 1987]

Australia has traditionally accorded high priority to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. The reports submitted by the Government of Australia concerning rights covered by the articles of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights give details of the implementation of these rights in Australia.

AUSTRIA

[Original: English]
[28 July 1987]

Extensive information on Austria's policies concerning the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights can be found in the Austrian reports laid before the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

BYELORUSSIAN SSR

[Original: Russian]
[2 October 1987]

The international covenants on human rights, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which embodies the obligations of States in these various spheres, occupy a special place in the United Nations system of international treaties and agreements relating to human rights.

The Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR provides for a broad range of human rights and fundamental freedoms which are not only in complete accordance with the provisions of the international covenants on human rights but in many respects go even further than the latter. For example, article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights proclaims the right of everyone to education and indicates specific measures with a view to the full realization of this right, including compulsory and free primary education for all and the progressive introduction of free secondary and higher education. These provisions were brought into force a long time ago in the Byelorussian SSR. All types of education are free in the Republic. Not only primary but also secondary education is universal and compulsory. School textbooks are provided free of charge, and pupils and students receive grants and enjoy various advantages.

As a means of developing the constitutional right of citizens to education, a number of law-making instruments were adopted recently covering the most important aspects of the work of vocational training schools and schools providing a general education - the nature of instruction and education, labour training and occupational guidance for school children, development of the system of vocational and technical training, the activities of pre-school establishments, and the improvement of teacher training and of the living and working conditions of teaching staff. For example, in

accordance with the decision entitled "Guidelines for the reform of general education and vocational training", adopted by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR on 12 April 1984, a set of measures is to be implemented in the Byelorussian SSR during the twelfth five-year plan aimed at further improving the quality of instruction, the moral and aesthetic education of young people and their training for socially useful work. Schools with 274,000 places are to be built during this period; this is 1.5 times more than during the eleventh five-year plan.

The decision adopted on 13 February 1984 by the Council of Ministers of the Byelorussian SSR entitled "General-education boarding schools, children's homes and other boarding institutions" is also intended to improve the living conditions, education and instruction of children at such institutions.

The supreme goal of social production under socialism, according to article 15 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR, is the fullest possible satisfaction of the people's growing material and cultural and intellectual requirements. The policy pursued during recent years in our country with a view to speeding up its social and economic development, restructuring the economy, infusing new vitality into all aspects of community life and carrying democratization even further, creates even more favourable conditions and guarantees for the complete realization of the rights and fundamental freedoms of Soviet citizens. This is true of the entire system of rights and freedoms, including economic, social and cultural rights. Special attention is paid to the task of strengthening the material guarantees of the individual's rights and freedoms, his right to social security, work (including the right to choose his trade or profession, type of job and work), leisure, health care, material security in his old age, housing, the enjoyment of cultural achievements, freedom to engage in creative scientific, technical and cultural activities, etc.

The expansion of social production and the growth of the national income have created the necessary prerequisites for further enhancing the people's well-being, which is specifically reflected in the steady improvement in the standard of living of the workers.

The national income of the Republic increased by 32.5 per cent during the eleventh five-year plan, and 80 per cent of its national income was used directly for consumption. The real income of the population rose by 13 per cent as compared to 1980.

Measures were recently taken to improve the pension system further. Pensions for manual and non-manual workers were increased, as were the minimum levels of old-age and disability pensions and of pensions for loss of the breadwinner. In November 1985 the minimum levels of pensions paid to members of collective farms in respect of old age, disability and loss of the breadwinner were raised. From 1 November 1985 pensions paid to manual and non-manual workers and their families were increased from the levels fixed 10 years and more previously. Machinery for reviewing previous pension entitlements is being put into operation on a regular standard basis, making it possible in future to bring the rate of growth in the material welfare of pensioners closer to that of able-bodied citizens.

One of the main ways of raising levels of living is by satisfying demand for high-quality food products. This is being done by increasing the efficiency of agricultural production.

The Food Programme of the USSR for the period up to 1990 - of which the comprehensive food programme of the Byelorussian SSR for this period is an integral part - constitutes the basis for carrying out further major economic and social measures in agriculture. Implementation of this programme through a series of important measures during the 1981-1985 period resulted in a substantial strengthening of the material and technical basis of agriculture. This sector received 9.7 billion roubles, or one in every four roubles of capital investment in the Republic's national economy.

In addition to strengthening the public sector of agriculture, interest is now being shown in citizens' private plots and in the development of collective horticulture and market gardening.

Special attention is being paid to bringing about a more rapid solution of the housing problem. During the eleventh five-year plan, 23 million square metres of housing space were built and made available; this figure exceeded the plan target by 11 per cent and made it possible for one in every five inhabitants of the Byelorussian SSR to improve his housing conditions.

In December 1983, the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR adopted the Housing Code of the Byelorussian SSR. New rules were introduced for the registration of citizens needing housing improvements and the provision of accommodation, and model statutes for housing construction co-operatives, a standard lease agreement and regulations for the use of residential accommodation, etc. were approved. A goal of particular social significance has now been set - to provide practically every family with separate accommodation, either an apartment or an individual house, by the year 2000. The supply of housing for the population constitutes one of the most important aspects of the system for ensuring that people have an adequate standard of living.

The achievement of the targets set out in this respect in the twelfth five-year plan is an important stage in the practical implementation of the right to housing guaranteed to every citizen under the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR (article 42). It is intended to make available 24 million square metres of housing (approximately 420,000 apartments). More rational use will be made of State funds for housing construction, co-operative and individual construction will be further expanded, the housing stock will be renovated and better maintained, and tighter controls will be kept on its allocation and utilization.

The population is provided with accommodation at low rents.

The Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR governs all basic matters relating to maternal and child welfare, the harmonious development of children, the attention and concern shown by the State towards young people, labour safety, protection and hygiene arrangements, and the protection and moulding of an environment beneficial to human health. The right to health and safe working conditions is one of the fundamental labour rights of manual and non-manual workers. Total expenditure on labour protection measures in

the Republic during the eleventh five-year plan alone amounted to 1.7 billion roubles, and during the twelfth five-year plan more than 2 billion roubles will be spent for the same purpose.

In addition to existing legislation in the field of health care, during the period under review a decision entitled "Progress in implementation of the Act of the Byelorussian SSR concerning health care and measures for the further improvement of public health protection" was adopted in the Republic in 1982, defining more fully the basic ways of improving the health care system and setting out a comprehensive programme for the further development of all forms of medical care and the implementation of wide-ranging measures of preventive treatment.

The draft "Guidelines for the development of health protection measures for the population and the restructuring of the public health system in the USSR under the twelfth five-year plan and during the period up to the year 2000" for adoption by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR, have now been submitted to the people of the USSR for consideration. The draft describes the concept of health care under socialism and strategies for its development, as well as measures to strengthen the material and technical basis of health care, to develop medical science and the medical industry, to provide better medicines for to the people, and to enhance their physical well-being.

The citizens of the Republic, and indeed those of the country as a whole, have recently been provided with supplementary legal guarantees relating to their labour activities. Article 17 of the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR states that the law permits individual labour in the Republic based exclusively on the personal work of individual citizens and members of their families. With the entry into force on 1 May 1987 of the USSR Act on "Individual labour activity", the legal regulation of such activities has been raised to a qualitatively new level and will be effected on a sound legal basis, mandatory for all organizations, establishments, enterprises, officials and citizens. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that individual labour is regulated in such a way as to satisfy more fully the social demand for goods and services, increase the degree to which citizens are occupied in socially useful activities and thereby provide them with additional income corresponding to their labour inputs.

The Byelorussian SSR consistently supports the efforts made in the United Nations aimed at establishing co-operation between States on a footing of equality with a view to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as respect for such rights and freedoms, and considers that such co-operation should be firmly based on agreements.

The most comprehensive and generally accepted basis for international co-operation in human rights matters is offered by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Under the provisions of these Covenants - from the right of peoples to self-determination to the right of each person to an economic and social position in society worthy of human dignity - States parties have assumed specific responsibilities in connection with the protection of these rights. For this reason, the accession of States to these Covenants as well as to other international human rights instruments, and

strict compliance with the obligations they imply, are tokens of their willingness to co-operate in promoting and developing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It is high time that those States which have not become parties to the Covenants took steps to bring their national legislation into line with international standards, accede to the Covenants and co-operate with other countries on a constructive and equal basis with a view to the realization of universally recognized human rights and freedoms.

The Soviet concept of human rights is based on the objectives of the social system, namely, the fullest satisfaction of the extremely diverse and steadily increasing requirements of the people.

We regard social and economic rights, such as the right to work, leisure, education, health protection, social security, etc., as the very basis of a single and indivisible set of human rights, since the complete development of the individual and the genuine exercise of human rights are impossible without the realization of all these rights.

The Byelorussian SSR is convinced that the implementation of the provisions of the Covenants on a global scale is closely connected with the problem of eliminating economic backwardness, extensive areas of hunger, poverty, epidemics and illiteracy which, in turn, depends on the task of ensuring peace and international security. The socialist countries have expressed their confident belief that, by acting resolutely and together, the forces of peace can avert a nuclear catastrophe and achieve the realization of the most important right of peoples, namely, the right to a peaceful existence and independent and free development. Differences in views, and in political and other opinions, should not constitute obstacles in this respect.

The most important task at the present time is to preserve peace and strengthen international security. The comprehensive system of international security which the socialist countries, at the forty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, proposed should be created must be based not only on specific measures in the military sphere to prevent war and strengthen peace, but also on a broad set of measures in the political, economic and humanitarian fields to strengthen international security and confidence in relations between States. The idea of creating a comprehensive system of international security is itself aimed at the solution of the most humanitarian of all current problems, namely, that of averting war, saving mankind and guaranteeing the natural right of people to live in peace and freedom. The establishment of truly civilized international intercourse and the creation of confidence between States depend to a considerable extent on developments in the humanitarian sphere and on the solution of various outstanding and new problems in this sphere. Providing that nothing is done to complicate the humanitarian situation artificially, that humanitarian problems are approached in a constructive spirit and not one of confrontation, and that steps are taken to put an end to idle speculation and attempts to interfere in the affairs of others, then this sphere could make a positive contribution to the restoration and extension of détente and become one of the cornerstones of lasting peace and international security.

In its desire to find ways and means of solving this problem, the Soviet Union submitted to the Vienna meeting a proposal to hold a diplomatic

conference in Moscow to consider the entire question of humanitarian co-operation between States participating in the pan-European process in a broad human rights context, covering civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. This conference would undoubtedly help to promote international co-operation in the human rights field.

In connection with the submission of periodic reports on the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, considerable information concerning the legislation of the Byelorussian SSR as well as its practices and information of a statistical nature is to be found in the following documents: E/1978/8/Add.19; E/1980/6/Add.18; E/1982/3/Add.3; E/1984/7/Add.8; E/1986/4/Add.19.

COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]
[6 August 1987]

Social development is the foundation of well-being and justice, and also of sustained growth. Management of the economy will be directed towards social development in general, and in particular, during this four-year period, towards combating absolute poverty and creating jobs in order to ensure harmonious social and economic development.

The Plan is designed as a coherent whole which will further the aims of social development, and not as a series of sectoral plans and programmes or local and institutional projects. The Plan is composed of special direct policies for defeating poverty and increasing employment, sectoral transformation and the reorientation of overall policies and policies for growth.

The social development plans will also provide for private sector participation through appropriate promotion programmes, incentives and co-operative action. In implementing anti-poverty and job creation policies it is essential to mobilize the people who will benefit, through community organizations and associations participating both in programme and project design and in implementation and evaluation.

Policy Orientation and Types of Policies

Action in the social field encompasses direct policies to conquer poverty and create jobs, sectoral policies to guide the production and distribution of goods and services, and a new orientation to overall economic policies. The latter will form part of a set of measures to harness social development as a factor for growth. The formulation of specific programmes to counter poverty, create employment and reorient production reflects this Government's determination to break with traditional patterns of economic and social development.

From an overall viewpoint, the impact of this growth strategy, based on imbalances in the external sectors and in the Government's finances, dampened economic activity by affecting domestic demand, favouring investment with a

high import content and thereby discriminating against domestic products. This led to a weakening in domestic output and gave rise to the unemployment crisis facing the country.

In order to check this tendency permanently and reduce unemployment rates substantially, there is a need to return to rising, stable rates of economic activity.

However, although this is a necessary condition, it is not sufficient to guarantee social welfare and a fair distribution of income. It is of vital importance to reorient action by the State - which is not neutral in this regard - by selecting direct and effective policies to counter poverty and create jobs.

Policies in the field of agriculture, industry, public services and housing will promote an increase in the supply of basic goods and create productive and skilled jobs, thus furthering the achievement of targets in both economic growth and social development. Special policies for the urban informal sector and for farmers will be aimed not only at their welfare, but also at their integration in the economy, for their own benefit and that of society as a whole.

A socially oriented economy cannot be achieved overnight, but it is urgently necessary to begin to seek results, and for that purpose special programmes will be initiated to produce the impetus needed to break the vicious circle of constraints on integrated economic and social development.

Anti-poverty measures

Families in a situation of critical poverty are those which could not meet minimal nutritional needs even if they spent their entire incomes on food. Twenty-five per cent of the population of Colombia is living in such conditions.

Those who are failing to satisfy their basic needs for shelter, public and social services, clothing, culture and education, security and so on are experiencing different degrees of poverty. A further 15 per cent of Colombians at least fall into this category.

The policy to combat absolute poverty provides, on the one hand, for special and direct policies focused on the critical group, and on the other broader actions which will benefit all of the poor, such as job creation, reorientation of production, improvement of social services and social security, as well as special policies for farmers and urban informal workers and their dependants.

In order to tackle critical poverty, those affected will have their basic needs met in a comprehensive manner, through the raising of their monetary and non-monetary incomes. Under this approach, the special employment programme will focus principally on persons belonging to this group. Additionally, a process will be begun to expand the supply of housing and essential goods as well as access to them, and to improve the coverage and quality of public services, social security and social assistance, basic education and medical care.

Job Creation

The level of employment is dictated principally by the level of activity in the formal sector, its breakdown by sector, and levels of remuneration. Consequently, the general employment policy will be focused on the private and public formal sectors. In order to deal with risks of unemployment and lack of job security for workers in the modern sector, the growth policy will concentrate on orienting the system of production towards improved income distribution and the extensive creation of productive employment.

This employment policy has the following components: reallocation of public investment towards social expenditure and activities which generate more productive employment; incentives and direct actions within a strategy for the balanced development of the domestic and external markets; large-scale production of basic goods; and formulation of an appropriate wage policy.

Special programmes will be pursued for job and income generation; with major importance attached to programmes of public investment designed to reduce unemployment and underemployment among unskilled workers and meet the needs of the poor. Encouragement will be given to the creation of associations and enterprises to engage skilled and professional staff at present unemployed, together with support for anti-poverty policies.

Policies will be initiated for raising productivity in the urban informal sector and among farmers, as well as special policies to reduce that part of unemployment which originates in problems of education and low productivity.

The National Recovery Plan

A fundamental component of the anti-poverty and job creation strategy is the National Recovery Plan. Programmes and projects under the Plan will also be notable for an emphasis on reconciliation and normalization, as well as the integration of the affected areas into the economy and society in Columbia. The contribution made by the zones to be rehabilitated to national output of food and raw materials, the demand generated by rising incomes and new activities in those areas, and the transport and communications programmes, will create an impulse towards integration and multiplier effects throughout the economy. One input required for the implementation of the Plan is the strengthening of selected towns as alternative nuclei for community participation and the distribution of goods and services.

The National Recovery Plan is thus a fundamental strategy under the policy for change to benefit all those people and areas which have been far from the focus of the State's attention, and to create the conditions for national reconciliation and normalization.

Organization at the Institutional Level

The plans and programmes for social development, the reduction of poverty and job creation are a task for the whole Government. To ensure the effective implementation of the Plan and the programmes, a Co-ordinating Committee for Social Development is to be set up, composed of ministers in social and economic fields directly related to the Plan, and chaired by the President. It will be supported by an Advisory Council, in which interested and affected

social groups will participate. Similar functions will be performed by local and regional councils for social development in all the alcaldías, gobernaciones, intendencias and comisariías in the country. The Office of the President will be responsible for supervising and co-ordinating the implementation of the anti-poverty and job creation plan, while the National Planning Department will draw up and evaluate the plans and CONPES will approve them.

Sources of Funds

The financial resources required for the special anti-poverty and job creation programmes will originate from:

(a) Reorientation of external and domestic credit, and public expenditure, towards social expenditure and activities which create more jobs.

(b) New external credits earmarked specifically for these programmes.

(c) Reorientation of surpluses generated by coffee and oil exports.

In addition, and in order to provide a stable resource base for financing the new social development policies, the Government is studying other sources:

(a) Reallocation of social security, family allowance and pension fund reserves.

(b) Income derived from extension of the State monopoly on gambling, and

(c) Loans from the BCH secured against municipal revenues, in pursuance of the provisions of Acts Nos. 61 of 1936 and 130 of 1985.

Efforts will be made to tap other sources of savings on terms which will allow favourable financing arrangements for activities of social significance.

The bulk of the resources will be capitalized by means of financial development funds in order to assist the public and private sectors in implementing essential programmes. This financial function will be performed on terms which guarantee payment from the funds to their beneficiaries.

Finally, the high levels of unemployment and underemployment mean that the country possesses a substantial reserve of human resources which will be mobilized to solve these groups' own problems, using machinery for community organization and participation.

Specific Projects for the Elimination of Poverty and Job Creation

The activities which have been identified for eliminating absolute poverty and creating jobs are classified into five basic programmes.

1. Rehabilitation of Substandard Urban Settlements and New Human Settlements

Rehabilitation of substandard urban settlements

There are a significant number of neighbourhoods in the country which fall short of minimum levels of habitability, but many of them are

capable of improvement given investment in drinking water supply, sewage disposal, refuse collection, paved access, public transport, energy facilities, public facilities for recreation and community activities, and day nurseries.

In addition to the above, full rein will be given to large-scale projects in extensive depressed sectors of absolute poverty. These are comprehensive projects encompassing urban capital investment activities, a principal element of which is the supply of drinking water.

New human settlements

New settlements will be encouraged within the framework of a concept for the development of urban areas in which housing, public services and urban capital investment will be viewed in an integrated manner and provided through the intervention of municipal or regional agencies in the market for land, as well as through technical assistance and progressive development with community participation.

From 1987 onwards, municipalities will have to comply with Acts Nos. 61 of 1936 and 130 of 1985, which provide that 5 per cent of their budgets must be earmarked for the development and improvement of low-income human settlements.

Financing for low-cost housing

Agencies specializing in the financing of low-cost housing will reorient their programmes towards innovative schemes which form part of a comprehensive approach to human settlements, in pursuance of which finance will be provided not only for users of new low-cost housing but also for those who subdivide or build extensions for rent (Plan Terrazas), construct their own dwellings in stages or upgrade rented accommodation or shared dwellings.

The Banco Central Hipotecario will adopt new methods of tapping savings and long-term lines of credit, for the purpose of funding housing on terms which are in keeping with new methods for housing construction and improvement.

Rationalization of public services

The coverage of public services will be raised from 60 per cent to 80 per cent in the case of water supply and from 44 per cent to 54 per cent for sewerage, and the coverage of other services such as power and gas will be raised so as to reach the poorest people. The administrative and financial structure of the organizations responsible for the service will be modified to improve their efficiency, lower costs and offer services on the basis of a tariff more suited to the poorest families.

Urban transport along principal routes

The main urban centres will restructure the passenger transport service, especially along public transport corridors, to make it more efficient in terms of journey duration, cost and quality. The benefits of this rationalization must reach the poorest families.

2. Basic Health for All

National System of Primary Health Care

A National System of Primary Health Care will be created, with health promotion and disease prevention and control; people living in neglected neighbourhoods and the poorest rural areas, as well as specific groups, will be given priority. The network of health units and centres and local hospitals will be strengthened by means of a recovery plan, and the maintenance and provision of equipment and physical facilities.

The programme includes out-patient services for pregnancy, family planning, monitoring of blood pressure, child growth monitoring and tropical diseases such as malaria.

In addition to health care for individuals, the programme will pursue environmental health activities, especially those connected with monitoring of water quality and food.

Extension of health care under the social security system

The social security system, making direct use of existing resources in the community or in the private or public sector, will provide workers' families with basic medical assistance. It will increase supervisory measures to ensure that employers comply with their obligation to register their casual workers and provide medical care for their families.

This effort includes the extension of social security coverage to regions not yet covered, such as the intendencias and comisariás and smaller villages.

Protection of Child Health

Through vaccination, children under five years of age will be protected against measles, polio, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus and tuberculosis. Diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases and malnutrition will also be tackled.

Basic medicines at reduced prices

Orders will be placed for the production or import and distribution of medicines required to treat the most common diseases, so that all Colombians, and especially the poorest among them, have access to basic medical treatment at low cost and close to their homes.

Emergency services

The prevention and treatment of injuries caused by accidents, poisoning, assault and obstetric and paediatric emergencies call for a campaign of community education and the strengthening of the network of emergency services in the country's hospitals, so as to guarantee their provision to those at present denied them.

3. Supply of Basic Goods

Production and marketing of staple foods

The rise in demand for food will be met efficiently by means of intervention and incentives for the entire agricultural sector, notably by expanding the supply of the 12 principal agricultural products in the national diet. Potentially productive remote areas will be opened up through the Farm-to-market Roads programme.

New forms of marketing will be devised to reduce costs and cut down the extensive losses caused by poor storage and handling of perishable foodstuffs. Distribution programmes will be set up to enable the poorest families to benefit from the new system.

Programmes for land settlement, allocation and granting of titles will also be carried out, together with research to raise productivity.

The Fondo DRI will channel resources for productive and socially oriented capital investment (health, education, rural water supply and roads), and HIMAT will focus its programmes on small-scale irrigation projects.

A high-priority programme in this area is the National Food Security Plan, which is designed to meet basic nutritional needs by guaranteeing the constant availability of food in appropriate quantity and quality and access to it for the poorest quarter of the population.

The Government will provide stable and adequate sources of finance for production and investment in the countryside, by strengthening the credit machinery of the Agricultural Finance Fund and the Caja Agraria. Resources will be increased for financing small-scale producers.

Lastly, mention should be made of several strategic road projects for opening up new areas to farming, together with related farm-to-market and feeder roads.

Production and distribution of manufactured products in the basic category

Conditions will be created for the stable production, at the lowest possible cost, and the efficient marketing of basic manufactured goods - processed foodstuffs, articles of personal hygiene and household articles, clothing, furniture and so on. Installed capacity will be used to the full, and excessive costs for publicity and luxury packaging, financing and storage will be eliminated to reduce consumer prices for the benefit for the poorest people.

In this context, provision has been made for the establishment of a network of suppliers to shopkeepers in urban centres, community markets in smaller centres and organizations of consumers who will participate in administering the programme, the aim of which is to reduce the cost of mass consumption items.

4. Home Improvement

Raising of money incomes in the poorest households

The special employment programme will seek first and foremost to provide incomes for workers from the poorest families, and will extend geographically as the needs of this group dictate. Public works in urban and rural areas will be undertaken with highly labour-intensive technologies, employing heads of household from the area around the project.

Assistance and finance will be provided for the creation of family production units, associations of independent workers, pre-co-operative groups and associations which improve the productivity and incomes of self-employed workers. In addition, technical training will be used as a means of preparing young people for joining the labour market.

Coverage of family allowances will be improved, and a larger proportion of such allowances will be paid in cash. Credits will be granted for housing maintenance and upgrading, as well as the provision of fittings and equipment.

New legal and administrative machinery will be created to monitor compliance with rules concerning minimum wages, social services and registration with the family allowance authorities, especially in the farming and service sector.

Family and community care

The social services will be re-organized for the purpose of supporting poverty eradication programmes. The contribution of young professionals will be reflected in an improvement in the quality of life for families and communities. The programmes will be aimed at improving the immediate environment of households as well as health, education, leisure and community organization and participation, through joint efforts with families and local organizations.

It is calculated that a total of some 30,000 professionals can potentially be called upon for this programme. The Government is studying appropriate machinery for social service delivery and organization, as well as finance.

Child development

Through expansion of the coverage of the ICBF's infant care centres, day nurseries, kindergartens and child care centres, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Education, this service will be provided to households to enable children living in extreme poverty to embark on the process of education and intellectual development from a very early age.

Nutrition

Selective programmes will offer mothers and children protein-rich and calorie-rich food supplements. A central element in this plan is the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare's programme for food distribution

to the groups at greatest risk of malnutrition (pregnant or nursing mothers and children under five years of age) in the major towns.

Programme of care for the aged and the handicapped

Comprehensive care will be fostered for the aged and the handicapped, with an orientation towards active and productive ways of life which generate satisfaction, self-esteem and integration in society, through the creation of day care centres, shelters, education and specialized medical care.

5. Basic Education for All

Universal primary education

Rural enrolment in primary education will be expanded to bring its coverage in line with urban levels. Rural primary schooling will be lengthened to five years under the New School programme.

As part of the programme for improving the quality of basic education in general, a programme for the publication and free supply of texts to public educational establishments will be pursued, with priority given to those located in neglected urban areas and rural areas.

The achievement of universal rural basic education calls for the provision and replacement of books, libraries, the provision and improvement of school equipment, the construction of classrooms and the training of teachers.

In the urban sector, the programme will concentrate on supplying basic texts to primary school children and improving and updating teacher training. In addition, investment in classroom construction and improvement will be directed towards the poorest departments.

Economic and educational arrangements will be devised to enable children from the poorest families to attend school for the five years of primary education.

Literacy and Post-literacy

Current levels of illiteracy in the country will be reduced, and post-literacy programmes for adults will be strengthened. Instruction will be provided on self-help health care, nutrition, home improvement and environmental conservation. Professional staff from the social services, among others, will be involved in this task.

Community organization and advancement for participation in the Plan

In order to ensure the involvement of groups and areas which development has passed by, linkages between the community itself and the institutional apparatus are required. The promotion of solidarity in the economic sphere will make it possible to expedite the planned activities significantly and maximize active participation.

Individuals, families and communities will be mobilized with technical assistance from the National Administrative Department of Co-operatives, the National Apprenticeship Service, the General Directorate of Community Integration and Cecora, for the following purposes:

- a. Participation in public works programmes, fulfilling contracts for housing construction and maintenance or self-help construction.
- b. Participation in the design and implementation of urban rehabilitation plans or the establishment of new urban settlements and monitoring of public services.
- c. Formation of associations of independent workers, in order to improve productivity and increase registration with the social security authorities.
- d. Formation of new units for the production and distribution of essential goods and services.
- e. Organization of associations providing essential professional or technical services, involving doctors, dentists, architects, builders, electricians and plumbers.

Immediate Action

Special plan for employment and the social emergency

Within the context of the poverty elimination programmes, the following projects enjoy highest priority for immediate implementation. These activities may be grouped as follows:

a. Special plan for employment

Public investment is directed towards job creation and meeting the basic needs of the poorest people. The main activities will be as follows: Construction and repair of roads, low-income housing, water supply and sewerage, public and community buildings and other facilities, especially schools and health centres; construction and maintenance of local roads and roads into new agricultural areas; irrigation projects in small districts and on hillsides; land reclamation through drainage; and construction of collection centres. The finance and assistance needed will be supplied to individuals and associations for self-help construction, environmental improvement, remodelling and subdivision of housing, reforestation and the promotion of horticulture, fisheries and forestry.

Implementation of these projects will require professional support and skilled manpower, which will be supplied in part through direct contracts with implementing agencies, but also, to a significant degree, by promoting the establishment of enterprises and associations which will specialize in meeting the needs of the poorest people.

These operations will be carried out within a short period, will generate productive employment first and foremost, and will benefit the users themselves and the community as a whole.

b. Immediate action to deal with the social emergency

In order to tackle the severest manifestations of the situation of critical poverty, action will be initiated in pursuit of immediate results:

Extension of the supply of milk and other food supplements to mothers and children identified as being nutritionally at risk.

Rehabilitation of sub-standard neighbourhoods in the following towns: Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cali, Cartagena, Cúcuta, Ibagué, Medellín and Pereira.

Improvement of family incomes through broadening of the coverage of family allowances in cash, monitoring of compliance with legislation governing social security and minimum wages, and modification of tariffs for public services.

Programme of comprehensive care for the aged.

Priority to health care for neglected urban areas in the six most heavily populated towns in the country.

Provision of essential medicines.

Extension of drinking water networks already planned in towns.

Provision of tanks for the immediate supply of drinking water in human settlements.

Provision of school books free of charge for public primary schools, with priority to neglected areas.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[26 August 1987]

In accordance with the request made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his Note of 30 May 1986, the following information is provided pursuant to resolution 1986/15 of the Commission on Human Rights entitled "Realization of economic, social and cultural rights".

As a Member of the United Nations, Cuba complies with the provision of the Charter of the Organization as regards the promotion of social progress and better standards of life, ensuring the full exercise of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, colour, sex, belief or religion, political opinion or national origin, based on respect for the dignity and value of the human person and his equal and inalienable rights.

From the moment of its establishment, the Revolutionary Government proceeded to review all previous legislation, with a view to repealing all laws which implied exploitation, exclusiveness, privilege, oppression, and racial superiority and discrimination; the institutionalization of this process found its supreme expression in the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, promulgated on 24 February 1976 after it had been discussed in draft form by all the country's workers, submitted to a vote and approved by 97 per cent of the population qualified to vote, through a procedure of direct democracy exercised to its full extent.

The Constitution of the Republic of Cuba enshrines and guarantees on broad basis, in keeping with the economic and social realities on which it rests and for which it provides a legal framework, the principles of equality and social justice and the rights of the individual in accordance with the interests of society as a whole.

The preamble to the Constitution lays down the bases for full recognition of the right to enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, when it expresses the conviction that all systems of exploitation of man by man cause the humiliation of the exploited and the degradation of the human nature of the exploiters, and the wish that the Constitution of the Republic should be guided by the profound aspiration of José Martí, finally achieved: "I wish the first law of our Republic to be the tribute of Cubans to the full dignity of man".

The Constitution proclaims the right of the people of Cuba to live and grow in dignity, free from any form of discrimination, and to develop fully; it also guarantees to all equally, without any distinction whatever, free education, social security, free medical care, sports, culture and recreation as well as access, according to merit and ability, to all posts, responsibilities, and employment.

The Constitution enshrines in its preamble and in articles 9, 10 (a) and (b), 12 (d) and (e), and 16 the principle of self-determination set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in other words the right of peoples to establish their political status freely and to promote their development, as well as the right to dispose freely of their wealth and natural resources.

The Constitution lays down that the Cuban socialist State exercises its sovereignty over the entire national territory and over the natural and living resources on and under the ocean floor and those in superjacent waters adjacent to the coast outside its territorial waters, over the area prescribed by law.

The Constitution provides that the Cuban socialist State carries out the will of the working people, maintains and defends the integrity and the sovereignty of the country, guarantees the liberty and the full dignity of man, the enjoyment of his rights, the exercise and fulfilment of his duties and the integral development of his personality, and assures the educational, scientific, technical and cultural progress of the country (article 8 (a)); guarantees that every man or woman who is able to work has an opportunity to obtain employment with which to contribute to the good of society and to the satisfaction of individual needs, that no person unable to work is left without adequate means of subsistence, that no sick person is left without medical care, that no child is left without schooling, food and clothing, that

no young person is left without the opportunity to study, and that no one is left without access to study, culture and sport; and strives to ensure that no family is left without a decent place to live (article 8 (b) and (c)).

Chapter VI of the Constitution is devoted to citizens' fundamental rights, duties and guarantees. It stipulates that work is a right, a duty and a source of pride for every citizen; it lays down the right to receive a wage according to the quality and quantity of work done (article 44); the right to rest, which is realized through the eight-hour working day, a day or days off each week and annual paid leave (article 45), social security for workers and their families (article 46) and social welfare (article 47); the right to job security, safety and hygiene (article 48); the right to healthcare and protection - a right which the State guarantees by providing free medical, hospital and dental care, and by promoting health publicity campaigns, mass vaccinations and other measures to prevent the outbreak of disease (article 49); the right to free education for children and young people as well as for adults (article 50); the right to physical education, sport and recreation (article 51); freedom of speech and of the press, by ensuring the use of mass media in the exclusive service of the working people and in the interest of society (article 52); the right of assembly, demonstration and association (article 53); freedom of conscience and the right of everyone to profess any belief and to practise, within the framework of respect for the law, the belief of his preference (article 54); inviolability of the home (article 55); inviolability of mail and of communication by cablegram, telegram and telephone (article 56); the freedom and inviolability of the person, guaranteed to all those who live in the country, since no one can be arrested except in the manner, with the guarantees and in the cases prescribed by law, and the person of anyone who has been arrested or a prisoner is inviolable (article 57); the right to a defence and the right to be tried by a competent court under laws which predate the offence, and the guarantee that no violence or pressure will be used against people to force them to testify (article 58); the retroactivity of criminal laws when they benefit the accused or person who has been sentenced (article 60); the right to submit complaints and petitions to the authorities (article 62); the right to a free, equal and secret vote for all Cubans, men and women alike, who are 16 years or over, and the right to be elected (articles 134, 135, 136 and 137).

The provisions contained in the Cuban Constitution correspond to an already existing situation. Every right which it proclaims is a right guaranteed by the country's economic, political and social realities.

On the basis of the experience gained over the years the body of laws in our country is being refined and enriched. Laws, decree-laws, decrees and other legal instruments have been enacted with a view to guaranteeing the fundamental rights of the citizens. We shall refer below to some of these standards, which serve to complement the recognition of those rights in the Constitution.

The Government of Cuba is carrying out an intensive educational campaign to raise the people's knowledge of the law and thereby achieve an indissoluble unity and interdependence between the legal system and legal knowledge. This is achieved through the massive participation of the people in developing legal norms, in the form of discussions and expression of views, in the management of the Workers' Councils and in participation by the people in the tasks of People's Power.

One of the main functions of the Government Attorney's Office and the courts is that of increasing the people's awareness of their rights and supervising the socialist legal system.

Chapter V of the Constitution, on equality lays down that all citizens have the same rights and the same duties; discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex or national origin is prohibited, and the violation of these principles is punishable by law.

These rights are duly protected, moreover, by the provisions of the Act on the Organization of the Judicial System (Act No. 4/77), which declares that the main objectives of the courts include protection of the life, liberty, dignity, honour, heritage, family relations and other rights and legitimate interests of citizens, and by those of the Act on Civil, Administrative and Labour Procedures (Act No. 7/77) and the Act on Penal Procedure (Act No. 5/77).

In order to provide protection in criminal law for the provisions laid down in the Constitution, the Criminal Code in force in Cuba since 1 November 1979 establishes (in article 349) penalties for violations of the right to equality and for acts of discrimination. The articles on "Violations of individual rights" and "Violations of labour rights" complement State protection against violations of these rights, whether committed by officials, individuals or institutions by establishing penalties for violations and ways in which the rights may be exercised.

The Labour Code, which was promulgated by Act No. 49 of 25 December 1984 after it had been discussed in draft form and improved by 2.3 million workers, lays down that persons wishing to work may do so irrespective of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion or national origin.

The Code also guarantees rest, by means of an eight-hour working day, a day or days off each week and annual paid leave.

The Labour Code provides that the State shall encourage participation by workers in scientific work and in the development of science (articles 38 (g)), the organization of further training for workers, post-graduate and scientific courses and the provision of the technical and vocational training required.

Article 19 of the Constitution provides that the socialist principle "From each according to his ability to each according to his work" applies in the Republic of Cuba. Article 42 states that all citizens, regardless of race, colour or national origin, have access, according to their merits and abilities, to all positions and jobs and are given equal pay for equal work. Article 43 provides that women have the same rights as men in the economic, political and social fields as well as in the family. The right to job security, safety and hygiene is guaranteed through the adoption of appropriate measures for the prevention of industrial accidents and occupational diseases. In addition, workers have the right to medical care and to an allowance or a pension in the event of disability (article 48). As far as women are concerned, the State ensures that they are given jobs in keeping with their physical constitution, grants them paid maternity leave, organizes institutions such as children's day-care groups and full and weekday boarding schools and strives to create all the conditions which help to make the principle of equality a reality (article 43).

The Constitution guarantees proper protection to any worker who is unable to work because of age, illness or disability. If the worker dies, similar protection is given to his family (article 46). The social welfare system protects old people lacking resources or protection, and anyone who is unable to work and has no relatives who can help him (article 47).

The following are complementary provisions:

Act No. 41 of 1983 on public health;

Act No. 24 of 1979 on social security.

In addition, the Labour Code devotes chapter XIII, section 1, to social security, reaffirming that workers and their families will be provided with proper protection.

Chapter III of the Constitution, devoted to the family, proclaims that the State shall protect the family, motherhood, matrimony and children, the latter having equal rights regardless of whether they were born in or out of wedlock - in other words, any qualification concerning the nature of filiation is abolished (articles 34 and 36). Furthermore, the parents have the duty to maintain their children, to help them defend their legitimate interests and to contribute actively to their upbringing and all-round development as useful, well-prepared citizens for life in socialist society (article 37). The raising of children and young people enjoys special protection on the part of the State and society. The family and school, State bodies and social and mass organizations have the duty to pay special attention to the integral development of children and young people (article 39). The following complementary legislation is worthy of mention:

Code on Childhood and Youth (Act No. 16 of 1978)

Act on Motherhood (Act No. 1263 of 1974)

Decree-Law No. 76/84, establishing the national network of assistance for minors lacking family protection

Decree-Law No. 64/82, establishing a system for the care of minors

Family Code (Act No. 1289 of 1975).

The third preambular paragraph of the Family Code states that the socialist concept of the family proceeds from the fundamental consideration that, as the basic cell of society, the family contributes to its development and fulfils important functions in the upbringing of the coming generations, and, as the centre of shared life between wife and husband, between them and their children and with all their relatives, answers the individuals deep human, emotional and social interests.

Article 1 of this Code declares that it legally regulates the institutions of the family: marriage, divorce, relations between parents and children, the obligation to provide maintenance, adoption and guardianship, the essential objectives being to contribute to the strengthening of the family and the ties of affection, assistance and respect among its members, marriage contracted according to the law or recognized judicially and based on

the absolute equality of rights of husband and wife, and the best efforts of parents to fulfil their obligations with respect to the protection, moral upbringing and education of their children so that they can develop fully in all aspects.

Article 20 of the Constitution states that "The State recognizes the right of the small farmers to own their land and other means and implements of production ...". The Revolution has been concerned to improve living conditions in the countryside. Hundreds of rural communities have been established with modern housing and the main basic services for the population, which were previously limited to the cities on a very small scale. Production co-operatives among small farmers have been encouraged, and new villages have been established. The shift by small individual farmers to improved, scientific and highly productive farming methods has enabled the peasantry to raise their level of living.

The following have also been promulgated for the benefit of the peasants:

Act No. 36/82 on Co-operatives

Decree-law No. 63/82 on the inheritance of land owned by small farmers

Decree-law No. 65/83 on social security for members of co-operatives.

The Act on Social Security has already benefited nearly 30,000 members of peasant co-operatives.

Article 22 of the Constitution guarantees personal ownership of earnings and savings derived from the individual's own work of the dwelling to which he has legal title and of the other possessions and objects which serve to satisfy his material and cultural needs.

The right to ownership of the means and tools required for individual or family labour is also guaranteed, as long as they are not used to exploit the work of others.

Small house-building teams have been set up with voluntary participation by workers and economic assistance from the State to help to resolve this major social problem. In addition, the State has built 335,000 dwellings in the past five years in towns and in the countryside.

The right of every citizen to an adequate level of living for himself and his family, including food, clothing and a comfortable dwelling, is ensured both by the provisions of the Constitution, in the above-mentioned article 8, and by other legislation promulgated subsequently.

Recently Act No. 48/84, entitled "General Act on Housing", was enacted for the benefit of the working people; it grants title deeds for housing to those who have had the use of the housing against payment, and to legitimate occupants.

Article 1 of this Act sets forth the principle already enshrined in the Constitution that the State strives to ensure that no family is left without a decent place to live. One of its fundamental objectives is that of

transferring the ownership of dwellings to their legal occupants, as well as the ownership of those which the State builds or which become available.

Cuba's achievements in the field of health and education have been recognized repeatedly by the competent international organizations.

The Act on Public Health, Act No. 41/83, establishes the basic principles which guarantee the promotion of health, the prevention of disease, recovery by and rehabilitation of patients and social welfare.

As a fundamental function to which the Cuban State attaches high priority, health protection has reached a high level of development, and in accordance with article 4 of this Act, the organization of the health sector and the provision of services to Cuban society are based on the recognition, and guaranteeing, of the right of the people to proper health care and protection in any part of the country; the fact that these services and medical assistance are free; the status of medicine as a social service; the priority given to prevention; planning; the application of achievements in science and medical technology; participation by the public in plans and activities in this sphere; international co-operation in medicine, and the provision of aid to other countries in the health field as an internationalist duty.

A special provision in the Act lays down that "State organs and bodies and other institutions in the country shall assist in the performance of those functions of the Ministry of Health which have an impact or are called for in their respective branches or spheres of activity".

The Revolution has made important changes and obtained extraordinary results in the field of health. High priority has been given to the health of the people.

A major effort has been made in the training of doctors and dentists. The Revolution established a rural medical service, and hospitals and dispensaries were constructed in the countryside, putting an end to age-old neglect of the health of the rural population in the pre-revolutionary period. Municipal and rural hospitals were converted into teaching hospitals, increasing the opportunities for the training of doctors. As a result of the high priority the Revolution accords to health facilities in human and social terms, as well as the need to protect the population from dangers to their health, there has been a 51 per cent increase in such facilities during the current five-year period compared with the previous five-year period; 31 rooms for intensive paediatric care were constructed, 6 large hospitals were completed, 10 were renovated and 43 polyclinics were constructed.

The country's public health and epidemiological services have been considerably strengthened.

New services for children were set up, such as haemodialysis for children above a certain age. Advice on genetic aspects of health is given in maternity and paediatric hospitals in all provinces.

The infant mortality rate decreased in 1984 to 15 per 1,000 live births, slightly increasing in 1986 to 16.5, but already declining once again. Life

expectancy at birth now stands at 74.2 years. The ratio of doctors to the population rose to one to 443 in 1985, and the ratio for dentists to one to 1,8000.

The opening of centres such as the "Hermanos Ameijeiras" hospital offering clinical and surgical services where the country's first heart transplants were performed, will make it possible to follow new directions in the national health system.

Ultrasonic diagnostic techniques are already being used in 65 hospitals, and computerized axial tomography is being introduced.

In addition, the national health system comprises 483 polyclinics, 57 rural hospitals, 281 rural medical centres, and 149 dental clinics.

It is a corollary of our social system that the practice of medicine follows a preventive and curative approach and is oriented towards the individual, the family and the community.

Primary care constitutes the fundamental link in our public health system, as the focus of programmes aimed at improving the health of the population through actions planned and co-ordinated by various health personnel working in polyclinics, dental clinics, rural hospitals and rural medical centres.

Of the numerous initiatives taken by Cuba in the health field, one of those with the greatest social scope and impact on medical services for the population is the introduction of "family doctors", who will each cover 120 family units or 600 persons.

The establishment of the system of family doctors will provide a solution to the population's health problems, through services which cover the healthy and the ill and comprise prevention, recovery and rehabilitation.

The family doctor lives in the same area as his patients, thereby ensuring greater access by the population to health services; this constitutes a qualitatively higher stage in outpatient medical care. Family medicine means that primary importance is attached to continuous, personalized and all-round care. It is also planned to provide this service in schools, factories and other places of work.

To carry out this plan a decision was made to train specialists in comprehensive general medicine: doctors who can understand, integrate, co-ordinate and administer health care and apply this Cuban model of the family doctor.

The family doctor approach is an exceptional and avant-garde experiment, holding promise for our country and hope for all mankind.

In sum, the Cuban State has made substantial advances in the development of medical sciences and in the field of research.

In the sphere of scientific research there are 39,000 workers, of whom 14,000 are at the post-graduate level. This great human potential and the

resources available to them have an opportunity to contribute substantially to the country's economic and social development. More than 100 research centres have been established.

Notable results in the biological field have included the production of white-cell interferon for medical use, which has made it possible to treat successfully many diseases of viral origin and some types of tumours.

Of special interest, because of the enormous importance of genetic engineering and biotechnology for mankind, is the new and modern centre for research in these areas, which was inaugurated on 1 July of this year and which has as its basic projects the accelerated development of our country in biotechnology and genetic engineering applied to human and animal health, industry and agriculture. Biologists, physicians, microbiologists, biochemists, mathematicians, cyberneticist mathematicians, chemical engineers and others work in the centre, which, as Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, the Cuban head of State, has said, will facilitate future collaboration in this field with Latin American and third world countries.

Opportunities for developing tissue cultures, transferring genes from one plant cell to another, and seeking new varieties with potentially much higher productivity are of extraordinary importance in a world where millions of human beings go hungry. Biotechnology can make an enormous contribution to feeding mankind.

Hence the importance given by the Cuban State to this Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, a sign of the mature stage reached in Cuba's scientific and technical development.

Work is also being carried out in the new premises of the Institute of Tropical Medicine and the National Microbiological Laboratory.

Taking all these factors into account, it is possible that Cuba occupies one of the leading places in the world in the field of health.

Under article 38 of the Constitution, the State guides, promotes and encourages education, culture and the sciences in all their forms.

The Revolution has accomplished a gigantic educational effort, whose fundamental beneficiaries have been the children and young people of our country.

In 1961, following completion of the literacy campaign launched by the Revolutionary Government to eradicate illiteracy - in a population in which more than one million people were semi-illiterate and one million were absolute illiterates who could not read or write, (11.6 per cent of the population in the cities and 41.7 per cent in the countryside) - and the extension of primary education to all corners of the country, a sustained effort was undertaken to raise the average educational level of the masses, which now stands at the sixth-grade level; strenuous efforts are being made to reach the ninth-grade level. Thousands of teachers have had to be trained for adult education.

The extension of educational services to all the people and the large-scale development of education have created an ever-growing need for school premises. At the time of the triumph of the Revolution there were 600,000 children who did not go to school and 10,000 unemployed teachers. Thousands of schools have been constructed throughout the country. Seventy per cent of our schools have been built or modified and brought into use since 1959.

The Revolutionary Government has developed an extensive system of scholarships. The number of scholarship holders at various levels of education who receive free lodging, food, clothing, transportation and teaching materials amounts to 600,000 - more than a million when weekday boarders are added. Basic secondary and pre-university schools have been established in the countryside, as well as vocational schools and schools for physical education teachers, day-care centre teachers, and health technicians.

Over the years the State has trained teachers for these schools. Schemes have been devised to encourage the teachers to improve their qualifications.

Children's day-care centres which were begun in 1961 as educational institutions designed to organize and guide the upbringing and education of children in the pre-school years, within a close relationship with the family and society, and where the children of workers are well looked after during working hours have been organized as an integral part of the educational process.

Children's day-care centres have been set up throughout the country in architectural contexts that combine all the requirements for the work of institutions concerned with children of up to five years of age, which are all supervised by the Instituto de la Infancia.

All provinces have modern day-care centres. More than 160,000 children are enrolled in them, which benefits over 100,000 working mothers.

Specialized schools have been established to study such problems as those of children, adolescents and young persons suffering from mental or sensory deficiencies or educational or social maladjustment. Today there are a large number of such schools with an enrolment of 40,000 children and 10,000 teachers.

At the time of the triumph of the Revolution technical and vocational education was in a deplorable state.

Substantial qualitative and quantitative changes have taken place in the training of skilled workers and medium-level technicians, which makes it possible to meet the growing needs arising from an increased activity in both industry and agriculture.

The national system of education extends from pre-school to university levels and comprises various kinds of education including general education, polytechnic education, technical and vocational education, adult education, specialized education or education for the physically or mentally handicapped, higher education, and training and further training for teachers; general and common services that support and strengthen these different types of

instruction, such as service, of a pedagogical nature: physical education, art education, political and extracurricular activities, psychology, libraries and audiovisual facilities.

Its general characteristics are:

State system

Services entirely free of charge

Co-education

Large-scale, ongoing education, with genuine equality of opportunity, irrespective of race, sex, religious belief, social origin or geographic location

Participation of society as a whole in the educational process

All-round education

Education is set in the context of society, the process of production and the country's economic and social development

Scientific nature of the educational process and of the approaches, content and methods or techniques used in education and training

Vocational orientation focused on basic and key sectors in the country's development

Genuine and effective access for workers to secondary and university education.

Prior to the triumph of the Revolution, Cuba had three State universities: the university of Havana, established in 1728, Oriente University, founded in 1947, and the Central University of Las Villas, established in 1949, all of them providing a very narrow range of subjects. There was also a private university in Havana.

In 1963 a university reform was carried out, which included a change in the system of management, reorganization of the university structure, the development of scientific research, an increase in the number of subjects, the establishment of Institutes of Pedagogy, the introduction of a system of university scholarships, changes in the pattern of enrolment in keeping with the needs of the country, and the establishment of a link between studies and work. All these factors brought about a qualitative change in our centres of higher learning.

Efforts were made to make higher education available to all.

At present 46 centres of higher education are in operation; university-level enrolment amounts to somewhat more than 280,000 students (35 per 1,000 inhabitants), including over 30,000 external students, most of whom are workers. The number of higher-level students in the last graduation class was over 20,000 more than the total university enrolment before the triumph of the Revolution.

An experiment whereby university students were assigned jobs before they graduated had positive and useful practical results during the past five-year period.

Intensive efforts are being made to improve the educational system, and work is being carried out constantly along these lines. We have the skilled staff and centres necessary to continue improving the quality of education.

It should be pointed out that owing to the social benefits provided by the Revolution, people in our society are not subjected to pressures which make it necessary for them to withdraw their children from school in order to help support the family.

Progress has been made not only in the field of education in general but also in that of culture and sport.

With the triumph of the Revolution new avenues opened up for the cultural development of the people. A highly creative atmosphere has been established in the field of culture.

Educational and cultural policy is based on the following considerations:

There is freedom of artistic creation so long as its content does not undermine the Revolution. Forms of expression in art may be chosen freely;

The State, in order to raise the cultural level of the people, endeavours to promote and develop artistic education, the vocation for the creation and cultivation of art and the ability to appreciate it;

There is freedom of creative and research activity in science. The State stimulates and facilitates research, and gives priority to research aimed at solving problems which are of interest to society, to the benefit of the people;

The State encourages workers to become engaged in scientific activities and the development of science;

The State supervises conservation of the cultural heritage and artistic and historical wealth of the nation. It protects national monuments and places of interest for their natural beauty or recognized artistic or historical value.

Protection of the interests of the authors of cultural, artistic and literary works is guaranteed through the Copyright Act.

The association of various institutions with the Ministry of Culture, the work of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba and the consolidation of social organizations of young artists have helped to ensure a consistent cultural policy.

Vocational schools for the arts have been set up. The People's Cultural Councils, a mechanism for co-ordination and social action, have been established. Progress has been made in organizing the fundamental orientation of artistic and literary works.

The Cuban cinema, which was virtually non-existent before the triumph of the Revolution, is a significant cultural phenomenon; documentaries occupy a prominent place in its output.

Radio and television, which have spread widely through the towns and the countryside, have played an extraordinary role in informing and guiding the population.

In their social task of helping to mould the coming generations, the mass media are working in the field of education, cultural dissemination and promotion, sound health and nutritional practices, guidance in preventive medicine and the development of artistic talents. Production and the development of technology and science are encouraged, thereby contributing to economic and political development. Cuba's achievements in sports are well known.

At the time of the triumph of the Revolution, the scant sports facilities and the former aristocratic clubs were placed at the service of the people.

The Institute for Sports Medicine was established.

The Higher School for Physical Education was founded. Tens of thousands of primary school teachers attended training courses in physical education. Facilities were created for the development of physical education and school sports. Special schools were organized for pupils of outstanding sporting ability.

Opportunities to participate in physical exercise and sports are open to all.

Dozens of sports facilities have been constructed throughout the country. The logical results of this colossal effort have been seen in international sports events, in which Cuba occupies an outstanding place in all disciplines.

We provide technical assistance to more than 30 countries in this field, and over 200 young people from 14 countries are studying in our sports training centres.

A few figures will illustrate the progress made by the people of Cuba in the educational field during the past five-year period.

School attendance by children aged five rose to more than 80 per cent, that of children between 6 and 12 years of age increased to nearly 100 per cent, and that of children between 13 and 16 years to more than 87 per cent.

More than 46,000 pupils are enrolled in 433 schools providing special education.

Fifty-eight per cent of the total number of primary school pupils attend both morning and afternoon classes.

For every 1,000 children between 6 and 11 years of age, there are 300 in primary weekday boarding schools. For every 1,000 adolescents and young

people between 12 and 17 years of age, there are 400 in secondary boarding establishments. More than 39 young people in every thousand attend institutions of higher learning.

The numbers of children and young people completing the various levels of education are three times those which had prevailed for nearly 60 years in Cuba prior to the Revolution.

At present we have 260,000 teachers at the various levels, of whom about 100,000 are pursuing further training. All the teachers have diplomas.

Over 3,600 teachers are working abroad in more than 20 countries, and over 20,000 children and young people from third world countries are studying in Cuba on Cuban Government scholarships. Thousands of young people have graduated and returned to their countries with university degrees and technical qualifications.

The past five years have been a period of extraordinary advances in the organization of the economy, and significant achievements in our economic development and in meeting the population's needs to an increasing extent:

The global social product grew at an average rate of 7.3 per cent

Personal consumption increased at an annual rate of 2.8 per cent, and public consumption at 7.1 per cent

Average monthly wages rose by 26.4 per cent

Daily calorie consumption increased to 2,900 per capita, and protein consumption to 78 grams per inhabitant

The proportion of homes with electricity has already reached 85 per cent

Investment in the electric power industry has increased substantially; huge plants, such as the Cienfuegos nuclear power station, are being constructed as well as the largest thermal power plant in the country at Santa Cruz del Norte, La Habana, with a capacity of over 1 million kilowatts, thereby ensuring that the country's future energy requirements will be met

The food industry grew at an annual rate of 6.1 per cent; production of the principal items rose by 14 per cent, and that of fresh and tinned pork by 43 and 69 per cent respectively; yoghurt and ice-cream production rose by 21.2 per cent and 12.4 per cent; the output of pasteurized milk, cheese, butter, wheat flour, pasta, tinned fruits and vegetables increased

Seven hundred new products were marketed.

At the international level, the Republic of Cuba, as proclaimed in article 12 of the Constitution, endorses the principles of proletarian internationalism and the combative solidarity of peoples; it works for honourable and lasting peace, based on respect for the sovereignty and independence of peoples and their right to self-determination.

Cuba has spoken out very positively and combatively in defence of the economic, social and cultural rights of peoples, fighting relentlessly for human rights in all international bodies, against under-development and exploitation, and championing the rights of oppressed peoples.

Evidence of the above statements is to be found in Cuba's firm stand in the struggle for a new, more equitable international economic order which will enable the States of the third world to develop, and in its strong condemnation of colonialism, neo-colonialism and the exploitative, Fascist, racist and genocidal régimes whose cruelty and unbounded contempt for human life provide a stark lesson for the progressive forces in the world in their fight to achieve dignity and respect for all mankind.

Specific applications of the foreign policy dating from the first days of the Revolution may be seen in Cuba's support for United Nations General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the negotiation, conclusion, signature and ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the struggle for the cancellation of the external debt of the underdeveloped countries, in which Cuba was a pioneer, in its condemnation of racist régimes such as the South African régime, the bulwark of apartheid, and in our active co-operation in the socio-economic and other areas with numerous countries of the third world striving to extricate themselves from backwardness and underdevelopment.

Cuba is a member, inter alia, of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: WHO, FAO, ILO and UNESCO, and has signed and ratified numerous conventions and recommendations of those bodies.

As far as human rights are concerned, Cuba is a party to all international treaties against the traffic in women and children, the exploitation and prostitution of human beings, and slavery.

It has also ratified or adhered to the following international instruments, inter alia:

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (9 December 1948);

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (21 December 1965);

Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (26 November 1968);

International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (30 November 1973);

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (18 December 1979);

Convention on the Political Rights of Women (20 December 1952).

In accordance with the principles governing its foreign policy, Cuba fulfils the commitments undertaken internationally by incorporating them into its legislation.

In addition, in accordance with the Constitution, these international instruments have the force of law from the moment of their promulgation in the Gaceta Oficial, once they have been approved and ratified by the executive and legislative bodies. In this way, national legislation and the international treaties ratified by Cuba complement one another and form the legal basis necessary to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the people.

The third preambular paragraph of the current Penal Code draws attention to:

"The inclusion of criminal actions repudiated by international legal standards and condemned in international conventions to which our country is a signatory, such as mercenarism, genocide and apartheid."

FRANCE

[Original: French]
[25 June 1987]

The comments are contained in the periodic reports relating to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights submitted by the Government of France to the Human Rights Committee.

In 1985 France sent the Committee its first report on the implementation of articles 13 to 15 of the Covenant and, in 1986, it sent its second report on the implementation of articles 6 to 9. In September 1987 it will send the Committee its third report on the implementation of articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant.

NETHERLANDS

[Original: English]
[5 August 1987]

The Netherlands Government will limit its comments to the very extensive reporting per article that it provides on the basis of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

QATAR

[Original: Arabic]
[24 June 1987]

The chapter of the Amended Provisional Constitution of the State of Qatar entitled "Essential guiding principles of State policy" provides fundamental safeguards relating, inter alia, to the family, employment, national culture, education, health, safety and social welfare in accordance with the relevant principles set forth in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Government of the State of Qatar is firmly convinced that social progress, peaceful coexistence and the full realization of human rights must be based on respect for the dignity and value of the human person. The State of Qatar expects that the newly established Committee on Economic, Social and

Cultural Rights will exert its utmost endeavour, in accordance with its mandate, to secure wider international recognition of economic, social and cultural rights.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]
[18 September 1987]

The Soviet Union is a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which it signed on 18 March 1968 and ratified on 18 September 1973.

Considerably before that, however, the national legislation of the USSR had affirmed many basic personal rights and freedoms, such as the right to work, including the right to choice of occupation, type of job and work according to inclinations, abilities, and occupational training, with due regard to the needs of society, the right to leisure, the right to health protection, the right to material security in old age, in sickness, and in the event of complete or partial disability or loss of the breadwinner, the right to housing, the right to education, etc.

The legislative and administrative practice of the USSR goes considerably beyond the minimum provided for in the Covenant. At the same time, the Government of the USSR considers that the process of perfecting socialist democracy should continue steadily. The focus of attention in the social policy of the State is always man, his interests and well-being.

This is precisely the object of the great undertaking now underway in the Soviet Union to democratize all aspects of life, improve domestic legislation, and extend the rights and powers of local organs of government and work collectives.

The Constitution of the USSR adopted on 7 October 1977 preserved the continuity of the ideas and principles of the first Soviet Constitution of 1918, the 1924 Constitution and the 1936 Constitution, and consolidated all the rights and freedoms of citizens enumerated above.

Thus citizens of the USSR enjoy the entire gamut of socio-economic, political and personal rights and freedoms proclaimed and guaranteed by the Constitution of the USSR and by Soviet laws. Respect for the individual and protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens are an obligation for all State organs, public organizations and officials. This proposition is reaffirmed in the USSR Act of 30 June 1987 establishing the procedure for submitting complaints to the courts against unlawful actions by officials infringing the rights of citizens.

A wide range of social and economic rights serves as the basis for the realization of civil and political rights. Only genuine enjoyment of the entire panoply of rights - social, economic, civil and political alike - points to true respect for and observance of all the inalienable rights and freedoms of the individual within the State.

Their indissoluble unity promotes the development of equitable social relations, precluding both privilege and discriminatory restrictions.

In particular, article 4 of the Fundamental Principles of Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics on public education proclaims the following to be essential principles of public education in the USSR: equality of all citizens of the USSR in the receipt of education irrespective of their origin, social or property status, race or nationality, sex, language, attitude to religion, type or nature of occupation, domicile or other circumstances; freedom of choice of the language of instruction: instruction in the native language or in the language of another people of the USSR; provision of all types of education free of charge, maintenance of a proportion of the pupils entirely at State expense, free issue of school books, provision of grants to pupils and students, who are also to be accorded the statutory privileges and other material assistance; a unified system of public education and access to all types of educational establishment, ensuring the possibility of transfer from lower to higher levels of instruction; co-education, etc.

Article 34 of the Constitution of the USSR states:

"Citizens of the USSR are equal before the law, without distinction of origin, social or property status, race or nationality, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, type and nature of occupation, domicile, or other status.

"The equal rights of citizens of the USSR are guaranteed in all fields of economic, political, social and cultural life."

The Constitution of the USSR provides for a wide gamut of human rights and fundamental freedoms, thereby not only complying to the full with the provisions of the international covenants on human rights, but in many respects going far beyond them. Thus, for example, article 13 of the International Covenant proclaims the right of everyone to education and spells out concrete measures for the full realization of this right, including compulsory, free primary education for all and the progressive introduction of free secondary and higher education. These provisions have long since been put into effect in the USSR.

No charge is made in the USSR for any kind of education. There is universal compulsory education not only at the primary but also at the secondary level. School books are issued free of charge, and pupils and students are accorded grants and various privileges.

It goes without saying that the effective implementation of such an extensive range of civil rights and freedoms, at an ever higher qualitative level, would be impossible if citizens did not discharge their obligations. Under socialism the rights of the citizen are not and cannot be divorced from his obligations to other citizens and to society as a whole.

Rights exist not to set man apart from society, but to ensure the true freedom and equality of all members of society and their creative participation in decisions on State and public matters. Under socialism the rights and freedoms of individuals cannot be dissociated from their obligations. The unity of the rights and obligations of individuals are an integral feature of socialist democracy, reflecting the harmonious combination of the interests of society and the individual. In a society where there is true social justice there are and can be no rights without obligations or obligations without rights.

From the earliest days of its existence, the strategic line of development of the political system of Soviet society has been the perfecting of socialist democracy and the ever fuller realization of socialist self-government of the people.

The broadening and deepening of socialist democracy and the creation of the necessary conditions for active, effective day-to-day participation by all workers and their collectives and organizations in decisions on matters affecting the life of the State and of society are an indispensable prerequisite for meeting the tremendous challenges of further development and strengthening of the material basis of socialism and improvement of the quality of life of Soviet people.

A powerful encouragement to workers to display initiative and independence is being provided by the accession of work collectives to self-management; under the Act of the USSR on work collectives and the Act of the USSR on State socialist enterprises, they independently settle all questions relating to the internal organization of production, up to and including the election of managers.

This means that under socialism working men and women enjoy the status of genuine masters at their places of work, in their collectives, in society; the workers' interest as masters of production is the most powerful interest, the most potent motive force for acceleration and reform operating at the present time in the USSR.

The supreme goal of social production under socialism, as stated in article 15 of the Constitution of the USSR, is the fullest possible satisfaction of the people's growing material and spiritual requirements. On the basis of accelerated social and economic development and the all-round intensification and enhancement of the effectiveness of production, fuelled by scientific and technological progress, specific goals have been marked out for further raising of the material and cultural level of living of the Soviet people, and for ever fuller realization of the rights of Soviet man. By the year 2000 it is planned to increase real income per head of population to between 1.6 and 1.8 times the present level, to implement the most extensive social programme in the history of the country, and to increase substantially the material guarantees of fundamental human rights.

The policy followed in latter years in the USSR towards acceleration of the country's social and economic development, restructuring and innovation in all spheres of public life is creating still more favourable conditions and surer guarantees for full realization of the rights and freedoms of citizens of the USSR. This applies to the entire system of rights and freedoms, including those in the economic, social and cultural fields. Particular attention is being paid to strengthening the material guarantees of the rights and freedoms of the individual. In the interests of further enhancement of the people's well-being, a radical reform of the management of the economy is being carried out in the country. Its legal foundations are reflected, in particular, in the decisions adopted in June 1987 by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on reforming the management of the national economy at the present stage of the country's economic development, the Act of the USSR on State enterprises (combines), and other legislative enactments.

Additional legal guarantees have been accorded to citizens of the USSR in the labour sphere. Under the Soviet Constitution citizens have a right not only to work in the public sector, but also to engage in individual labour. Article 17 of the Constitution of the USSR specifies that "in the USSR, the law permits individual labour in handicrafts, farming, the provision of services for the public, and other forms of activity based exclusively on the personal work of individual citizens and members of their families. The State makes regulations for such work to ensure that it serves the interests of society".

On the basis of these constitutional provisions the Supreme Soviet of the USSR passed in November 1986 an Act of the USSR on individual labour, which entered into force on 1 May 1987. This law materially develops and supplements previous enactments in this sphere. It deals collectively with all the basic questions related to individual labour, taking into account present-day conditions. The preamble to the Act emphasizes the main purpose of such activities: to promote fuller satisfaction of the needs of the population for goods and services, to raise the level of citizens' involvement in socially useful activities, and to afford them the possibility of obtaining additional income commensurate with the effort invested in the work. The Act sets out a procedure for engagement in individual labour and the rights and obligations of citizens involved in it.

Present conditions are affording citizens considerably wider opportunities for contributing their labour in the co-operative sector of the economy. Thus, in February 1987 the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted decisions on the establishment of public catering co-operatives, the establishment of co-operatives for the provision of personal and household services, "the establishment of co-operatives for production of consumer goods, and the organization of procurement and processing of secondary raw materials on a co-operative basis, and also approved model statutes for such co-operatives. These are organizations of citizens of the USSR who voluntarily join together in collective labour and self-management for the joint performance of certain functions. The enactments referred to lay down the rights and obligations of members of each co-operative, and how its activities are to be conducted and managed.

Great attention is paid in the USSR to more effectively guaranteeing the right of Soviet Union citizens to social security, particularly those who require it owing to special circumstances affecting their lives. This applies in particular to elderly citizens and the disabled. Only in recent years have such measures been enacted as, for example, the decisions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions on high-priority measures to improve the material well-being of pensioners and families with meagre resources and provide better care for elderly citizens living alone (May 1985), measures for further improvement of the living conditions of persons disabled from birth (March 1986), and measures for the further improvement of services to the elderly and the disabled (January 1987).

In May 1985 the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted a decree on further improvement of pension coverage for manual and non-manual workers, collective farm members and their families.

Provision is made in these enactments for higher pensions and allowances for the categories of citizens concerned, and for measures to improve the medical and social welfare services available to them, to expand the construction of residential establishments for the elderly and disabled, to create favourable conditions for training and job placement services for persons disabled from birth, to increase State assistance to families with children, etc.

With a view to effectively guaranteeing the right of citizens of the USSR to housing, the following target has been set: to solve the housing problem by the year 2000, providing every family with a separate flat or house to itself. The appropriations for and volume of housing construction are being substantially increased.

A major renewal is also taking place in the USSR in the spiritual sphere of the life of society, resulting in more active enjoyment by citizens of their social and cultural rights. The reform of secondary and higher education taking place in the country is designed to create an up-to-date educational system and offer still better opportunities for every citizen to fulfil his potentialities in this sphere.

In 1984 the Supreme Soviet of the USSR approved basic guidelines for the reform of general-education and vocational schools. In 1987, in pursuance of the basic guidelines for the restructuring of higher and secondary special education in the country, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted decisions on measures for radical improvement in the standard of training and utilization of specialists with higher education in the national economy, and measures for improving the training and utilization of science teachers and scientists, while the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League adopted a decision on measures to improve the material and living conditions of postgraduate and undergraduate students in higher educational establishments and pupils in secondary special educational establishments, etc.

The policy of reforming secondary and higher education was also reflected in the adoption by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, in November 1985, of a new version of the Fundamental Principles of Legislation of the Soviet Union and Union Republics on national education.

Conditions more favourable to the exercise of creative freedom have been created by the adoption in February 1987 by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League of a decision on measures for the further development of independent creative work in the technical field.

An event of major importance for guaranteeing the rights of citizens in the spiritual sphere was the establishment in the USSR in 1986 of the Soviet Cultural Fund, a self-governing public organization with the function of promoting greater understanding, awareness and enrichment of the national cultural heritage and the inventorying and preservation of all historical and cultural treasures in the country. Under its statutes participation in the activities of the Soviet Cultural Fund is open, on a voluntary basis, to

citizens, work collectives, teaching establishments, institutions and public organizations in the USSR, and also to foreign citizens and organizations wishing to contribute to the achievement of the aims of the Fund.

The legislation of the USSR and the union republics gives citizens the right to go to law for protection of their personal, property, family, labour, housing and other rights and freedoms. With a view to more fully guaranteeing these rights, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR passed in June 1987 an Act of the USSR specifying the procedure for lodging complaints in the courts against unlawful actions by officials infringing citizens' rights. This new step towards providing reliable safeguards for the constitutional and other rights of Soviet citizens is a specific confirmation of the ongoing political trend in the USSR towards further democratization of Soviet society and extension of the socialist self-government of the people.

The policy of the Soviet Union, which was among the first to sign and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and consistently complies with its provisions, is directed towards the realization, at an ever higher qualitative level, of the rights affirmed in the Covenant.

True to its obligations under the Covenant, the Soviet Union periodically submits reports under article 16, on the realization in the USSR of the rights affirmed in it. These reports contain detailed information on measures adopted in the USSR to ensure observance of the rights recognized in the Convention. Welcoming as it does actions carried out by States parties to the Convention for the observance, furtherance and development of human rights, our country favours accession to the Convention by all States and the development of constructive co-operation in this sphere.

The international covenants on human rights, in affirming fundamental rights and freedoms, provide a sound basis for the development of international co-operation aimed at creating conditions such that everyone can enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights, as also his civil and political rights. A fundamental pre-condition for this is to guarantee the human right par excellence - the right to life. Today there is no task more important than the preservation of peace and the strengthening of international security. The foundation for the comprehensive system of international security whose creation our country is proposing consists not only in concrete measures in the military sphere directed towards the prevention of war and the strengthening of peace, but also in an extensive array of measures in the political, economic and humanitarian fields designed to strengthen international security and trust in relations between States. In the humanitarian field, in particular, the following are the main foundations of the system:

- Co-operation in disseminating the ideas of peace, disarmament and international security; raising of the level of general, objective information among nations and their familiarity with each other's lives; strengthening of the spirit of mutual understanding and concord in their relations with one another;

- Eradication of genocide, apartheid, the advocacy of fascism and all other forms of racial, national or religious exclusiveness, and also of discrimination against people on that basis;
- Extension - on the basis of respect for the laws of each country - of international co-operation in making human rights effective in the political, social and personal sphere;
- A humane and positive approach to questions concerning the reunification of families, marriages, and the development of contacts between people and between organizations;
- Strengthening of co-operation in the cultural, artistic, scientific, educational and medical spheres, and exploration of new forms for such co-operation.

A safe world, as was pointed out at the forty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly by E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, is a world of law and order, in which there is strict compliance with the United Nations Charter and respect for all rules of international law, for human rights and freedoms.

The Soviet Union attaches the greatest significance to the issue of human rights as a vital factor for peace, and to international co-operation in this sphere. To free this issue from hypocrisy and manipulation, from inspired campaigns of calumny, and to move to constructive co-operation - that is the challenge which is on our agenda now.

In resolutely speaking out for a widening of international co-operation in making human rights effective in the political, social and personal spheres, our country invites everyone to take a new look at this problem free from preconceived opinions.

Guaranteeing and safeguarding the rights and freedoms of citizens is an internal matter for States. If any right is infringed, domestic machinery should come into action. That is why it is essential that States which have not yet done so should as soon as possible become parties to the covenants on human rights and bring their internal legislation governing the whole field of humanitarian questions into line with international standards.

The international community has a right to become involved in human rights questions in a particular State when that State commits gross and large-scale violations of human rights which endanger the peace and security of nations.

To put an end to the gross and large-scale violations of human rights which are still taking place in various parts of the world is one of the most important contributions international co-operation has to make to the realization of human rights.

There is indeed universal scope for such co-operation in solving the global problems common to all mankind that have a direct bearing on the practical realization of human rights and freedoms: ensuring peace, protecting the environment in which man lives, eliminating hunger and poverty, fighting disease, etc.

Constructive international co-operation in solving the common problems facing humanity must lead to strengthening of the spirit of mutual understanding and concord in relations between peoples, promote social progress and better standards of life on Earth, in larger freedom, and truly guarantee, in the words of the United Nations Charter, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[Original: English]

[11 August 1987]

FAO's work has direct and indirect impact on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights for the majority of the rural populations in the developing countries. In fact, the technical assistance provided by FAO, in accordance with its constitution, aims at raising the levels of nutrition and standard of living of the rural populations through securing improvements in the efficiency of production and distribution of all food and agricultural products. It also aims at bettering the conditions of the rural populations and thus contributing towards expanding the world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger.

One of the main areas of FAO action in support of the economic, social and cultural rights of the rural populations is through enhancing popular participation. This is seen not just as an end in itself, but as a means of achieving stability, social justice, prosperity and peace. Genuine social peace and stability are not likely to be found in a society in which certain groups feel discriminated against and consider themselves socially deprived in one way or another. It is precisely through the process of involvement in all areas that directly affect their lives, and especially in decision-making, that such groups can feel well integrated into their communities and nations. They can thus feel that the decisions that have been made are also their decisions, or at least decisions in which they have played a part of their own. Of critical importance in the implementation of popular participation as a strategy for development and social integration is the role that people play in decision-making processes, in identifying problems and solutions.

The concept of social integration through popular participation calls for the recognition of the right and ability of all people, including less advantaged groups, to participate in decision-making processes for the development of society. This may be accompanied by a participatory process through which these population groups can be made aware of the realities of their situation, thus resulting in their becoming actively involved in development.

Popular participation as a human right should include the right to active and meaningful involvement in the decision-making process in all spheres: in the economic, political and social spheres, as well as in all other aspects of social development and human progress. Recognition of the right to participate in decision-making is a necessary pre-condition for basic human rights. Popular participation takes on different forms in different societies, ranging from a strategy to mobilize national human resources for development to transferring power to people by virtue of their involvement in making decisions on all matters affecting their well-being and their role in society.

The participation of people in decision-making implies their involvement in the formulation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of

strategies and policies for social integration. In addition, this process has to take account of the varying national economic and political systems of developing societies.

FAO's programme in support of people's participation is funded through its regular programme as well as through trust fund resources being provided by several donors. Eighteen projects are being implemented in various regions of the developing world, where special efforts are being made to help small farmers organize themselves through participatory procedures, thus contributing to their self-reliance in development and to meeting their basic social and economic needs. These projects form the basis for working out broader guidelines to assist countries in adapting and implementing policies which aim at people's participation in planning and implementing development activities as an integral part of government development plans and technical and financial assistance projects.

International Labour Organisation

[Original: English]
[28 September 1987]

The ILO submitted two recent reports which contain information bearing on the matter: the report of the Director-General of the International Labour Office to the seventy-third session (1987) of the International Labour Conference, which comprises as usual a general part on the ILO activities in the preceding year, and a part devoted to a particular theme which was, for 1987, "Reflexions on the future of multilateral co-operation: The ILO perspective"; report VI to the same session of the Conference on "The role of the ILO in technical co-operation" which gives particulars of ILO operational activities. Both reports are kept in the files of the Secretariat and can be made available upon request.

International Maritime Organization

[Original: English]
[3 June 1987]

Resolution 1987/19 will be reported to the IMO Council for information and action, as appropriate. Any decisions taken by the Council will be communicated in due course.

World Intellectual Property Organization

[Original: English]
[18 September 1987]

Activities of WIPO are directed towards the objective of promoting the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through co-operation among States, as provided in the Convention Establishing WIPO of 1967. Such an objective is an important factor for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. This is so because "intellectual property" means the rights which result from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields. The legal protection of intellectual property gives statutory expression to the moral and material interests resulting from scientific, literary and artistic production of authors and other creators and

of the right of the public to share in scientific advancements and in the cultural life of the community (see Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights). In promoting the protection of intellectual property, WIPO's activities encourage such creativity and the dissemination and application of its results, thus enhancing the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights.

World Health Organization

[Original: English]

[12 October 1987]

According to the Constitution of the World Health Organization, the Member States accept the principle that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

In 1977 the World Health Assembly decided that the main social target of governments and of WHO should be the attainment by all the people of the world by the year 2000 of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life, popularly known as "health for all by the year 2000". In 1978, an International Conference on Primary Health Care, held in Alma-Ata, USSR, stated that primary health care is the key to attaining this target.

In 1979 the Health Assembly launched the Global Strategy for health for all when it endorsed the Report of the International Alma-Ata Conference and its Declaration and invited Member States to act individually in formulating national strategies and collectively in formulating regional and global strategies.

Most global plans of action resulting from international conferences have been formulated at the global level in the course of these conferences. In contrast, the Global Strategy for health for all starts with countries, and is built up through regions to the global level, where the cycle is completed by focusing on support to countries. It is not a separate "WHO strategy", but rather an expression of individual and collective national responsibility, fully supported by WHO.

The Strategy is based on the concept of countrywide health systems based on primary health care as described in the Report of the International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata, 1978. It relies on concerted action in the health and related socio-economic sectors following the principles of the Alma-Ata Report. It has been drafted in accordance with the Executive Board's guiding principles on formulating strategies for health for all by the year 2000, and is a synthesis of ideas derived from national and regional strategies. The strategy is equally valid for all countries, developing and developed alike; at the same time, it lays particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

WHO will be crucial for developing and implementing the Strategy through the exercise of its constitutional role in regard to international health work; this comprises in essence the inseparable and mutually supportive functions of co-ordination and technical co-operation. Particular attention will be paid to the formulation of the Organization's General Programmes of Work in response to the Strategy; and to the restructuring of the Organization in the light of its functions in support of the Strategy, as decided by the Thirty-third World Health Assembly.

IV. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Youth Council

[Original: English]

[29 June 1987]

The Asian Youth Council adopts as its theme "Peace, Progress, Prosperity" and will pursue a vigorous programme to help achieve peace, progress and prosperity for all in the Asian and Pacific region.

It seeks to establish a Decade for Youth 1990-2000 to ensure the maximum contribution of young people to developing a peaceful and just twenty-first century.

In the pursuit of peace, progress and prosperity it will embark on action in the following areas: prevention of drug abuse, crime prevention, youth leadership training, information dissemination, economic development including co-operatives, international peace, shelter for the homeless, literacy, representation of Asian Youth in international forums, increasing youth exchange between countries of the region, environmental protection, health and sanitation, youth research and utilization of technology.

The Asian Youth Council will continue to play a leading role in helping to develop a peaceful, developed Youth Charter and by convening a seminar of youth leaders in various spheres including community, political, industry and academic to plan for the twenty-first century.

Christian Democratic International

[Original: French]

[3 July 1987]

Ever since it was granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1948, CDI has unremittingly worked for the formulation and realization of human rights in the economic, social and cultural spheres. CDI emphasizes the importance of the essential message of the 1968 Proclamation of Teheran, which is that there exists an indissoluble interdependence between respect for political rights on the one hand and social, economic and cultural rights on the other, as well as the statement in the tenth preambular paragraph of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/19, of 10 March 1987, to the effect that equally urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of both civil and political and economic, social and cultural rights.

On the strength of these principles and of its knowledge of the situation in many countries where human rights are not fully respected, CDI expresses its conviction that political systems not grounded in the freely manifested wishes of peoples do not respect social, economic or cultural freedoms either.

CDI greatly welcomes the establishment of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and would draw the Committee's attention to two points that it considers crucial:

The dependence of economic, social and cultural rights on the effective enjoyment of political rights;

Respect for the freedom of each citizen to engage in an economic activity of his choice, for this alone, within the context of social and cultural rights, can ensure, in a democratic State, the full development of the individual and the nation.

Friends World Committee for Consultation

[Original: English]

[23 September 1987]

FWCC welcomes the emphasis now being placed by the United Nations on the importance of implementing the economic, social and cultural rights enumerated in the Covenant, and recognizes the interdependence and indivisibility of these rights and civil and political rights.

We further welcome the establishment by the Economic and Social Council of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights, which met for the first time in March 1987. We can see considerable potential in this body for implementing these rights, and believe it can have a parallel function with the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations in implementing civil and political rights. We hope that the participation and contribution of NGO's to the work of the Committee will be facilitated by the Centre for Human Rights.

General Arab Women Federation

[Original: English]

[22 June 1987]

During this decade Arab women have achieved important progress in different fields of life. This progress varies, in degree and nature, from one country to another, but is still below the ambition and objectives of Arab women. One of the most important obstacles that is hindering the process of progress and advancement is the armed conflicts in the region. The Arab countries have greatly suffered from these conflicts and their effect on their financial resources which were to be spent on their development. These conflicts have also weakened the investment of their natural and financial resources. This is why Arab women organizations still have challenges to face. They must mobilize all their force and efforts to struggle for the establishment of a just peace in the region, to accelerate the process of development, to improve the status of women and to enable them to participate actively in the different walks of life.

For these reasons the General Arab Women Federation's (GAWF) policy includes a number of objectives to reinforce and protect women's economic and social and cultural rights, as follows:

Economic Policy:

1. To enlarge women's participation in the industrial sector, train them and qualify them to obtain highly paid jobs in order to improve their standards of living and to enable them to take part in decision-making.

2. To remove all administrative and social obstacles in order to improve the work and to enable women to make a better contribution to the different fields of work.
3. To collect the necessary data and statistical guidelines which reflect the volume of women's contribution to actual and potential manpower. When planning the economy, efforts should be made to increase their participation in all kinds of work in a way that takes into consideration their basic needs and the dual role they have to play in society.
4. To provide women with all the opportunities to play their important role in the economy of their families and the recognition of the family and its important role in production.
5. To encourage a vocational development that takes age into consideration without any discrimination because of the sex in selecting the jobs.
6. To create jobs for women who cannot work on a full-time basis to ensure them incomes proportional to their active contribution in the national production.

Social Policy

In order to protect social rights of Arab women the GAWF has adopted the following policy:

To support and encourage family-planning centres and the elaboration of sanitary and social welfare programmes for women as well as the enlargement of social security for women to include all the needs of widows, women who have lost their husbands or fathers and old women.

To support women's organizations to reinforce their action so that they can play their role of monitoring and leading the changes necessary to improve women's status.

To give special attention to the application of civil laws regarding the right of women to choose their husbands, the minimum age of marriage, divorce marriage and child custody, and other dispositions concerning family affairs. It is also necessary to ensure that marriage acts are registered officially in courts to protect the rights of women and their children.

To initiate information and cultural programmes for families to draw to their attention that making a family is the responsibility of both the husband and the wife and that this is not contradictory to religious and cultural values of the society. It is, rather, important to mobilize all human resources for the development process.

Cultural Policy:

In order to enhance and protect cultural rights of Arab women the GAWF has adopted the following policy:

To adopt an educational policy that is compatible with the social and economic situation, its aim is to achieve the principle of the best utilization of human resources linking education to economic development.

To improve teaching methods and to revise school textbooks in order to eliminate all forms and references to discrimination between men and women.

To adopt a policy of compulsory education and to take the necessary measures to prevent children at all the stages from leaving school by creating social incentives and taking disciplinary measures.

To provide women with adequate opportunities to encourage them to specialize in the scientific and technical fields of study and to enlarge the admission of girls in vocational and technical schools and institutions so that women can contribute to work and production.

To adopt a policy and programmes of literacy for adults and to create incentives to encourage illiterates to enroll in school.

To undertake research and studies about social, economic, and behavioural phenomena resulting from the progress of comprehensive development.

International Association of Democratic Lawyers

[Original: French]
[10 July 1987]

Paragraph 6 of resolution 1987/19 invites "non-governmental organizations ... to comment on their policies for the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights ...".

In other words, for a non-governmental organization such as the IADL this is an invitation to report on its activities with regard to the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights.

In so far as these rights are bound up not only with civil and political rights, but also with disarmament and the right to peace, and in so far as the work of the IADL has always been concerned with both these issues, it can be said that IADL's activities as a whole have always been directed towards the promotion and defence of economic, social and cultural rights.

It is of course out of the question to list here all IADL's studies and research in this sphere, all its interventions, positions taken and resolutions, all the symposia, congresses and seminars organized under its auspices, for they would fill more than a volume.

Suffice it to mention, that at the Association's last congress (Athens, 15-19 October 1984), the deliberations of the three main committees dealt with the right to peace and security, the right to development, and human rights and the rights of peoples. Economic, social and cultural rights were given particular prominence since they were the subject matter of the committees dealing with development and the rights of peoples.

The following were accordingly studied, discussed and commented upon at length:

In connection with development:

The external debt of the developing countries;

The international monetary system;

The right to environmental protection;

The new international information order;

In connection with human rights and the rights of peoples:

The rights of workers in the management of enterprises;

World Hunger and the law;

The right of peoples to control of their national economies.

These various subjects were of course the subject of many introductory reports, discussions, round-ups and resolutions, which were published by IADL.

The Association is continuing both research and practical action in this field, developing positive international law and determining its potentialities for the protection of economic, social and cultural rights, and pursuing militant activities both at the international level and internally, with the collaboration of the national sections, aimed at consolidating, improving or applying existing law.

International Federation of Business and Professional Women

[Original: English]
[12 June 1987]

The IFBPW is firmly committed to the nurturing and protection of human rights and to policies for the implementation, promotion and protection of these rights.

International Federation of Housing and Planning

[Original: English]
[27 May 1987]

IFHP activities are organized in full accordance with the IFHP rules. The spirit of these rules fully corresponds to resolution 1987/19. Consequently IFHP activities are organized in full conformity with the said resolution.

International Federation of University Women

[Original: English]
[4 August 1987]

As stated in its Policy on Public Affairs, the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) supports measures to protect human rights. It condemns discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, nationality and religion.

A basic ongoing concern of IFUW has been for a more just status and better living conditions for women. Since its beginning IFUW policy and programme have aimed at equal rights for women and at their full and responsible participation in the economic, social and cultural life of the community.

The IFUW fully supports paragraph 11 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women: "Equality is both a goal and a means whereby individuals are accorded equal treatment under the law and equal opportunities to enjoy their rights and to develop their potential talents and skills so that they can participate in national political, economic, social and cultural development and can benefit from its results. For women in particular, equality means the realization of rights that have been denied as a result of cultural, institutional, behavioural and attitudinal discrimination ...".

University women, who have had the privilege of receiving a higher education, have a special responsibility in society. One of the purposes of the IFUW is "to encourage the full application of their knowledge and skills to the problems which arise at all levels of public life, whether local, national, regional or worldwide, and to encourage their participation in the solving of these problems" (IFUW Constitution, Art. 1).

Another purpose of IFUW relates closely to economic, social and cultural rights; it is "to further the development of education".

Along with the Forward-looking Strategies, the IFUW thinks that equality is closely related to development and peace. "Peace implies freedom and justice from which development can arise, human rights can be respected and prosperity established" (IFUW Statement on Peace, 1986).

Thanks to its consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and with some specialized agencies, the IFUW endeavours to follow closely the work done in the field of human rights, especially where women are particularly concerned, to inform its members, and, whenever appropriate, to encourage them to take action. For example, the IFUW has just circulated to its national affiliates a report indicating the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights and recommending to the national associations of university women in countries that have not yet ratified the Covenants to push their Governments to do so.

The IFUW, particularly through its Status of Women and Cultural Relations Committee, has widely publicized the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and has urged its members to monitor,

and contribute to their implementation in their respective countries. The enclosed recent circular entitled "Advance with the Nairobi Strategies - our working tool to the Year 2000!" is an illustration of the IFUW efforts in this field.

Each triennium a Study and Action Programme suggests a common basis of endeavour and work for the national federations and associations affiliated to IFUW. The theme of the current Programme is: "Women, Leadership and Development". The next triennial IFUW Conference, in 1989, will provide an opportunity for members to discuss with each other their thoughts and findings on the theme.

Since its inception IFUW has been asking for, and working towards, equal opportunities of education for girls and women at all levels. The programmes of IFUW members include various aspects of education, according to the local needs: literacy classes, adult education, teaching income-producing skills, educational and vocational guidance, encouraging women to study science and technology, and so on.

Throughout its history the IFUW has awarded international fellowships and grants to assist women graduates in furthering their studies and careers. The next awards will be given in March 1988. The national associations and local branches of IFUW also carry out scholarships and fellowships programmes. The amount of funds thus spent towards education of secondary school girls and university women students cannot be calculated easily, but is certainly impressive.

Various aspects of the work of IFUW and its members have a direct relation to the implementation and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights. For instance the concern for employment opportunities and conditions for women appears in almost all the reports. Health education and services, environment, laws affecting women such as dowry an inheritance, pensions and taxation, housing, new communication technology, appropriate technology are areas of special concern and interest to IFUW members. To enable women to play an active and responsible role in their communities, a number of IFUW affiliates are working towards giving leadership opportunities through training and encouraging women to take up decision-making positions.

A programme worth mentioning here is Project Five-O, a joint enterprise of five international women's non-governmental organizations (Associated Country Women of the World, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International and IFUW) launched to help women in underprivileged areas of developing countries. Projects in India, the Philippines, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Mexico include such fields as primary health care, income-generating skills, literacy, agricultural training, or food preservation.

The IFUW 22nd Triennial Conference, held in 1986 in New Zealand, adopted resolutions calling national federations and associations of university women to action in support of the World Health Organization Action Programme on Essential Drugs; education for peace; agricultural training for women and girls of rural areas; establishing statistics in higher education by degree and by sex; the recognition of the economic value of unpaid work; and the involvement of women as agents and beneficiaries in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The implementation of these resolutions will be reported and assessed at the IFUW 23rd Conference in 1989 in Finland.

International Organization of Employers

[Original: English]
[4 August 1987]

The International Organisation of Employers is keenly interested in the promotion and protection of the rights that flow from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is active in respect of those rights that fall within its competence. The IOE has supplied information to the International Labour Organisation and filed several complaints before its competent organs in order to defend in particular the freedom of association (articles 20 and 23.4 of the Declaration) and related rights.

In respect of the right to work (article 23 of the Declaration and article 6 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), the General Council of the IOE adopted a statement on 1 June 1987 and its Secretariat published in 1986 a document examining the origins, concepts and nature of the right.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

[Original: English]
[2 October 1987]

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has on several occasions in recent years, both in its statutory and specialized conferences, debated topics related to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, and has adopted resolution thereon. By means of these debates and resolutions, which emphasize the contributions Parliaments can make in these areas, the Union has aimed to contribute to the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights. Topics relating to economic, social and cultural rights which have been the subject of debate include the right of youth to education, vocational training, work and social security; health and development in South East Asia and the Western Pacific; employment in Africa; and agricultural development and food security in Africa.

Socialist International Women

[Original: English]
[11 September 1987]

Socialist International Women fully agree with resolution 1987/19 of 10 March 1987 of the Commission on Human Rights and would like to particularly welcome the first paragraph referring to disarmament and development.

We would however, like to point out that:

- (a) SIW considers the right to shelter a basic human right;
- (b) SIW believes that the right of women to conduct their own business, open a bank account and get loans must be ensured as a basic economic right.

The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific

[Original: English]
[27 August 1987]

The LAWASIA Human Rights Committee is deeply committed to the furtherance of human rights in Asia and the Pacific. Besides promoting an awareness of human rights issues in the region through publications such as the Human Rights Bulletin and Newsletter, the Committee continues its efforts towards establishing national and regional human rights commissions.

With respect to the implementation, promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, the Committee is actively involved in a number of areas throughout the region. Firstly, the Committee is very much concerned about the rights of children. Two very important seminars on child exploitation have already been held and a number of publications have been produced on this topic. A third seminar is also planned to be held in conjunction with Defence for Children International (Geneva) in February 1988.

Secondly, the Committee is actively involved in women's rights. A seminar has also been held and a publication produced on this subject. A further publication, the Women and the Law Newsletter, will be published in the last quarter of this year.

Thirdly, the Committee is active in the areas of education (of human rights), refugees, the rights of minorities and the administration of justice. The Committee's efforts in protecting human rights involve representations to Governments on behalf of individuals and groups as well as observer missions to countries where human rights violations occur.

The World Medical Association

[Original: French]
[16 June 1987]

The WMA has from its inception been concerned for the realization of human rights in the health field.

World Energy Conference

[Original: English]
[5 June 1987]

The World Energy Conference as a non-governmental organization supports the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The World Energy Conference objectives of promoting the development and peaceful use of energy resources for the greater benefit of mankind is related directly to the support of human rights, and all the work of the WEC is therefore relevant to that cause.

The WEC is particularly aware of the problems of developing countries which form a considerable part of our membership, and we commend the efforts to obtain acceptance of a declaration on the right to development.