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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sixty-first session  
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**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL  
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD**

**Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. This note has been prepared further to paragraph 12 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/13, in which the Commission requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to engage in a comprehensive dialogue with the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with a view to establishing technical cooperation programmes in the field of human rights and to submit her findings and recommendations to the Commission at its sixty-first session.
2. In line with standard policy and practice developed pursuant to General Assembly resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955, which established the United Nations programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights, various forms of assistance in the area of human rights are at the disposal of Member States and could be made available upon their request. In accordance with the mandate established by the General Assembly in resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has provided advisory services and technical cooperation to more than 50 countries since its inception.
3. It will be recalled that with a view to exploring ways of initiating technical cooperation between OHCHR and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the then Acting High Commissioner addressed a letter to the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva on 8 August 2003. This had been preceded, and also followed, by a number of contacts at the working level between OHCHR officials and representatives of the Permanent Mission. It will

further be recalled that the 8 August letter was followed up by another communication by the Acting High Commissioner to the Permanent Representative on 16 December 2003. A short reply to this letter was received on 30 December 2003 informing the Acting High Commissioner that his letter had been transmitted to Pyongyang and that the Government “valued as ever close cooperation with OHCHR”.

4. Since the exchange of the correspondence described in paragraph 3, the High Commissioner for Human Rights raised the possibility of exploring ways of engaging in technical cooperation activities in a meeting with the Permanent Representative on 24 August 2004. The Permanent Representative said that he had taken note of the proposal, which would be forwarded to Pyongyang for the Government’s consideration. No further response has been received from the Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on this matter.

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