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ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF UNITED NATIONS BODIES AFFECTING THE
ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Economic and Social Council (forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions)

1. At its forty-fourth session, held in New York from 8 to 31 May 1968, the Economic and Social Council considered two reports of the Secretary-General on advisory services in the field of human rights^{1/} and the relevant parts of the reports of the Commission on Human Rights on its twenty-fourth session and of the Commission on the Status of Women on its twenty-first session.^{2/} Owing to lack of time the Commission on Human Rights, at its twenty-fourth session, held in New York from 5 February to 12 March 1968 was unable to consider the item on its agenda dealing specifically with advisory services in the field of human rights. In some of its resolutions, however, the Commission adopted a number of recommendations bearing on the advisory services programme.^{3/}
2. The Council, at its forty-fourth session, took the following decisions, based on its examination of the reports and proposals submitted to it:^{4/}

^{1/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 15, document E/4474, and E/CN.4/964-E/CN.6/505 and Add.1.

^{2/} Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4, and Supplement No. 6, chaps. IX, XIII and XIX.

^{3/} Those recommendations in so far as they have not been covered by the Economic and Social Council decisions set forth below are as follows:

(a) In resolution 7 (XXIV), on the question of the establishment of regional commissions on human rights, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of arranging suitable regional seminars under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights in those regions where no regional commission on human rights exists at present, for the purpose of discussing the usefulness and advisability of the establishment of regional commissions on human rights.

(b) In resolution 11 (XXIV), the Commission requested the Secretary-General to proceed to organize, under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, seminars on the subject of the realization of the economic and social rights with particular reference to developing countries, and to invite co-operation of interested specialized agencies.

^{4/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 3, chap. XI, sections M and S.

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co-operation activities of the United Nations.^{5/} The Governing Council, at its sixth session, had approved the United Nations regular programme for 1969 set out in the report of the Secretary-General (DP/RP/5/Add.2) which included the current appropriation of \$220,000 for advisory services in the field of human rights.^{6/}

4. The General Assembly, at its twenty-third session, in resolution 2482 A (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, appropriated \$220,000 for the 1969 programme of advisory services in the field of human rights (part V).

5. Under the procedure recommended by the Governing Council of UNDP at its seventh session in January 1969, the current system of separate section appropriations under part V of the regular budget would be replaced by a single section composed of six chapters reflecting targets to be applied to the major fields of activity; the chapters include human rights advisory services. It would further provide that the Secretary-General frame his annual budget estimates for part V taking into account the expressed needs of the developing countries and regions, together with the recommendations of the various programme-formulating bodies of the United Nations. This procedure recommended by the Governing Council of the UNDP will be considered by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-sixth session and subsequently by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.

B. International Conference on Human Rights

6. The International Conference on Human Rights held in Teheran, Iran, from 22 April to 13 May 1968, made in its resolutions the following recommendations which have a bearing on the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights:

(a) In resolution VI on measures to eliminate all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination, the International Conference inter alia recommended that in the implementation of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, in concert with the specialized agencies concerned, due emphasis should be

^{5/} Ibid., chap. XII, section C, para. 544.

^{6/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6A (E/4545), para. 322.

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(b) In resolution 2447 (XXIII) on education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms adopted at the same meeting, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to organize, within the framework of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, and in co-operation with interested Governments, seminars with the participation of persons specially qualified in subjects of particular concern to youth, including youth leaders;

(c) In resolution 2449 (XXIII) on legal aid adopted at the same meeting the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organs concerned, to provide the necessary resources within the limits of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights to facilitate expert and other technical assistance to Member States seeking to extend the availability of competent legal aid.

8. In planning the advisory services programme for 1969 and subsequent years the Secretary-General will to the extent possible take into account the various requests, invitations and suggestions made by the competent United Nations bodies as regards the substantive content of the advisory services programme. He will also bring the relevant provisions to the attention of Member States, as the organization of seminars under this programme is contingent on offers of Governments to act as hosts. Similarly, the provision of fellowships and advisory services of experts is only made at the request of Governments, according to the terms of General Assembly resolution 926 (X).

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B. Programme of seminars for 1969

11. It may be recalled that the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 17 (XXIII) had recommended that the programme of advisory services include four seminars, two of them being on the status of women, and one being on a world-wide basis. This would have entailed raising the level of appropriation from \$220,000 to \$315,000. As noted in paragraph 4 above, the 1969 programme allocation approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session remains at \$220,000 for the current year. The programme of seminars for 1969 now provides for the following seminars which are being organized with the co-operation of the respective host Governments:

(a) Seminar on the special problems relating to human rights in developing countries from 26 June to 9 July, in Cyprus, on a world-wide basis, for participants from thirty-three countries. The agenda, which was drawn up by the United Nations Secretariat in consultation with the host Government, is as follows:

- I. Consideration of special problems relating to the creation of adequate conditions at the national level for the promotion and protection of human rights in developing countries.
- II. The promotion of individual human rights in the context of national development, with particular reference to:
 1. The right to a decent existence and to an adequate standard of living;
 2. The right to education;
 3. The right to work, including trade union rights and fair conditions of employment;
 4. The right to property, including consideration of individual and corporate property rights and taxation policy and of foreign investment in relation to national development programmes and to national sovereignty over natural resources;
 5. The right to liberty and security of the person, with particular reference to the treatment of persons deprived of liberty, and the right to a fair trial;
 6. The right to freedom of thought, expression, conscience, and religion, including the right of peaceful assembly and association;
 7. The right to equality of treatment and absence of discrimination.

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(c) The Secretary-General received an invitation from the Government of Nigeria to act as host to a seminar in 1969 on the implementation of United Nations conventions on human rights. Consultations will be held with the Government of Nigeria with a view to organizing this seminar in 1970 or thereafter.

13. The Secretary-General is also holding consultations with other Governments interested in acting as hosts to human rights seminars in years subsequent to 1969.

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The implementation of the rights of the child in various contexts including the protection of human rights of juvenile delinquents in the administration of justice in children's courts accounted for eight awards. Protection of human rights of the disabled through rehabilitation and legislation, implementation of social rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with particular reference to legislative provisions concerning young persons, married women and persons in lower income groups were also topics of award for 1968 human rights fellows. A list of selected areas of study is set forth in annex II.

17. In conformity with the recommendation made by the Commission on the Status of Women, in resolution 8 (XVIII), the Secretary-General, in inviting Governments to nominate candidates for fellowships in 1968, drew the attention of Governments to the possibility of including a larger number of women among their candidates. As a result, the ratio of Governments nominating women candidates rose significantly over previous years and a total of thirty women were nominated in 1968 by sixteen Governments. This compares with the ten Governments which nominated an equal number of women in 1966 and with the seven Governments which nominated ten women for awards in 1967. Of the thirty women nominated in 1968, fifteen were recommended for awards; the successful candidates were from the following eleven countries: Burundi, China, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Iraq, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Poland and Romania. Their topics of awards included matters connected with participation of women in public life with special emphasis on the role of women's organizations at the national and local levels; equal employment opportunities for women; protection of human rights in family law with particular reference to the status of women and to children born out of wedlock; protection of the rights of the child with reference to adoption and rights of children of unmarried parents; and the responsibility of society for the welfare of children deprived of normal home life, juvenile delinquents and children of minority groups.

C. Pilot project in group training for human rights fellows

18. In pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1125 (XLI), the Secretary-General organized a pilot project in group training for human rights fellows from French-speaking African countries in Warsaw, Poland. This project,

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21. In this connexion, it may be recalled that the Division of Human Rights in co-operation with the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) held the first pilot project on the study of ways of protecting human rights in the administration of justice in Japan in 1967 (see para. 18). The Second Ad Hoc Committee of UNAFEI which met in Tokyo from 2 to 5 December 1968, in paragraph 16 of its report stated:

"The Committee felt that UNAFEI should continue to pay particular attention to the problems arising from human rights in the field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders.... The Committee appreciated the collaboration of the Division of Human Rights of the United Nations in providing fellowships and lecturers for a pilot project on group training in human rights in 1967 and expressed the hope that such courses could be arranged as a regular feature."

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V. REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE

23. The Economic and Social Council in its resolution 959 (XXXVI) of 12 July 1963 requested the Secretary-General to consider the organization on an experimental basis of one or more regional training courses in the field of human rights. However, the financing of such courses would have to be derived from within the resources available under the Technical Programmes in part V of the United Nations budget.

24. In accordance with the Council's resolution 953 (XXXVI), the holding of a training course had been assigned to category II of the advisory services programme from 1964 to 1969 as an approved project which could be put into operation if funds became available through savings or non-utilization of resources in the implementation of the priority projects in the category I programme financed under the human rights advisory services section of the regular budget of the United Nations. No such savings have in fact materialized during these years and the 1970 programme, which is at the same level as in 1969, maintains a regional training course in the listing of category II projects.

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ANNEX I

PROGRAMME OF ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS
PROPOSED FOR 1970

CATEGORY I

Approximate Costs

Seminar on the participation of women in the national economy (with reference to the implementation of article 10 of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), to be organized on a world-wide basis and to be held in Moscow, USSR	\$60,000
Seminar on the realization of economic and social rights, with particular reference to developing countries, to be organized on a regional basis and to be held in Lusaka, Zambia	40,000
Seminar on the implementation of United Nations Conventions on Human Rights, to be organized on a regional basis and to be held in Lagos, Nigeria	40,000
Fellowships	80,000
Total	<u>\$220,000</u>

CATEGORY II

Regional Training Course	(\$50,000)
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ANNEX II

SELECTED LIST OF FIELDS IN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS
FELLOWSHIPS HAVE BEEN AWARDED

Protection of human rights in a multi-national society;

The right of asylum, with special reference to measures safeguarding the human rights of refugees;

Measures designed to advance observance of the human rights of the indigenous population, with particular reference to matters concerning sedentarization of nomads;

Protection of the human rights of immigrants and resident aliens;

Advancement of human rights in the formulation and implementation of economic and social legislation;

Advancement of human rights in a newly independent country, with particular emphasis on the effects of social change and urbanization on the composition of the prison population and the protection of human rights in the administration of penal institutions;

Participation in local administration as a means of promoting human rights;

Legislation, decrees and regulations concerning human rights, in relation to the implementation of national development plans;

Implementation of the economic and social rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with particular reference to legislative provisions concerning young persons, married women and persons in lower income groups;

Protection of rights relating to individual ownership of property;

Methods of implementation at the national level of international conventions on human rights with regard to both law and practice;

Judicial organization and administration in relation to the protection of human rights;

Protection of human rights in the administration of justice;

Protection of human rights of juvenile delinquents in the administration of justice in children's courts;

Role of the police in the protection of human rights with particular reference to the special needs of new immigrants and of groups of varying ethnic origins;

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Status of women in family law, with special reference to the administration of justice in family courts;

Civic activities of women;

Participation of women in public life, with special emphasis on the role of women's organizations at the national and local levels;

The role of women's bureaux and related government offices in furthering the status of women through legislative and other means;

Equal employment opportunities for women;

Equality of recruitment and conditions of employment for women in the Civil Service and in state-owned corporations.
