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MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST NAZISM AND RACIAL INTOLERANCE

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Original: Russian
4 September 1970

In the fight against nazism during the Second World War, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic suffered the greatest losses in human life in relation to the size of its population. The material damage suffered by the Byelorussian SSR during the three years of fascist occupation was also enormous. The nazis deprived the Byelorussian people of all they had achieved in the social and political spheres, and of the most elementary civic rights and human freedoms.

German nazism set itself the goal of systematically destroying the Byelorussians. It was proposed under the "Ost-Plan" to wipe out or resettle in the east, 75 per cent of the population; and the remaining 25 per cent were to be Germanized. The plan was to be executed over a period of thirty years. However, the carnage committed by the fascist butchers went beyond even those bestial plans. The occupied land of Byelorussia was turned into a vast concentration camp where torture, humiliation and murder became the normal practices of the so-called "New Order".

For this reason the Byelorussian SSR attaches great significance to United Nations efforts to combat nazism and racist intolerance. The need to eradicate nazism has been affirmed in a whole series of decisions adopted by the United Nations. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity - international agreements concerning measures to combat racism, nazism and apartheid - have been signed and ratified by the Byelorussian SSR.

The provisions of these two international agreements are fully complied with in the Republic. Propaganda for war, racial hatred and hostility between peoples is a criminal offence in Byelorussia.

It was already stated, in article 15 of the first Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR in 1919, that the Byelorussian SSR, "recognizing the equal rights of citizens regardless of their race or nationality, declares that it is contrary to the basic laws of the Republic to establish or tolerate any privileges or advantages on those grounds, or any oppression of national minorities or restrictions

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of their equal rights". The present Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR adopted in 1937, reaffirms the racial and national equality of rights of all citizens.

The Byelorussian SSR supports the strong condemnation of nazism contained in the General Assembly resolutions, especially resolution 2545 (XXIV), and also the call to States to take immediate and effective measures for the complete prohibition of Nazi and racist organizations and for their prosecution in the courts.

Great attention is paid in the Republic to the education of youth in the spirit of the ideals of peace, socialist internationalism and international solidarity, the equality of all nations, friendship between peoples and intolerance of racism, nazism and neo-nazism, apartheid and colonialism. The curricula of schools and higher educational establishments in Byelorussia are prepared in such a manner as to provide students with the necessary knowledge of the social roots of racism and nazism, the origins, aims and methods of Hitlerite nazism, the danger of a revival of nazism and racial intolerance, and the measures adopted at the international level to combat nazism.

The mass information media pay great attention to exposing the present-day forms and manifestations of nazism, and the danger of a revival of nazism and of racial intolerance.

The Byelorussian SSR has repeatedly set forth its views on the measures which should be taken against nazism and neo-nazism. The efforts of the United Nations to solve this question should be directed primarily towards:

1. the complete eradication of nazism from the life of society;
2. the adoption of a decision calling for the suppression and future prohibition of the activities of Nazi groups and organizations;
3. the adoption of a decision confirming the principles of international law contained in the Yalta and Potsdam Agreements with regard to the eradication of militarism and nazism;
4. the adoption of a decision calling for the prohibition of financial, material and military aid by State organs, private individuals or companies to Governments pursuing a policy of racism and genocide.

Wider use should also be made of United Nations information media to draw the attention of the international public to the danger of a revival of nazism.

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CYPRUS^{1/}

[Original: English]
6 August 1970

The United Nations Association of Cyprus, having regard to the great number of Days already observed by the United Nations for various purposes, feels that a separate date should not be fixed for the observance against nazism and racial intolerance, but that it should be celebrated on 21 March, together with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]
12 August 1970

The National Government, under Executive Decree No. 177-C of 31 July 1970, the text of which is set forth below, has designated 1 September of each year as the day for commemorating the struggle against racial discrimination.

Executive Decree No. 177-C

"The National Government,

"Considering that the United Nations General Assembly, at its twenty-fourth session, approved resolution 2545 (XXIV) concerning measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance;

"Considering that Ecuador condemns the practice of any ideology of racial discrimination contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

"In application of the powers vested in it;

"Hereby decrees:

"Article 1. The First of September of each year shall be designated as the day for commemorating the struggle against racial discrimination, for honouring the memory of the victims of that struggle and for seeking the complete eradication of those inhuman practices.

^{1/} Communications from the Government of Cyprus, dated 13 and 25 May and 14 July 1970, are contained in document A/8056.

"Article 2. The Ministers of Education and of National Defence shall arrange for lectures on the subject to be given on that day at all educational institutions and at all military posts. The other organs of the Administration shall collaborate in arranging events commemorating that day.

"Article 3. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Education and National Defence shall be responsible for the execution of this decree, which shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the Official Register."

FRANCE

Original: French
2 September 1970

Nazism and similar ideologies based on racial intolerance find very little support in France. Ordinary law is thus sufficient to ensure the repression of the few isolated cases which might arise, and the French Government deems it unnecessary to consider special measures in this connexion.

ISRAEL

Original: English
10 August 1970

1. The law governing education in Israel - the Compulsory Education Law, 1949 and the State Education Law, 1953 authorized translation in three Laws of the State of Israel (hereinafter LSI), p. 125 and seven LSI, p. 113, respectively lays down that public education in Israel is based on striving for a society built on freedom, equality, tolerance, mutual assistance, and love of mankind. Following this, the history syllabus throughout the educational system, for example, stresses basic principles for teaching the evils of nazism and racism. This is supplemented by mobile exhibitions which visually portray the atrocious consequences of totalitarian and racist ideologies and practices that, among other crimes, led to the murder of six million Jewish men, women and children in Europe in the dark days of the Third Reich and its collaborators. Teachers attend periodical seminars to the same ends. Even before Israel, in 1960, signed and ratified the UNESCO

Convention against Discrimination in Education, these Laws had anticipated, as Israel now consistently projects, the spirit of that Convention. Under them, no discrimination between citizens of the State is countenanced on any ground of national, ethnic or religious affiliation.

2. The policy of Israel to punish persons guilty of war crimes and, by all the means at its disposal, to oppose any resurgence of nazism and racial intolerance is illustrated by several laws, including the following: the Nazi and Nazi Collaborators (Punishment) Law, 1950 (four LSI, p. 154); the Crime of Genocide (Prevention and Punishment) Law, 1950 (ibid., p. 101); the Extradition Law, 1954 (eight LSI, p. 144); the Legal Assistance to Foreign States Law, 1956 (ten LSI, p. 93) and the Crimes against Humanity (Abrogation of Prescription) Law, 1966 (twenty LSI, p. 8).

3. The Criminal Investigation Department of the Israel Police Force and the research facilities of the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, Jerusalem, a public body established by the Martyrs' and Heroes' Commemoration (Yad Va-Shem) Law, 1953, (seven LSI, p. 119) share responsibility for the investigations, arrest and preparations for the trial of suspected war criminals. In preparing evidence against war criminals still at liberty, the Government of Israel systematically analyses statements by eye-witnesses, methodically scrutinizes records of Departments of the former nazi Government and of its military and para-military adjuncts, and closely investigates the circumstances and vestiges of the extinction of Jewish communities under nazi occupation.

4. The Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority honours the memory not alone of the victims of nazism and of all who fought and rebelled against it, but also, and with especial gratitude, of the many non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews from it. It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the relevance of the Authority's continuing activity to Israel's fight against nazism and racism.

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5. In accordance with the Martyrs' and Heroes' Commemoration Law, the twenty-seventh day of the Jewish month of Nissan (April-May) has been appointed as the annual day of remembrance of the victims of nazism and of those who died resisting it. The schools of Israel mark this anniversary with impressive solemnity. Its educational impact is powerful and enduring.

6. On the occasion of the International Year for Human Rights, in 1968, Israel's National Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization distributed to schools, in a Hebrew version, a series of posters on the subject of "Human rights from ideals to law" and "Twenty years of service to peace", together with a "Statement on race and racial prejudice" that had been drawn up by a Committee of Experts convened by the Organization; it arranged public meetings, film shows and radio and television broadcasts for schools and for the general public: it prepared three travelling displays: "Equal rights for every man", "A common task" and "Independence through literacy". Discussion guides were translated into Hebrew and widely distributed to schools and to a variety of educational and cultural bodies. The National Commission is intent on renewing and expanding each year, with suitable adjustment, these diversified and manifold activities which are part of Israel's continuing effort against nazism and racial intolerances.

7. In the nature of things and, understandably, without external prompting, there is constant publication and dissemination in Israel of material designed to keep alive in the civic consciousness and, not least, in the hearts and thoughts of the young, a realization of the hatefulness of nazism and racial intolerance - this not only by, or under the inspiration of, the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, but also, and spontaneously, by the press in Hebrew and in all languages current in Israel. Each year there are published - in the category of anti-racialist and anti-nazi writings - research studies, diaries and recollections, reviews, anthologies and commemorative volumes. Against the background of Jewish agony under Hitler, it is not a matter for surprise that a vigilant and sensitive public opinion in Israel should critically

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scrutinize any manifestation of nazism, of racism or of neo-nazism anywhere in the world. Vicious anti-Semitic cartoons of the Stürmer type, newly translated editions of Hitler's Mein Kampf or the forgery known as "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion", which still keep on appearing in different countries, never escape denunciation in the Israel press.

ITALY

Original: English
3 August 1970

1. In response to the call addressed to Member States in operative paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2545 (XXIV), the Italian Government has decided to set aside a date each year to commemorate the victims of the struggle against nazism and all similar ideologies and practices and to make that date coincide with the date of the national celebration of the Anniversary of the Liberation which is 25 April.
2. With regard to the information requested in operative paragraphs 2, 5 and 6 of the aforementioned resolution concerning the measures taken in Italy to combat nazism and racial intolerance, the Italian Government confirms the information provided in reply to the following notes:

Note SO 234 (12-1-3) of 27 February 1969 concerning the study of the Special Rapporteur on racial discrimination; 2/

Note SO 214 (10) of 20 March 1969 concerning the measures to be taken against racism, nazism and racial intolerance; 3/

Note SO 236 of 3 July 1969 on action taken to implement the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. 4/

2/ This information has been incorporated in the summary of information relating to Italy, prepared in connexion with the special study of racial discrimination in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres.

3/ See A/7683, annex, pp. 24-25.

4/ See E/CN.4/Sub.2/303, pp. 2-3.

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3. Lastly, with regard in particular to the action taken in respect of young people, referred to in operative paragraph 3, the Italian Government refers to the replies given to the following notes:

Note SO 214 (9) of 8 March 1969 on the education of youth in the respect for human rights; 5/

Note PU 155/3 of 31 March 1969 on the teaching in schools of the purposes, structure and activities of the United Nations. 6/

SYRIA

Original: English
5 August 1970

Syria's legal, social and economic system does not condone any form of discrimination or intolerance based on race, colour, religion or national origin. Article 23 of the Provisional Constitution, which was proclaimed on 1 May 1969, states that "all citizens are equal before the law in the exercise of their rights and duties". Moreover, article 23 provides that "the Government guarantees freedom, security and equal opportunity to all its citizens". Article 31 states that "freedom of faith shall be protected and the State shall respect all religions and the freedom of worship".

Syrian laws provide for the prevention and the punishment of propaganda inciting to racial or religious intolerance. Associations dedicated to promote intolerance under any form are not allowed to function. Racism, nazism, apartheid and all other totalitarian ideologies and practices are outlawed and those who may propagate such ideologies or indulge in such practices are prosecuted.

5/ See A/7662, annex.

6/ This information was received in response to General Assembly resolution 2445 (XXIII) and is available in the Secretariat of the United Nations.

In 1969, the Syrian Arab Republic ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Moreover, the Government of Syria has faithfully implemented all United Nations resolutions on the elimination of racism and apartheid. It has severed all relations with the racist régimes of Pretoria and Salisbury as well as with the colonialist régimes of Portugal.

In conclusion, it would be relevant to note that amidst a widely expressed concern for national and international action to combat nazism and racial intolerance, nazi-like practices are being systematically applied by States which, despite their membership in the United Nations, occupy territories of other Member States and indulge in such practices.

It is highly pertinent that the international community would not pass over the practices of the aggressors in occupied lands without expressing a severe judgement.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Original: Russian
24 September 1970

The Ukrainian SSR regards United Nations efforts to combat nazism and racial intolerance as one of the most important aspects of co-operation with a view to the further promotion and development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for everyone, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion; and it has repeatedly introduced proposals in United Nations bodies for an intensification of the struggle against the revival of nazism and has advocated full implementation of the decisions on this question adopted by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies.

The Ukrainian SSR, for its part, is taking all necessary measures for complete implementation of the above-mentioned decisions, and is giving effect to the basic provisions and principles of the Declaration and the Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; and also to the provisions of a number of other international legal instruments concerning measures to combat racism, nazism and apartheid.

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The provisions of General Assembly resolution 2545 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 are likewise being fully implemented.

In the Ukraine an extensive programme of measures is being undertaken to educate and mould the spiritual make-up of the rising generation of members of the socialist society in the spirit of the ideals of peace and friendship between peoples and the equality of all people regardless of their race, colour, national or ethnic origin. Using the forms and methods of educational work appropriate to their specific functions and aims, families, pre-school children's institutions, schools, secondary and higher educational establishments and children's and youth organizations are constantly engaged in the solution of this important problem.

An important role in the performance of this noble task is also being played by the mass information media, such as the periodical press and radio and television services - particularly through youth and children's publications and programmes, fiction and social and political literature, the cinema, works of art, etc.

Among other material exposing the in-human nature of racism, constant use is made of material describing United Nations efforts to combat nazism and its revival in certain countries.

With regard to the setting aside of a day in memory of the victims of nazism, such a day is observed each year in the Ukrainian SSR on 9 May, the Day of Victory over fascist Germany. On this day, a one minute's silence is observed at 6.50 p.m., and wreaths are solemnly placed on the many graves of those who died in the struggle against fascism, and on monuments to them.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]
4 September 1970

The Soviet Union, whose peoples suffered immeasurable losses in the fight against Hitlerite fascism in the Second World War, attaches great importance to United Nations efforts to combat nazism and racial intolerance.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the historic Potsdam Agreement which expressed the determination of the Powers belonging to the anti-Hitlerite coalition, and of all peoples to destroy German militarism and nazism. The principle of the destruction of nazism became a major principle of the post-war world order, and has been confirmed in a whole series of decisions adopted by the United Nations.

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The task, at the present time, is to ensure the implementation of the decisions adopted and to put an end to the activities of nazi and neo-nazi organizations in countries - including Western Germany - where they are still taking place.

It must be borne in mind that contemporary nazism, like Hitlerite fascism, is characterized by a merging of the theory and practice of racial superiority with the theory and practice of revanchism and militarism. Like Hitlerite fascism, it enjoys generous support from monopoly capital, which is hoping once again to enslave the peoples of other countries. Neo-nazi organizations are establishing contact with the racist régimes in southern Africa, which are pursuing an inhuman policy of apartheid and racial discrimination against the indigenous African population of those regions.

The USSR, which was one of the countries taking the initiative in the United Nations in raising the question of measures to combat the revival of nazism, has for its part repeatedly expressed its views on measures to be taken against nazism and neo-nazism. In particular, in connexion with the consideration of this question by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Soviet Union has submitted to the Sub-Commission the following ideas concerning United Nations activities to combat nazism:

"1. The United Nations should extend and intensify these activities with a view to contributing to the maximum possible extent to the achievement of the objective of eradicating nazism completely from the life of society. In this connexion, it is essential to give practical effect to the decision of the International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran in 1968, which in resolution II of 11 May 1968 considered that 'the question of measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance should be kept under continuing review by the appropriate organs of the United Nations so that appropriate measures can be taken promptly as required'.

"2. The General Assembly should accept a decision to the effect that in connexion with the observance of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, States in which the activities of nazi groups and organizations are taking place should pay special attention to the suppression and future prohibition of such activities. The decision to be adopted after consideration of the question of the International Year at the General Assembly's twenty-fifth session should contain a reaffirmation by the Assembly of the principles of international law expressed in the Yalta and Potsdam Agreements with regard to the eradication of militarism and nazism and also an appeal to all States, including the parties to those Agreements, to be guided by those principles.

"3. The competent organs of the United Nations should adopt decisions:

(a) Calling upon Governments to take measures to prohibit material and military assistance by State organs, private companies and individuals to Governments pursuing a policy of racism and genocide;

(b) Calling upon the international and national organizations concerned to cease giving financial assistance to Governments pursuing a policy of racism and genocide;

(c) Withdrawing consultative status with the Economic and Social Council from non-governmental organizations which provide financial assistance to States pursuing a policy of racism and genocide;

(d) Providing for a wider use of United Nations information media for drawing the attention of the international public to the danger of a revival of nazism in present-day circumstances (for this purpose, in particular, a pamphlet entitled 'The United Nations against Nazism and Racial Intolerance' and also scripts for broadcasts on the subject, etc. should be prepared);

(e) Providing for the submission by States - within the framework of the system of periodic reports on human rights and reports on freedom of information - of information on measures taken by them to combat nazism;

(f) Authorizing the Secretary-General to communicate United Nations resolutions on action against nazism to States non-members of the United Nations or the specialized agencies, and calling upon such States to collaborate with the United Nations in the matter and to provide it with information concerning the measures taken by them for suppressing and prohibiting nazi activities.

"4. The question of measures against nazism and racial intolerance should also be considered by the appropriate specialized agencies of the United Nations such as UNESCO and ILO. Under the programme for the observance of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism, as approved by the General Assembly, and under resolution 2544 (XXIV), the United Nations should recommend regional inter-governmental organizations to consider the question of measures which could be taken at the regional level to combat nazism, and also to consider the adoption of appropriate international documents on this question".

With regard to the implementation of the most recent General Assembly resolution on the question of measures to combat nazism and racial intolerance - resolution 2545 (XXIV) - the Soviet Union has taken, and is taking, all

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necessary steps for the full implementation of its provisions. The USSR has supported and continues to support the strong condemnation of nazism contained in the General Assembly resolution, as well as the Assembly's appeal to certain States to take immediate and effective measures for the complete prohibition of nazi and racist organizations and for their prosecution in the courts.

The Soviet Union has signed and ratified the two international agreements concerning measures to combat racism, nazism and apartheid - the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity.

Soviet State and public organizations are taking all steps to ensure that the young people of our country are educated in the spirit of the ideals of peace, socialist internationalism and international solidarity, the equality of all nations, friendship between peoples and intolerance of racism, nazism and neo-nazism, apartheid and colonialism. The curricula of Soviet schools and higher educational establishments are drawn up in such a manner as to provide students with a knowledge of the social roots of racism and nazism and acquaint them with the truth concerning the monstrous crimes committed by nazism during the Second World War and the price paid by the peoples - especially the Soviet people - for liberation from the nazi yoke. In the Soviet Union, where propaganda for war, racial hatred and hostility between peoples is a criminal offence, the mass information media devote much attention to exposing the contemporary forms and manifestations of nazism, which has built itself a nest in a number of Western countries.

At numerous gatherings and meetings the Soviet public has protested against the crimes committed by the racists in countries where racial exploitation takes place, against the intensification of activities by neo-nazi and revanchist forces in Western Germany and against the chauvinistic line followed by ruling circles in Israel.

In the Soviet Union, the memory of those who died in the struggle against nazism is honoured on 9 May, on the occasion of the Day of Victory over fascist Germany, by the observance of a "minute of silence" when at 6.50 p.m. the solemn tolling of bells is heard throughout the country. During that minute, all Soviet people bow their heads in tribute to the glorious memory of all those who gave their lives for peace and happiness on earth.