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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 23 March 1987, at 9.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. BADAWI EL SHEIKH

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The meeting was called to order at 9.50 a.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS:

(a) REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE COVENANT (agenda item 6) (continued)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (E/1984/6/Add.7 and E/1986/3/Add.5)

1. Mr. SVIRIDOV suggested that both of the initial reports of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, covering articles 6 to 9 and 10 to 12 respectively, should be introduced together by that country's representative.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that the best course would be for the Committee to proceed in that way.

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Sin (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) took a place at the Committee table.

4. Mr. SIN (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the opportunity to present his country's reports (E/1984/6/Add.7 and E/1986/3/Add.5), afforded a unique occasion for constructive dialogue. He would give a brief supplementary report on the measures his Government had taken and the success it had achieved, beginning with article 6 of the Covenant.

5. Article 30 of the Socialist Labour Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea required social co-operative bodies, enterprises and organizations to place workers in appropriate positions, having regard to their sex, age, physical capacities, expectations and technical and professional qualifications, so that they might display their intelligence and creativity to the best advantage. The assignment of manpower to appropriate jobs reflected the Juche philosophy that everything should be placed at the service of man, to make working life more independent and creative. It gave all workers a great sense of honour and pride in their work. Again, article 31 of the Social Labour Law required the State to do everything necessary to encourage women to take an active part in social work: the local authorities, the State agencies concerned and the social co-operative enterprises and organizations had to establish day nurseries, kindergartens, paediatric clinics and services and, in the case of women unfit for active life, they had to organize teams working at home, domestic co-operatives, and so on, so as to enable them to pursue their calling.

6. The Government had thereby freed women from social obstacles so that they could participate actively in society on an equal footing with men.

7. With reference to article 7 of the Covenant, the Government had classified living expenses so as to give workers material incentives yet allow them to regain any physical and intellectual energies drained at work, to achieve regular reproduction of manpower and to supply the needs of the workers. The forms of payment of living expenses were mentioned in the basic report. In keeping with the principles of self-financing, workers were paid out of the wage funds of factories and enterprises, as determined by the achievement of production plans in kind and by indices and cost price factors. The factories and enterprises also paid supplementary benefits,

including bonuses to the best workers after proper assessment of the fulfilment of their production plan, the quality of their products and the use made of their equipment and materials.

8. The scientific and realistic establishment of work norms was one of the important conditions for improving the organization of work and correctly applying the principles of socialist distribution. They had been established by taking proper account of the level of ideological awareness and technical and professional qualifications of the workers and of the latest scientific and technical attainments, based on broad consultation with the masses regarding the results of their work. Work norms in all spheres of the national economy were laid down under the unified guidance of the State.

9. In line with industrial and agricultural development and increased productivity, the Government adopted the immutable principle of rational co-ordination of the proportions of living expenses granted to workers and employees in all sectors, a harmonious increase in incomes of rural workers in the various regions and a harmonious rise in the standard of living for factory workers, office employees and farmers as a whole.

10. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the technological revolution was being used forcefully to eliminate essential differences between jobs and to relieve workers of arduous work. In particular, the Government had set up systems of production control by television and radio in such sectors as the steel and chemical industry and was applying mechanization, semi-automation and automation throughout all branches of the national economy so as to radically improve working conditions. To make the rural technical revolution fruitful, the Government was consolidating achievements in irrigation and electrification in the rural economy, using existing agricultural machinery more effectively and producing additional modern agricultural machinery of various kinds adapted to topographical conditions.

11. With regard to article 8 of the Covenant, article 53 of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea guaranteed citizens freedom of expression and of the press, freedom of assembly and of association, and freedom to demonstrate. Under that article the State also guaranteed political parties and democratic social organizations the conditions necessary for the free exercise of their activities. Thus the Constitution established the right of all workers, technicians and employees to organize and belong to trade unions. The General Federation of Korean Trade Unions comprised nine sectoral unions which included more than 1.6 million workers, technicians and employees. It had close links with the World Federation of Trade Unions and other related organizations. Today the working masses in his country were not only the object of the protection of labour, they were in charge of it. Comrade Kim Il Sung had said: "Man is the most precious treasure and the most powerful being in the world".

12. The need to make working life more independent and creative stemmed from Juche ideas, whereby man must be the centre of all systems of thought, with everything placed at his disposal. For that reason, the Government spared no expense on protection of the right to work, and it demanded from public officials a revolutionary attitude towards the masses, as the principal requirement for improving and strengthening the protection of labour. It consistently maintained the principle of giving priority to the protection of labour over production, as laid down in paragraph 2 of article 53 of the Socialist Labour Law.

13. That line of conduct was applied by all units of production and all sectors of the national economy, for which purpose the Government had strengthened planning in the protection of labour and established order and discipline while energetically promoting the ideological education of public officials and workers.

14. With a view to the constant improvement of safety at work and industrial hygiene, the Government had made sure that working methods were devised and perfected so as to adapt to the geographical and climatic conditions of the country and to the temperament of the workers. All factories were properly equipped in terms of lighting, ventilation and hygienic conditions. For example, article 54 of the Socialist Labour Law stipulated that the agencies of the State, the enterprises and the socialist co-operative organizations must introduce education in safety at work and instil in workers the policy of the protection of labour, thus making it a matter for the masses themselves.

15. The Government ensured that administrations of enterprises properly established and standardized education in work safety to afford all workers the necessary knowledge for their specific duties. First, a list was made of all workers who had to be intensively educated in work safety, such as young people who had just left school and workers transferred from other sectors. The most comprehensive arrangements were made for education in work safety among the workers and also managerial groups. In addition, production installations, plant and machinery had by law to be manufactured according to the requisite standards for labour protection.

16. Under article 59 of the Socialist Labour Law the State paid special attention to the protection of women workers. Complete emancipation of women would be attained only when women were freed from household burdens and were guaranteed all the conditions that allowed them to work on an equal footing with men in socialist construction. The Government did everything possible to ensure that women already integrated into social life could work without worries and that other women could become participants in the life of society. To that end women were not given arduous, harmful and dangerous jobs but were engaged in suitable sectors and trades. The Government also paid particular attention to the case of women of delicate health, mothers with several children and pregnant women; day nurseries and kindergartens were being constantly improved.

17. Workers in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were fully entitled to and effectively enjoyed the right to rest. All factories guaranteed workers a rest in the middle and at the end of the 8-hour working day and article 63 of the Socialist Labour Law stipulated that no supplementary work beyond the working day could be imposed. Under article 64, workers had one day of rest per week and under article 65 workers, employees and co-operative farmers received 14 days annual leave, with additional leave of 7 to 21 days depending on the category of their work. Article 66 of the Socialist Labour Law entitled women workers to paid maternity leave of 35 days before and 42 days after giving birth, irrespective of their job seniority. From February 1986 the Government had extended the length of maternity leave to 150 days. During maternity leave, women working in industry, in offices or co-operative farms received 100 per cent of their wage or the average number of working days.

18. In accordance with article 67 of the Socialist Labour Law the State was expanding the network of rest and convalescent homes, modernizing their facilities and widely organizing tourism and excursions to satisfy the increasing need for cultural recreation. The agencies of the State and the enterprises concerned had to maintain their own convalescent homes properly and ensure that the workers enjoyed sufficient relaxation after work. Workers could stay in rest homes without charge and make excursions to picturesque sites or spas at State expense.

19. With regard to article 9 of the Covenant, the Socialist Labour Law, in article 68, made the State responsible for constant improvement of the material and cultural conditions of life of all workers, who benefited from considerable additional advantages conferred by the State and society over and above the income from their work. Those advantages were an expression of the State's policy to raise the real income for all members of society and make for an equal standard of living. The State provided the workers with housing, food at moderate prices, compulsory education for children up to working age in educational establishments at all levels, and uniforms and schoolbooks for all students free of charge or at token cost, and scholarships for students in specialized schools.

20. As indicated in article 73 of the Socialist Labour Law, the State granted benefits to workers who had temporarily lost their capacity to work as a result of accident, illness and injury. In the event of incapacity lasting more than six months, the Government gave them a disability pension under the social security system. Article 74 required the retirement pensions to be paid to workers after they reached the age of 60 in the case of men and 55 in the case of women. Special benefits were also granted to persons who had received distinctions for merit in work or social and political activities if they became disabled, or to members of their families when they died. In addition, allocations were paid to the family of a worker who died after an industrial accident or an illness or injury, and the State assumed responsibility for the elderly and the disabled who had no one to look after them, as well as for children without a guardian. All workers received medical benefits under a completely free system of medical care.

21. As to article 10 of the Covenant, the family was the nucleus of society and was fully protected. Women were provided with care under the well-equipped State medical service, ranging from the Pyongyang maternity hospital at the central level to the obstetric and gynaecological services in the local polyclinics and in the people's communal hospitals. Women more than three months pregnant were all registered on the gynaecological list of the unit concerned and received more than 20 check-ups before giving birth. All, including those from rural areas, received assistance during childbirth in hospital. If a difficult birth was envisaged, women expecting twins or triplets were transferred to the Pyongyang maternity hospital. The State had also striven to relieve women without husbands of difficulties in bringing up their children and it had established boarding schools for orphans and educated them to be full citizens.

22. With regard to the protection of children and young persons, all children and young persons, irrespective of their birth, race and social origin, received free compulsory education and medical treatment and were guaranteed conditions of work and rest as befited their age. The State took a special interest in the protection of handicapped children. It had built schools for

blind and deaf mute children up to the age of 18 and, in addition, had encouraged enterprises to provide material assistance in such cases. Moral education had been included in the school curriculum and young people were encouraged to participate in out-of-school activities that were in keeping with their vocations and their talents. Similarly, parents were encouraged to provide an excellent family upbringing, something that was important not only for their children but also for the future of the country.

23. Concerning article 12 of the Covenant, an overriding principle of the Government's actions was continuous improvement of the material and cultural life of the people. At the 6th Congress of the Korean Workers' Party, on 10 October 1980, the principal tasks of socialist economic construction for the 1980s had been laid down, including the following 10 objectives: (1) energy, 100 billion kilowatt/hours; (2) coal, 120 million tonnes; (3) steel, 15 million tonnes; (4) non-ferrous metals, 1.5 million tonnes; (5) cement, 20 million tonnes; (6) chemical fertilizers, 7 million tonnes; (7) fabrics, 1.5 billion metres; (8) maritime products, 5 million tonnes; (9) grain, 15 million tonnes; and (10) land reclamation, 300,000 hectares. When those objectives were attained, overall industrial production by the end of the 1980s would be 3.1 times that of 1980, or more than 1,000 times that of 1946; indeed, the annual industrial production for 1946 would be reached in only eight hours.

24. The President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Comrade Kim Il Sung, had set out, in his speech at the first session of the Eighth Legislative Session of the Supreme People's Assembly, the principal tasks of the third seven-year plan, the aim of which was to further strengthen the country's economic power and considerably raise the people's standard of living.

25. At the present time soldiers of the People's Army had been mobilized to reclaim 300,000 hectares of land and build a series of important projects, such as the vinalon fibre complex at Sountcheun, the potassium fertilizer complex of Sariweun - an example of complete devotion and creative force in the exhilarating struggle to secure the prosperity of the country.

26. Concerning the right to adequate food, he wished to emphasize that, on 29 April 1977, at the seventh session of the Fifth Legislative Session of the People's Supreme Assembly, the Government had adopted the Agrarian Law and taken important measures to increase grain production. Land development was a task of the utmost importance, the objectives being to obtain large new areas of arable land, increase grain production, achieve full mechanization and introduce chemical methods of farming into the rural economy. Agricultural management boards, State farms and co-operative farms were responsible for promoting such development under annual programmes.

27. Special attention was paid to the fertilization and regular analyses were carried out to check soil fertility. An energetic start had been made on a mass movement to transform hillsides into terraces in order to increase crop yields. Special efforts were being made to reclaim salt marshes and open up new land for cultivation, using the sprinkler system of irrigation and chemical desalination methods. The new scientific and technical methods of cultivation introduced by Comrade Kim Il Sung had made it possible to achieve

a bumper grain harvest every year; no sooner had the record figure of 10 million tonnes of grain been achieved than it had been surpassed by a peak figure of 15 million tonnes.

28. Agriculture was being mechanized to free the peasants from hard physical labour and agricultural machinery was now being produced on a massive scale. Efforts were also being made to produce more chemical fertilizers and weed-killers. Weed-killers were now used on 97 per cent of the total area under rice cultivation. The process of mechanization and the introduction of chemical farming methods was virtually complete, and the peasants were working the land with ease and efficiency. In order to provide the people with sufficient meat and eggs, the Government had made considerable efforts to stimulate livestock production and had set up a large number of modern pork and poultry farms throughout the country that made a major contribution to improving the standard of living of the population.

29. Great importance was attached to the proper management of water supplies and to the development of forestry. As part of a mass afforestation project in which the whole population participated, the shores of all reservoirs and lakes and all mountainsides were being planted with trees. Embankments were being constructed along all waterways to guard against the danger of flooding during heavy rains and the level of major rivers was regulated by the use of modern equipment and the construction of dams and power stations.

30. A number of agricultural research establishments had been set up under the overall direction of the Academy of Agriculture, which had local branch institutes nationwide. They were advised by Government commissions which, in turn, were responsible for applying the results of research to actual production methods, and for making long-term recommendations for the development of science and technology in agriculture.

31. Engineering installations to provide water for irrigation, and at the same time to prevent the damage from droughts or floods, had been introduced on a large scale. There were now over 1,500 reservoirs, along with numerous irrigation canals which, if put end to end, would stretch for 40,000 kilometres. The Government had also built more than 1,340 pumping stations and over 1,460 kilometres of drainage canals, thus solving the problem of flooding in the main rice-growing areas. To guard against the terrible effects of drought, measures had been taken to obtain water by sinking, for example, over 34,700 wells.

32. As to the right to adequate clothing, the Government had established a firmly based textile industry equipped with the most modern machinery, which was now capable of meeting all the people's clothing needs. The industry was being expanded and the range of textiles was being enlarged, making use of the abundant supply of local raw materials. In addition to the more traditional cotton industry, a new factory for the production of vinalon fibre had just been established and was eventually expected to reach a production target of 83 metres of cloth per head of the population.

33. The right to adequate housing was also ensured by the State. Under the second seven-year plan, hundreds of thousands of modern dwellings had been built for workers in both the urban and the rural areas. In Pyongyang alone the modern residential district of Changkang, with a built-up accommodation area of some 400,000 square metres, had been built in only nine months and it

was planned to build 20,000 homes in the city of Kwangbok over a period of one or two years. A new method of manufacturing bricks with silicate had made it possible to build homes on a massive scale, using raw materials that were in abundant supply in the provinces. Housing construction was now going forward at a record pace.

34. As to rights covered by article 12 of the Covenant, the Government was making great efforts to safeguard and improve the people's health. Legislation to that end included the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children of 19 April 1976, and the Public Health Law of 3 April 1980. The Government provided free medical treatment and gave priority to preventive medicine within the context of public health care.

35. A new law had been adopted on 9 April 1986 to provide a legal framework for success already achieved in the field of environmental protection, placing emphasis on preventive, rather than remedial, measures. Before embarking on production, enterprises were required to take adequate steps to prevent pollution and were expected to keep their equipment and technology fully modernized in order to safeguard the environment. The siting of industrial areas in relation to residential areas was regulated so as to avoid harm to the environment. All industrial enterprises, ranging from large-scale enterprises to small local factories, were equipped with purification devices to prevent air pollution, and residential areas too were equipped with air purification plants. Industrial areas were located at some distance from residential areas and urban developments were being restricted to a reasonable size; care was taken to build factories and towns in a way that harmonized with the countryside.

36. A number of nature reserves had been set aside for the protection of animal and plant life and steps were also being taken to preserve sites of historical natural beauty for the enjoyment of the people. The building of reservoirs, artificial lakes and dams and the planting of forests had helped to beautify the surroundings of towns and villages, the settings for roads and railways and the areas close to factories. In all regions of the country the air was of a high degree of purity, and the quality of both river water and sea water was fully in accordance with established norms. Thus, the Daidong River, which ran through the capital and provided it with drinking water, was excellent and showed an oxygen content of 0.8 milligrammes per litre, a remarkably high figure. The success of such environmental measures was demonstrated by the fact that the chronic and contagious diseases prevalent before the Liberation had now been completely eliminated. The co-operation of the people in environmental protection work was firmly secured: factories and industries were now actively involved in helping to beautify their surroundings by such methods as the planting of trees.

37. At the same time, investment by the Government in environmental protection had increased, for monitoring devices and pollution prevention equipment of various kinds were being produced on a large scale. As a result of the great advances made in the science of environmental protection, including the establishment of scientific research laboratories and monitoring centres of all kinds, his country was succeeding in solving by its own efforts all the scientific and technological problems involved in environmental protection.

38. Mr. SPARSIS noted that paragraph 5 of the first of the two reports (E/1984/6/Add.7) stated that all citizens were free to choose occupations according to their desires and talents. His experience was that even countries with full employment encountered some difficulties in finding the right person for the job, or in other words, in achieving a perfect balance between supply and demand in so far as the labour market was concerned. He would like to know what particular mechanism was used to secure that balance in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

39. Paragraph 10 claimed that the State put the right man in the right post in accordance both with State and social demands and with the wishes and demands of the individual. What would be the situation if the wishes of the individual did not coincide with the demands of the State? Who took the final decision on where the individual was to be placed in the employment market and was there any machinery for appealing against such a decision?

40. In regard to article 7 of the Covenant, paragraph 29 of the report said the State followed the principle of distribution according to the quantity and quality of work done. In other words, there was a system of incentives to encourage higher production and work of better quality. He would be grateful for specific examples of wage incentives in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The same paragraph also affirmed that the principle of equal remuneration for equal work was applied irrespective of sex, age, or nationality. The principle was none the less one that proved somewhat difficult to apply in practice; for example, it would appear that over 1,000 cases in the United States, and as many as 50,000 cases in the United Kingdom, were currently before labour arbitration tribunals in connection with the problem of the definition of equal work. He would like to know what procedures were followed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in deciding that question. Again, regarding the right to join trade unions, were the trade unions freely allowed to affiliate with international trade union federations?

41. As to the initial report on articles 10 to 12 (E/1986/3/Add.5), paragraph 27 indicated that improvement of the material and cultural standards of the people was the supreme goal of the State. Had the State defined either a notional or a concrete standard in that connection and, if so, how far had that standard been achieved? What were the criteria whereby such standards were reviewed and were the standards reviewed at fixed intervals or on an ad hoc basis? Lastly, he would like to know what percentage of the annual budget was allocated to safeguarding physical and mental health.

42. Mr. MRACHKOV said it was clear from both reports, as well as from the introduction by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, that the Government had made considerable efforts to implement articles 6 to 12 to the Covenant, and the sense of pride that was evidently felt in the progress achieved was fully justified, particularly in view of the difficult times the country had passed through some 30 years ago.

43. He would none the less welcome more information on how articles 6 to 12 were being implemented in practice. It was rather surprising to note from paragraph 14 of the initial report on articles 6 to 9 (E/1984/6/Add.7) that the minimum working age was 17, especially since the most recent international legislation had set the minimum working age at 16. According to paragraph 17, employees could not be dismissed "without a specific reason". Were those

reasons defined by law, and if so, was the list of reasons exhaustive or merely indicative? With reference to article 8 of the Covenant, what percentage of workers were trade union members and what role did the trade unions play in protecting the interests of the workers? To what extent did workers participate in management?

44. In connection with the initial report on articles 10 to 12 (E/1986/3/Add.5), he would appreciate more information on the conditions and procedures for contracting marriage. As to article 11, he would like to know more about the criteria for allocating State-built housing. He would also appreciate more details on the penalties, under the new law of 9 April 1986, for causing environmental pollution.

45. Mr. WIMER ZAMBRANO said that the reports were generally commendable, although the reference to paradise in document E/1986/3/Add.5, paragraph 1, seemed somewhat out of place. He had also encountered a stylistic problem in document E/1984/6/Add.7, in which paragraph 55 was incomprehensible in the Spanish version. Referring to paragraph 16 of the same report, he would like more details on the procedures whereby workers were enrolled in State institutions or enterprises and transferred to other factories or enterprises. Paragraph 17 indicated that employees were not relieved of their duties without good reason, but did dismissal constitute an obstacle to finding new employment? A related question was whether, as in China, certain racial minorities were given special treatment in respect of employment, and raised the broader issue of how cultural autonomy was preserved in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

46. Mr. MUTERAHEJURU noted that paragraph 22 of document E/1984/6/Add.7 referred to the expansion of the number of factory colleges, but it did not specify how many existed at present. Had the increase been directly connected with the "Theses on Socialist Education", or was it bound up with an improvement in the economic situation? In relation to paragraph 81 of the same report, he asked what was the "specified length of service" required for receipt of old-age pensions and whether any other special conditions were applicable. He would also be grateful for details on the amounts of old-age pensions, compared, if possible, with wage scales. Paragraph 82 of that report, and paragraph 38 of document E/1986/3/Add.5, explained that the State purchased crops from farmers and furnished provisions practically free of charge to workers and office employees. Was there any mechanism to ensure that the State did not run up a financial deficit in implementing those measures? It was also unclear whether farmers, along with workers and office employees, were entitled to receive provisions at low prices.

47. From table 5 in document E/1986/3/Add.5 it was apparent that the number of some types of hospitals and clinics had actually decreased from 1980 to 1982 and he asked whether that downward trend had continued through to the present. Nowhere in the reports had he been able to find figures for the population of the country and it was difficult to assess the statistics that were supplied without such a basis for comparison. Lastly, he wished to know whether there was an increase or a fall in the rate of divorce.

48. Mr. SVIRIDOV said the fact that the initial reports had been submitted within the prescribed time limits proved that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was committed to fulfilling its responsibilities under the Covenant. The reports provided incontrovertible evidence that the

Government took consistent measures to comply with the Covenants and had made significant progress in implementing the provisions of articles 6 to 12. All citizens enjoyed the right to work and there was no unemployment. As paragraph 11 of document E/1984/6/Add.7 indicated, the social source of exploitation which had fettered the independent creative life of the working masses had been eradicated.

49. A major prerequisite for the right to work was to eliminate illiteracy and to guarantee educational opportunities. At its forty-first session, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 41/118, which, inter alia, invited the Economic and Social Council to consider declaring 1989 as international literacy year. The Committee should consider formulating recommendations on that subject, and the present report on articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant serve as an excellent basis. It showed that education was comprehensive and compulsory in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and that wide-ranging measures were adopted to train the specialists required in various branches of the economy and to improve the technical qualifications of workers. Paragraph 15 of document E/1984/6/Add.7 indicated that children had to study until they reached the age of 16 and he asked for information on educational opportunities after that age and on the number of schools in the country.

50. The reports revealed that work was performed under equitable and just conditions. Paragraph 39 of document E/1984/6/Add.7 showed that women and men had equal rights to work and equal remuneration, and that women were engaged in branches suited to their physical constitution and qualities. He welcomed that evidence that the important principle set out in article 7 of the Covenant was being applied. Paragraph 62 of the same report indicated that workers and office employees were granted 14 days' paid leave and that those engaged in branches with a health risk or high mental fatigue received additional leave. What, specifically, were those branches?

51. With regard to the right to social security, paragraph 75 mentioned an average life-expectancy rate of 74 years. Was the rate for men and women identical?

52. Paragraph 27 of document E/1986/3/Add.5 indicated that the supreme principle of the State's activities was to improve the material and cultural standards of the people. The Government provided workers with well-constructed housing and the report also showed that the right to sufficient clothing was being put into effect. Paragraph 32 explained that the Government had ensured that idle and abandoned lands as well as lands affected by the war had been rehabilitated in the post-war period. It would be useful to have more information on how the consequences of the war were being mitigated in general, and in particular, on measures to expand livestock-raising and develop the textile industry. The provision of free medical services and the eradication of many infectious diseases was a significant achievement, and he asked for more details on measures taken in the field of preventive medicine.

53. Mr. ALVAREZ VITA said the reports pointed to great success in guaranteeing the rights set out in the Covenant, but they overemphasized positive developments and gave little information on problems encountered in achieving such results. Information of that kind would nonetheless be most revealing and useful.

54. In paragraphs 5 and 38 of document E/1984/6/Add.7, the term "citizens" was used in describing implementation of the right to work. It was more restrictive than "everyone", which was used in the Covenant, and he wondered whether foreigners were also guaranteed the right to work. Concerning paragraph 16, which dealt with the transfer of workers to other factories or enterprises, he asked whether workers had the right to choose their work, in accordance with the terms of article 6 of the Covenant. Again, it could be seen from paragraph 60 that the State reduced the working day to six hours for women with more than three children. Was that measure also applicable to the father and how long did the reduction remain in effect?

55. Paragraph 68 explained that the role of the General Federation of Korean Trade Unions was to arm its members with the revolutionary ideas of Comrade Kim Il Sung. Was that the sole role envisaged for trade union activity? The same paragraph went on to refer to the intensification of ideological education activities and he requested clarification of that phrase. At the same time, he would appreciate information on how the right to strike was implemented.

56. As to the right to social security, paragraph 76 of the report indicated that the State paid special benefits to women who had had a child: did that mean only one child, or could it also apply to a number of children? Lastly, referring to paragraph 79, he asked for the actual rates for life pensions or subsidies paid by the State, compared with wage rates.

57. Ms. TAYA said she understood that tradition dictated that a man and a woman who bore the same family name could not marry. She would like to know whether that was still the case, and, if so, whether the rule was laid down in legislation and for what reason. Secondly, did a system exist for private ownership of cultivated land and what branches of the economy, if any, were reserved for private enterprise?

58. Mrs. JIMENEZ BUTRAGUENO said that both of the initial reports were interesting, but could have been improved by including more statistics. Information on obstacles encountered in implementing the Covenants would also have been useful. Referring to paragraph 10 of the report on articles 6 to 9 (E/1984/6/Add.7), she asked how a perfect balance between individual abilities and manpower needs was achieved - whether, for instance, children were groomed for certain posts from a very early age. Paragraph 21 spoke of factory colleges, farm colleges and fishing colleges enabling workers and peasants to study in the evening. What were the number of hours worked and the number of hours of study and how were the colleges organized? Paragraph 23 explained that there was a large army of 1.2 million intellectuals engaged in solving urgent scientific and technical problems and she wondered whether foreigners were included among their number.

59. As to paragraph 37, on average monthly income, the figures were out of date and more recent statistics would have been welcome, as well as a comparison of income to average expenditure. She would also appreciate more detail about the "workers' safety months" described in paragraph 48 and some examples of measures implemented in that context. Regarding the right to join trade unions, it would be interesting to learn whether the right not to join was also guaranteed and, at the same time, to know when the Socialist Constitution and the Socialist Labour Law had been enacted.

60. With reference to the report on articles 10 to 12 (E/1986/3/Add.5), paragraph 14 revealed that special measures were applied to families with triplets. She wondered whether that indicated a high incidence of triplets and whether physical and psychological problems, such as autism, were regularly discovered among triplets, and indeed whether birth defects in general were common. Paragraph 40 mentioned international collaboration in agricultural activities for the purpose of achieving self-sufficiency in food and she asked which countries and organizations were involved. Concerning paragraph 41, on the expansion of the textile industry, further information on the relative share in the economy and export earnings of the textile sector would prove useful. Again, the terms ri and dong were often used to describe administrative districts and she would be grateful to learn what the difference between them was.

61. In connection with paragraph 64, more details were needed on the major diseases against which individuals were vaccinated and on the kinds of vaccines used. Paragraph 69 indicated that every factory and enterprise had its own hospital or clinic. How many workers were normally treated in such facilities? Were family planning centres available, and what was the current birth rate? Moreover, she would like clarification of the term "neoplasms" in table 2 and asked whether the rising rate of mortality therefrom and from circulatory diseases between 1960 and 1982 was connected with the country's economic development and higher living standards. No breakdown had been provided on the relative mortality rates of men and women, and such information would be appreciated.

62. Mr. FOFANA said he wished to ask two general questions: how the rights set out in the Covenant were guaranteed to foreigners and what was the role of case law in enabling all individuals to exercise them? More specifically, he would like information on the laws and regulations concerning the right to strike and for up-to-date information on the exercise of that right. Was juvenile delinquency a problem and, if so, what measures were adopted or envisaged to ensure the social integration of juvenile delinquents? Lastly, was private initiative possible in the housing sector and what measures were taken to protect tenants from rent increases?

63. Mr. RATTRAY said the reports highlighted the country's accomplishments but failed to identify obstacles to further progress in implementation of the Covenant. He therefore requested an assessment of where the greatest difficulties lay and what steps were contemplated to deal with them. Articles 6 to 12 were intended to promote the development of the human personality, something which involved a guarantee of freedom of choice. Admittedly, the reports referred to a number of rights, but did not clarify whether citizens could choose the way in which they were exercised. For example, was the right to work accompanied by the right not to work if an individual so chose? In regard to housing, could the individual select the location?

64. He would appreciate information on equality of opportunity in respect of promotion. Again, the right to join trade unions was conditioned by a number of rules and he asked for more light to be shed on those rules and on the legal consequences involved in the exercise of the right to strike. The report did not show whether there were any socially deprived, disadvantaged or marginal groups. That kind of information would be very helpful.