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ON THE ELIMINATION
OF ALL FORMS OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION



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UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION

Eighth periodic reports of States parties due in 1984

Addendum

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS 1/

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1/ For previous reports submitted by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the summary records of the meetings of the Committee at which the reports were considered, see:

- Initial report - C E R D / C / R . 3 / Add . 12 (C E R D / C / S R . 41 and S R . 56);
- Second periodic report - C E R D / C / R . 30 / Add . 19 (C E R D / C / S R . 137);
- Third periodic report - C E R D / C / R . 70 / Add . 12 (C E R D / C / S R . 193);
- Fourth periodic report - C E R D / C / R . 90 / Add . 14 (C E R D / C / S R . 298);
- Fifth periodic report - C E R D / C / 20 / Add . 18 (C E R D / C / S R . 412);
- Sixth periodic report - C E R D / C / 66 / Add . 14 (C E R D / C / S R . 489 - S R . 490);
- Seventh periodic report - C E R D / C / 91 / Add . 18 (C E R D / C / S R . 586 - S R . 587).

PART I - GENERAL

1. This report supplements previous reports on this matter submitted by the USSR in 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980 and 1982 (CERD/C/R.3/Add.12; CERD/C/R.30/Add.19; CERD/C/R.70/Add.12; CERD/C/R.90/Add.14; CERD/C/20/Add.18; CERD/C/66/Add.14; and CERD/C/91/Add.18).
2. [In the period which has elapsed since the submission of the seventh periodic report, principles of racial and national equality, equal rights and free development of all nations and nationalities continued to be applied in the Soviet Union as before.]
3. In 1982 the Soviet people commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of the creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The genuine qualitative changes which have taken place in national relations during these years testify to the fact that the national problem in the form in which it had been left to the peoples of our country by the regime of exploitation has been resolved successfully, definitively and irreversibly....
4. Having established national and racial equality by legislation, the Soviet State has from the earliest days of its existence concentrated its efforts on overcoming the age-old backwardness which the peoples of Russia's poorly-developed outskirts had inherited from the old bourgeois and landowner system and on achieving de facto equality, which also implies the socio-economic equality of all nations and nationalities in the country. Together with social antagonisms, national enmity and all forms of racial and national inequality and oppression vanished into the past; the country's backward outlying areas, where feudal, patriarchal and even tribal relations had frequently predominated, disappeared; a plurinational socialist culture flourished on the basis of progressive traditions and an intensive exchange of spiritual values; socialist nations forming a new historic community - the Soviet people - came into being. For the first time in history, the country's plurinational composition was transformed from a source of weakness into a source of strength and thriving.
5. The creation of the USSR and the establishment of relations of friendship, trust and mutual assistance among peoples immensely accelerated the spiritual development of society as a whole. Socialism opened up to the multi-million masses of men and women of toil, irrespective of their social origin or nationality, all sources of knowledge, created broad opportunities for the display of gifts and talents, the flourishing of the culture of all nations and nationalities, creative activities by the masses in the field of science and the arts.
6. "It is socialism," the report "Sixty years of the USSR" delivered at the joint solemn session of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation on 21 December 1982 pointed out, "that welds into a united family peoples who had previously been dissociated, that ensures the just solution of the national problems generated by the regime of exploitation".
7. The developed system of legislation operating in the USSR is aimed at ensuring genuine equality of citizens of different races and nationalities, at establishing a solid legal basis for the further development of all nations and nationalities within the framework of a free union of equal republics. This has been discussed in detail in the Soviet Union's previous periodic reports.

8. A Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR "On the tasks of Soviets of People's Deputies in connection with further developing the friendship and co-operation of the peoples of the USSR and with educating the workers in an international spirit", adopted in 1983, reflects the Soviet State's constant attention to matters pertaining to the development and strengthening of the fraternal union of the peoples of the USSR.

9. In particular, the Decree invites the Soviets of People's Deputies to:

Devote constant attention to the development and deepening of friendship and collaboration of peoples of the USSR, the successful solution of nationwide tasks of economic development, raising the workers' level of prosperity and culture, careful account being taken of the particularities of each Union republic and of the interests of all nations and nationalities (article 1);

Make maximum use of the possibilities of educational establishments and cultural and artistic institutions operating in their territories to educate citizens in a spirit of neutral respect and friendship of all the country's nations and nationalities, internationalism and solidarity with workers of other countries;

Persistently to develop modern forms and methods of work in connection with the enrichment of national cultures and the utilization of the finest fruits of the spiritual heritage and traditions of each of our country's peoples (article 3);

Improve forms of participation of workers of all nationalities in the activities of Soviet People's Deputies and in the running of State and public affairs;

Take requisite measures to ensure that, under conditions of the plurinational composition of the Union and autonomous republics, all nationalities are duly represented on Soviet bodies (article 4).

10. The constitutional provision concerning the need to educate citizens within the spirit of socialist internationalism has found development in the USSR Act "On labour collectives and the enhancement of their role in the running of enterprises, establishments and organizations", dated 17 June 1983, whose article 17 provides that labour collectives shall take measures to educate the collective's members in a spirit of socialist internationalism and of the friendship and fraternity of peoples.

11. All these provisions of principle are unswervingly applied in practice.

PART II - INFORMATION IN RELATION TO ARTICLES 2-7

12. A brief review of measures taken in the USSR in connection with the implementation of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in the period since the submission of the previous report is given below.

Article 2

13. As already indicated in detail in previous periodic reports, Soviet legislation and practice contain specific guarantees which preclude any manifestations of racism or racial discrimination. Socialist democracy reliably protects the social and national interests and rights of working people.

Article 3

14. All manifestations of the ideology and practice of apartheid and racial discrimination are deeply alien to the Soviet State and Soviet people.

15. The Soviet Union, faithful to the Leninist principles of its foreign policy, is a consistent fighter against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid in the international arena. The USSR strictly follows the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, advocates wider adherence to those Conventions, and supports and carries out all decisions and recommendations of international bodies aimed at combating racism and apartheid.

16. Our country resolutely condemns the system of apartheid, the policy of terror and mass repressions against the indigenous African population applied by the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa, the continuing illegal occupation of Namibia and acts of aggression against independent African States. The shameful apartheid regime, condemned by the United Nations and the international community, would long since have collapsed under the weight of its crimes were it not for the all-round assistance and support given it by the forces of imperialism and, above all, the United States of America, which has demonstratively proclaimed the Pretoria regime its "historic ally". Such assistance to the racists is provoking universal condemnation. All measures must be taken to ensure the strict observance by all States of the requirement concerning the international isolation of the apartheid regime.

17. The peoples' struggle against the last stronghold of colonial and racist oppression on the African continent and for the liquidation of the shameful apartheid system enjoys the Soviet Union's full support. The Soviet Union has given and will continue to give support to the struggle of the people of Namibia, led by SWAPO, the Namibian people's sole and true representative. Our country condemns the attempts by the Pretoria racists and their patrons to solve the problem of Namibia in circumvention of the United Nations and to impose a neo-colonialist puppet regime upon the Namibian people. The Soviet Union consistently advocates the cessation of the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African regime and for the immediate granting of independence to Namibia on the basis of the implementation of all the United Nations decisions in the matter, including Security Council resolutions 435 and 539. In the interests of achieving such a settlement, the Security Council must apply the strictest measures in respect of the South African racists, up to and including the introduction of comprehensive mandatory sanctions in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

18. The Soviet Union steadfastly supports United Nations activities directed towards the complete and definitive eradication of all forms and manifestations of racism. As stated in the message from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Council of Ministers of the USSR to participants in the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held in

August 1983, "... Together with the other peace-loving States and all progressive forces, the USSR will continue to act resolutely for the preservation and consolidation of international peace, in support of peoples which struggle for their national liberation and social progress, against colonial oppression, racism and apartheid".

19. Soviet representatives are taking active part in the work of United Nations bodies concerned with problems of decolonization and the struggle against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, viz., the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations Council on Namibia, and the Special Committee against Apartheid. They took part in the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (Geneva, 1983) and the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence (Paris, 1983).

20. The Soviet public is making an important contribution towards the struggle against the ideology and practice of apartheid. Representatives of the Soviet public participate in the work of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), the International Committee against Apartheid, Racism and Colonialism in Southern Africa (ICSA) and the International Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes of Racist and Apartheid Régimes in Southern Africa. They took part in the work of the International Conference of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Peoples of South Africa and Namibia (Montreal, 1982), the International Conference on Solidarity with Front-line States and Liberation and Peace Movements in Southern Africa (Lisbon, 1983) and the International Conference on the Alliance between South Africa and Israel (Vienna, 1983).

21. In November 1983, the African Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR held an international conference on "International Aspects of the Struggle against Racism in Southern Africa".

22. Delegations from the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid, the United Nations Council on Namibia and the Secretariat of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination visited the USSR in 1983 at the invitation of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa. They were informed about the work of Soviet public organizations in giving assistance to peoples struggling for national liberation and against apartheid and racial discrimination.

23. Soviet public organizations support the national liberation movements of southern Africa, to whom various types of material aid - food, industrial goods, medicines and medical equipment, vehicles, equipment for educational establishment and libraries, books - are sent from the resources of the Soviet Peace Fund. The Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa makes an annual contribution to the fund of the Organization of African Unity for acquainting international public opinion with the situation in southern Africa.

24. The Soviet public widely observes various dates connected with peoples' struggles against racism and apartheid. Thus, in 1982-1983 a number of mass events were held in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March) and the Week of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Peoples of Southern Africa (25-31 May). Public organizations widely observed the anniversary of the establishment of the South-West Africa People's Organization - SWAPO (19 April), the International Day of Action for the Release

of Political Prisoners in Southern Africa (11 June), the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling Peoples of Southern Africa (16 June), Southern Africa Freedom Day (26 June) and the Week of Solidarity with the Struggling Peoples of Southern Africa (16-26 June), the Day of Solidarity with the People of Namibia (26 August), the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October), the International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Namibia (27 October - 3 November) and South African Heroes Day (16 December).

25. Assistance continues to be given to progressive organizations of the peoples of southern Africa in disseminating information material exposing the criminal nature of the ideology and practice of apartheid and calling for the activation of the efforts of all progressive forces against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. The Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the countries of Asia and Africa disseminates the ANC and SWAPO magazines Sechaba and Namibia Today and publishes, together with the African Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the journal Asia and Africa Today, which actively assists the exposure of the ideology and policies of the South African racist regime. The Peace and Progress radio station, the voice of Soviet Public opinion, devotes a great deal of attention to problems of southern Africa and the struggle against apartheid.

Article 4

26. As already stated in detail in previous reports, Soviet legislation fully guarantees the strict implementation of all provisions of article 4 of the Convention.

Article 5

27. As has been stated in detail in our previous reports, Soviet legislation and practice contain reliable guarantees, precluding any direct or indirect limitation or the establishment of direct or indirect privileges on the grounds of race or nationality, in respect of the observance of the rights and freedoms provided in article 5 of the Convention.

28. During the period which has elapsed since the submission of the last report, the right of Soviet citizens to housing, provided in the Constitution of the USSR, has been spelt out in the Union republics' housing codes. Thus, article 1 of the Housing Code of the Russian Federation, adopted on 24 June 1983 by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, provides that this right shall be guaranteed by the development and preservation of the State and public housing stock, assistance to co-operative and individual housing construction, fair distribution under public control of living space becoming available as the programme of construction of amenity housing is carried out, and low housing rents and public amenity charges. Corresponding articles are included in the housing codes of the other Union republics.

29. Soviet housing legislation consistently promotes the guaranteeing of the right of citizens to housing without any discrimination whatsoever, inter alia, on grounds of race or nationality.

30. As already stated in previous reports, Soviet legislation and practice reliably guarantee the enjoyment of the right to work, the free choice of work, just and favourable working conditions, equal pay for equal work and just and satisfactory remuneration without any discrimination whatsoever, inter alia, on grounds of race or nationality. In the introductory part (preamble) of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics it

is stated that: "... citizens are guaranteed equal rights in the sphere of labour irrespective of nationality or race ...". This provision is reproduced in full in the labour codes of all Union republics and is unswervingly applied.

Article 6

31. As already stated in detail in previous reports on this question, Soviet legislation provides affective guarantees for protection of the rights of all USSR citizens, irrespective of their racial or national origin.

32. As a development of the corresponding provisions of Soviet legislation, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 18 May 1981 adopted a Decree on "Compensation for damage caused to citizens by unlawful acts of State or public organizations or of officials in the performance of their official duties".

33. The Decree states, in particular: "Damage caused to a citizen as a result of unlawful conviction, unlawful prosecution, the unlawful use of imprisonment as a repressive measure, or the unlawful imposition of an administrative penalty in the form of arrest or corrective labour is fully compensated by the State irrespective of whether any fault has been committed by officials of bodies of enquiry or preliminary investigation, of the procurator's office, or of the court".

34. As for guarantees of compensation for victims of racial discrimination in cases where the offence is committed by private persons, it should be noted that, in accordance with article 88 of the Fundamental Principles of Civil Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics of 8 December 1961, damage caused to a citizen's person or property is subject to compensation in full by the person having caused such damage.

Article 7

35. The steadfast implementation of all provisions of article 7 of the Convention in the Soviet Union is fully assured.

36. The information below is provided in addition to that previously given on this question.

37. The Soviet Union consistently applies the basic principles governing public education in the USSR, viz., equality of all USSR citizens in receiving education, irrespective of race, nationality or language; compulsory education for all children and adolescents; freedom of choice of the language of instruction; and instruction in the native language or in the language of another people of the USSR. Students at general-education schools are granted the right to choose the language of instruction. Parents or persons in loco parentis have the right to choose for their children the school with the language of instruction of their choice. Besides the language of instruction, students may, if they so desire, study the language of another people of the USSR.

38. Besides the native language and Russian, every school in the USSR offers facilities for the study of foreign (West European, oriental, Indo-European) languages. At their own or their parents' wish, children may choose any foreign language. There are schools for the more thorough study of languages, where some subjects are taught in a foreign language.

39. The process of development of education of the nationalities of the Soviet North is continuing at an intensive rate. In compliance with the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the USSR on "Measures for the further economic and social development of regions inhabited by nationalities of the Soviet North" of 8 February 1980, considerable work has been done to strengthen further the facilities of educational establishments, ensure the supply of qualified teaching personnel and improve the level of teaching and education of children and adolescents. Schools with a total of 114,000 pupil places, pre-school establishments with 52,000 places and school boarding facilities with 3,000 places have been opened during the past three years. Teaching equipment and teaching aids worth 25.2 million roubles have been supplied to schools. Work is continuing on improving the training of teaching personnel from the indigenous nationalities of the Soviet North in higher and middle teacher training establishments. In particular, the number of students at pedagogical institutes has been increased to 600 and that of students at State secondary-level teachers' schools to 870. A major contribution towards providing national schools with qualified personnel has been made by the A.I. Herzen State Pedagogical Institute in Leningrad, the Magadan Teachers' School (secondary level), and the Department of Peoples of the Soviet Far North of the Khabarovsk Teacher Training College. All students and pupils at pedagogical teaching establishments for the nationalities of the Soviet Far North have the possibility to study languages. Students at the A.I. Herzen Leningrad State Pedagogical Institute are studying 19 native languages. Special courses and seminars on the ethnography, culture, history and literature of peoples of the Soviet North have been prepared and placed on the Institute's syllabus with a view to improving the quality of training of future specialists. Work is also being done at the Institute on training top-level specialists from the indigenous peoples of the Soviet North in the special subjects "Languages of the peoples of the USSR" and "Methods of teaching the native language (or literature) in national schools".

40. As already stated, all the necessary conditions have been created in our country to acquaint Soviet public opinion with matters pertaining to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. The text of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination has been published in the languages of all the Union republics of the USSR. Every citizen of the USSR can acquaint himself at a public library with the text of the Convention, the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Questions connected with the struggle against racism and racial discrimination are included in the programmes of higher educational establishments and secondary schools throughout Soviet territory. Students at higher educational establishments study these questions, side by side with those of the struggle against apartheid, genocide and the elimination of remnants of colonialism, as part of a course in "Scientific Communism", "State law" and "International law". Pupils of secondary schools study questions connected with the struggle against racism and racial discrimination as part of the subjects entitled "Social studies" and "Fundamentals of State organization and law". Under the secondary school syllabus, materials concerning the establishment of the United Nations and its aims and purposes are studied in the tenth year as part of the modern history course. Students acquaint themselves with documents adopted by the United Nations, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Teaching aids advise teachers to link the materials studied with current events and with new decisions and instruments adopted at the State level and by international organizations.

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41. In compliance with the revised general guidelines concerning the form and content of reports by States parties to the Convention approved by the Committee at its twenty-first session, the detailed results of the USSR All-Union Population Census were appended to the seventh periodic report submitted by the Soviet Union in 1982.