

**INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION  
ON THE ELIMINATION  
OF ALL FORMS OF  
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**



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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES  
UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION

Seventh periodic reports of States parties due in 1982

Addendum

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS 1/

[22 June 1982]

The victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution brought with it the complete and final elimination of racism and racial discrimination in our country.

As already pointed out in previous reports on this matter, all manifestations of racism and racial discrimination are profoundly alien to the Soviet State and to Soviet people. The period under review has seen the continuance of the consistent application of the constitutional principle of equality of citizens before the law irrespective of origin, race or nationality, education, language or other circumstances.

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:

- (1) Initial report - CERD/C/R.3/Add.12 (CERD/C/SR.41/and 56);
- (2) Second periodic report - CERD/C/R.30/Add.19 (CERD/C/SR.137);
- (3) Third periodic report - CERD/C/R.70/Add.12 (CERD/C/SR.193);
- (4) Fourth periodic report - CERD/C/R.90/Add.14 (CERD/C/SR.298);
- (5) Fifth periodic report - CERD/C/20/Add.18 (CERD/C/SR.412);
- (6) Sixth periodic report - CERD/C/66/Add.14 (CERD/C/SR.489-490).

## I.

From the earliest years of existence of Soviet power, all manifestations of racism and racial discrimination have been prohibited by law. One of the very first instruments to be adopted by the Soviet State, the Declaration on the Rights of the Peoples of Russia, which dates from November 1917, proclaimed the equality and sovereignty of the peoples of Russia, their right to self-determination, the repeal of all national and national-religious privileges and restrictions, and the free development of national minorities and ethnic groups.

The principle of racial and national equality, an unshakable principle of socialism, has been strictly applied at all stages of development of the Soviet State.

The equality of citizens of the USSR is also affirmed in the new Constitution of the USSR adopted on 7 October 1977, article 36 of which states:

"Citizens of the USSR of different races and nationalities have equal rights.

Exercise of those rights is ensured by a policy of all-round development and drawing together of all the nations and nationalities of the USSR, by educating citizens in the spirit of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism, and by the possibility of using their native language and the languages of other peoples of the USSR.

Any direct or indirect limitation of the rights of citizens or establishment of direct or indirect privileges on grounds of race or nationality, and any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness, hostility or contempt are punishable by law".

In 1982 the Soviet people will commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the world's first unified multinational workers' and peasants' State. The Declaration of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union entitled "On the sixtieth anniversary of the creation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" emphasizes that the sixtieth anniversary of the USSR is a significant event in the life of the Soviet people, proof of the triumph of the Leninist national policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and of the historic achievements of socialism. On this glorious anniversary the Soviet Union stands before the world at large as a united family of republics enjoying equal rights and jointly engaged in the construction of communism.

History knows no State which has done more than the USSR, in so short a time, for the all-round development of nations and nationalities. The past 60 years have been marked by the swift social and economic development of the Soviet Union. The share of the USSR in world industrial production has risen from 1 per cent in 1922 to 20 per cent today. The economies of all the Soviet Republics are developing dynamically within the Soviet Union. Modern industry, agriculture and science, a true flourishing of culture - these are the things that characterize any one of them today. At the same time, each has its unique personality, its specific national features.

Mature socialist social relations have become established in our country; the problem of equalizing the levels of economic development of the Soviet Republics has essentially been solved. De jure and de facto equality of all nations and nationalities has been guaranteed. A new historic community, the Soviet people,

has been formed. This community is based on the indivisibility of the historical destinies of Soviet people, on profound objective changes, both material and intellectual, and on the indestructible union of the working class, the peasantry and the intelligentsia. It is the result of the growing internationalization of economic life and of public life as a whole, of the development in our country of socialist nations between which relations of genuine equality of rights, fraternal mutual aid and co-operation, respect and mutual trust have come into being.

The Soviet Union is a mighty industrial power with highly mechanized agriculture and advanced science and culture. Each Republic's economy plays an important role in the social division of labour and makes an increasingly substantial contribution towards the country's national wealth. Thus, during the years of the tenth five-year plan alone, the volume of industrial production increased, for example, by 42 per cent in Byelorussia, 47 per cent in Azerbaidzhan, 27 per cent in Uzbekistan, 41 per cent in Georgia, 30 per cent in Tadzhikistan, 46 per cent in Armenia and 24 per cent in Estonia.

As pointed out at the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Party's policy is to increase each Republic's material and intellectual potential and, at the same time, make maximum use of that potential for the harmonious development of the country as a whole.

The active implementation of the Leninist peace strategy upheld by the Soviet State is of paramount importance for the fate of mankind. The peace programme for the 1980s advanced by the twenty-sixth Congress of the CPSU and supplemented by new Soviet initiatives sets out realistic, constructive ways of reducing the threat of war, intensifying détente and developing broad co-operation between States with different structures.

The report of the Central Committee of the CPSU to the twenty-sixth Congress states: "The national sensibilities and national dignity of every person are respected in our country. The CPSU has fought and will always resolutely fight against attitudes alien to the nature of socialism such as chauvinism or nationalism, and against any nationalistic aberration, be it, say, anti-semitism or zionism".

## II.

Soviet legislation and practice contain reliable guarantees which preclude any manifestation of racism or racial discrimination in our country. The process of further perfecting this area of Soviet legislation continued in 1980-1981.

The adoption by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 24 June 1981 of the Act concerning the Legal Position of Aliens in the USSR was an event of considerable importance. The Act provides that aliens in the USSR are equal before the law irrespective of origin, social or property status, race or nationality, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, type or nature of occupation or other circumstances (article 3).

The new Act confirms the constitutional provision that the USSR and the Union Republics grant the right of asylum to aliens persecuted for defending the interests of workers and the cause of peace, participating in a revolutionary or national liberation movement, or for progressive socio-political, scientific or other creative activities.

A feature of this Act are the special provisions setting forth the social and economic rights of aliens in the USSR and providing guarantees of the enjoyment of those rights.

In the field of labour relations, the Act provides (article 7) that aliens permanently resident in the Soviet Union may work as workers or employees in enterprises, institutions and organizations or engage in other work activities on the same basis as, and in accordance with the procedures established for, USSR citizens. Aliens temporarily in the USSR may engage in work activities in our country if this is compatible with the purpose of their stay in the USSR. Aliens have rights and obligations in labour relations on an equal footing with USSR citizens.

Aliens in the USSR have the right to leisure, health protection, social security, education, housing and the enjoyment of cultural benefits (articles 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of the Act).

Under the Act, aliens in the USSR are guaranteed freedom of conscience on an equal footing with USSR citizens (article 16); they have the same rights and obligations as Soviet citizens in marriage and family relations (article 17); and they are guaranteed inviolability of the person and inviolability of abode (article 18).

In furtherance of the provisions of article 86 of the Constitution of the USSR and the corresponding articles of the Constitutions of the Union Republics, the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics have adopted the following Acts concerning autonomous regions: in 1980, the South Ossetian Autonomous Region Act in the Georgian SSR; in 1981, the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region Act in the Tadzhik SSR, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region Act in the Azerbaidzhan SSR and the Adygei, Gorno-Altai, Jewish, Karachai-Circassian and Khakass Autonomous Region Acts in the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR).

In furtherance of the principles of racial and national equality set forth in the Constitution of the USSR and the Constitutions of the Union Republics, the Acts concerning the autonomous regions provide that, irrespective of origin, social and property status, race and nationality, sex, education, language, attitude towards religion, type and nature of occupation or other circumstances, citizens residing therein are guaranteed equal rights in all fields of economic, political, social and cultural life, as well as the possibility of using their native language and the languages of other peoples of the USSR.

Each autonomous region has representatives (five deputies) in the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and is represented in the normal way in the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and also, depending on the size of its population, in the Supreme Soviet of the Union Republic.

The bodies of State authority of an autonomous region - the Soviets of People's Deputies - have extensive powers.

The Soviets of People's Deputies of the autonomous regions deal with all matters of local significance in accordance with the interests of the whole State and of the citizens residing in the territory of the autonomous region, taking into account its national or other particularities; implement decisions of higher State bodies; guide the activities of lower Soviets of People's Deputies; take part in the consideration of matters of territorial, Republican and all-Union significance, and submit proposals concerning them.

The Soviets of People's Deputies of autonomous regions endorse the autonomous regions' current and long-term economic and social development plans and budgets, guide State bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations subordinate to them,

and also exercise other powers provided by law unless these are placed by law directly within the competence of territorial Soviets of People's Deputies or, in Union Republics which are not divided into territories (Azerbaijan, Georgia and Tadzhikistan), within the competence of the Union Republic's bodies of State authority and administration.

The provisions concerning racial and national equality proclaimed in these Acts are universal in character and are strictly implemented.

The Act of the RSFSR on Autonomous Districts of the RSFSR, <sup>\*/</sup> whose provisions are also based on the principles of racial and national equality set forth in the Constitution of the USSR and are strictly observed, was adopted in 1980 in accordance with article 80 of the RSFSR Constitution.

These unshakable principles of Soviet legislation were confirmed by the provisions of the Fundamental Principles of Legislation of the USSR and Union Republics on Administrative Infringements of the Law, adopted in 1980, the USSR Act of 25 June 1980 amending and supplementing the Fundamental Principles of Legislation concerning the Judicial System of the USSR and the Union and autonomous Republics, and the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 18 May 1981 entitled "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" (a brief description of these legislative instruments will be provided in connection with the appropriate articles of the Convention).

### III.

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 is given below.

#### Article 2

As pointed out above, 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

All manifestations of the ideology and practice of apartheid and racial segregation are deeply alien to the Soviet State and Soviet people. This is clearly evident from the provisions of Soviet legislation cited above.

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<sup>\*/</sup> There are 10 national districts in the RSFSR: Achinsk-Buryat in the Chita region, Komi-Permiak in the Perm region, Koryak in the Kamchatka region, Nenets in the Archangel region, Ust-Orda Buryat in the Irkutsk region, Khant-Mansi and Yamalo-Nenets in the Tyumen region, Chukotsk in the Magadan region, and Taymyr (Dolgano-Nenets) and Evenk in the Krasnoyarsk region.

The Soviet Union, faithful to the Leninist principles of its foreign policy, is a consistent fighter against racism 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 the struggle against racism and apartheid.

Soviet representatives have taken an active part in the work of various international meetings on the struggle against apartheid, such as the International Conference in Solidarity with the Struggle of the People of Namibia (Paris, 1980), the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa (Paris, 1981), and the emergency special session of the United Nations on Namibia (September 1981).

In his message to participants in the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, Mr. Brezhnev, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, stated: "The Soviet Union, as was again stressed at the recent twenty-sixth Congress of the CPSU, consistently pursues a policy of supporting national liberation movements, firmly rebuffing the aggressive designs of imperialism, and taking resolute measures to eradicate racism and apartheid."

The Soviet Union takes a clear and consistent stand on the Namibian issue. "We shall continue to give support to the just struggle of the people of Namibia, led by SWAPO, for freedom and for the prompt settlement of the question of Namibia in complete conformity with the decisions of the United Nations and the demands of the Organization of African Unity", Mr. Brezhnev stated in his message of congratulation to the States and peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day, 25 May 1981. At the emergency special session of the General Assembly on Namibia, Soviet representatives again pointed out that we seek no special rights or privileges for ourselves, whether in Namibia or in Africa as a whole; we advocate that the suffering people of Namibia, like other peoples still under the domination of colonialists and racists, should achieve freedom and genuine independence and should obtain the possibility of independent national development. They stressed the need decisively to rebuff unrestrained racists, to make use of the possibilities of the Charter of the United Nations, and to apply the strictest sanctions to the Republic of South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter.

At that session of the General Assembly, the Soviet delegation supported the resolution adopted by a majority of votes urging the Security Council immediately to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the Republic of South Africa.

Soviet public organizations are active in unmasking the crimes of the apartheid régime and supporting the national liberation movements of southern Africa.

Its representatives took an active part in the session of the International Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes of the Racist and Apartheid Régimes in Southern Africa held in Luanda in February 1981, at which convincing proof was produced of continuing assistance to the racist South African régime by leading capitalist countries and transnational corporations in the political, economic, military and other fields, testifying to their de facto complicity in the crime of apartheid.

Representatives of Soviet public organizations took an active part in the work of the International Seminar on Publicity and the Role of Mass Media in the International Mobilization against Apartheid (Berlin, September 1981) and of the International Seminar on Material Aid to the National Liberation Movements of Southern Africa (Frankfurt-on-Main, November 1981).

At the initiative of Soviet public organizations, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March) and African Liberation Day (25 May) are observed in the Soviet Union each year; from 25 to 31 March, the USSR observes a Week of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Peoples of Southern Africa, during which the public organizations of our country arrange meetings and gatherings of solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia and various exhibitions and seminars take place. The Soviet public widely observes the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling Peoples of Southern Africa (16 June) and Southern Africa Freedom Day (26 June), the Day of Solidarity with the People of Namibia (26 August), the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners (11 October), and South African Heroes Day (16 December).

Soviet public organizations actively assist those struggling against apartheid in disseminating their information material calling for greater effort and for unity in the action of all progressive forces against the apartheid régime. The literature distributed with the co-operation of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa includes the magazines Secheba (ANC) and Namibia Today (SWAPO) and the bulletins and newspapers of national and international organizations struggling against apartheid. Material on the policy of terror and repression pursued by the South African racist régime, on its aggressive operations against neighbouring independent African States and on the economic, political and military co-operation of a number of North Atlantic Organization member countries with the Pretoria régime, is regularly published in Asia and Africa Today, the journal of the Committee, which is issued jointly with the African Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Russian, English and French.

Our country's public organizations regularly give material assistance to the national liberation movements struggling against the apartheid régime. This material assistance is provided from the resources of the Soviet Peace Fund which are made up of the voluntary contributions of Soviet public organizations and individual citizens. In recent years, the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa has contributed about \$200,000 to the United Nations Fund for Broadcasting to Southern Africa. With the help of grants from the Soviet Committee for Solidarity, hundreds of national liberation movement activists have taken courses at Soviet educational establishments in various aspects of economics, health care, science and culture, and many are continuing their studies in the USSR.

The Soviet public gives practical support to the liberation struggle against apartheid in close contact with the legitimate representatives of the oppressed peoples of the Republic of South Africa and Namibia - ANC and SWAPO.

#### Article 4

Guided by Leninist principles of national policy, the Soviet State condemns all propaganda and all organizations based on ideas or theories of racial superiority.

The Constitution of the USSR (article 36) provides: "Any direct or indirect limitation of the rights of citizens or establishment of direct or indirect privileges on grounds of race or nationality, and any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness, hostility or contempt, are punishable by law".

In accordance with this provision, article 2 of the USSR Act on "Criminal Liability for Crimes Against the State" of 25 December 1958 provides severe penalties "for propaganda or agitation designed to incite racial or national hatred or discord,

as well as direct or indirect limitation of the rights of citizens, or the establishment of direct or indirect privileges of citizens, depending on their race or nationality". The provisions of this article are reproduced in article 74 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the RSFSR and the corresponding articles of the codes of criminal procedure of other Union Republics.

Soviet legislation fully guarantees the strict implementation of all provisions of article 4 of the Convention.

#### Article 5

An important concretization of the constitutional principle of racial and national equality is the provisions concerning the equality of all citizens before the law and the courts set forth in Soviet legislation.

Justice in civil and criminal cases is administered exclusively by the court and on the basis of principles of equality of all citizens before the law and the courts, without distinction as to origin, social or property status, race, nationality, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, type and nature of occupation, domicile or other circumstances (article 7 of the Fundamental Principles of Civil Procedure of the USSR and the Union Republics, articles 7 and 8 of the Fundamental Principles of Criminal Procedure of the USSR and the Union Republics).

The USSR Act of 25 June 1980 introduces amendments and additions to the Fundamental Principles of Legislation on the Judicial System of the USSR and the Union and autonomous Republics. In particular, article 11 of the Fundamental Principles is given a new wording, which reads as follows: "Judicial proceedings shall be conducted in the language of the Union or autonomous Republic, autonomous region or autonomous district or in the language of the majority of the local population. Persons involved in the case who are unfamiliar with the language in which the judicial proceedings are being conducted shall be guaranteed the right to acquaint themselves fully with the materials in the case, to participate in the court proceedings through an interpreter, and to address the court in their native language."

These provisions are developed further in the Acts on autonomous regions adopted in 1980-81. Thus, article 68 of the RSFSR Act on the Gorno-Altai autonomous region provides: "In accordance with article 171 of the Constitution of the RSFSR, judicial proceedings in the Gorno-Altai autonomous region shall be conducted in Russian, or in the language of the autonomous region, or else in the language of the majority of the local population. Persons concerned in the case who are unfamiliar with the language in which judicial proceedings are being conducted shall be guaranteed the right to acquaint themselves fully with the materials in the case, to participate in court proceedings through an interpreter, and to address the court in their native language." Similar articles are contained in the Acts concerning other autonomous regions.

The Fundamental Principles of Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics on Administrative Infringements of the Law, adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in 1980, provide in particular (article 35) that a person brought



before an administrative court is entitled, during the examination of the case, to receive legal assistance from an advocate, to express himself in his native language, and to receive the services of an interpreter if he is unfamiliar with the language in which the proceedings are conducted.

Soviet legislation and practice contain reliable guarantees of universal and equal electoral law in the USSR, precluding the very possibility of any limitation on citizens concerning their participation in elections on the grounds of race, colour or tribal or ethnic origin.

Article 2 of the USSR Act on Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR reads: "All direct or indirect limitations of the electoral rights of citizens of the USSR based on origin, social or property status, race, nationality, sex, education, language, attitude towards religion, length of residence in a locality, or type and nature of occupation, are prohibited." Similar provisions are contained in Republic laws on elections to the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics and local Soviets of People's Deputies. The criminal law of the Union Republics contains severe penalties for impeding the application of electoral rights, inter alia on the grounds of race or nationality.

Thus, for example, under Soviet law all candidates for the position of deputy registered in an electoral district are listed on the ballot paper in alphabetical order, regardless of their racial or national origin, with an indication of each candidate's surname, name and patronymic and the name of the public organizations, labour collectives and associations of military personnel that have exercised their right to put forward candidacies in accordance with the law.

In accordance with the law, ballot papers are printed in the languages used by the population of the electoral district.

Deputies of more than 100 nationalities have been elected to Soviets of People's Deputies, from the Supreme Soviet of the USSR down to local Soviets of People's Deputies.

The Constitution and other legislative instruments of the USSR and the Union Republics grant USSR citizens the right to take part in the administration of State and public affairs without any discrimination on the grounds of race or nationality. This right is implemented in the activities of local Soviets of People's Deputies, which represent the interests of the working people of our country.

Strict observance of the constitutional principles of freedom of conscience is guaranteed in the Soviet Union for all USSR citizens and for aliens in the USSR irrespective of their race or nationality.

Without interfering in the internal (canonical) activities of religious associations existing in the Soviet Union (of the orthodox, Muslim, Baptist or other religions), the Council for Religious Affairs of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, local authorities and legal protection bodies of the Soviet State keep a close watch over the application of the appropriate provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Under the Constitution of the USSR, no direct or indirect restriction of rights or the establishment of direct or indirect privileges in connection with recruitment for work or dismissal from work on the grounds of sex, race, national origin or attitude to religion is permitted (articles 9 and 17 of the Fundamental Principles of Labour Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics). In article 36 of the Fundamental Principles it is stated that, in accordance with the Constitution of the USSR, the labour of workers and employees is remunerated according to its quantity and quality. Any reduction whatsoever in the remuneration of labour on grounds of sex, age, race or national origin is prohibited.

So far as State policy on the migration of manpower to remote areas of Siberia, the Soviet Far East and the Soviet Far North is concerned, it may be said that in its legal aspects this policy is based on the principle of freedom of the labour contract. Recruitment of manpower for such areas, carried out as organized recruitment or as a public campaign, is conducted exclusively on a voluntary basis and provides, as a necessary condition, for the conclusion of a written labour contract specifying the obligations of the parties. The legislation in force provides additional material benefits (payment of bonuses, additional leave over and above the statutory annual leave, payment of pensions under advantageous conditions and at advantageous rates, etc.) in order to attract key workers to such areas and keep them there.

As already described in detail in 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 other rights and freedoms set out in article 5 of the Convention.

#### Article 6

Soviet legislation provides effective guarantees for protection of the rights of all USSR citizens, irrespective of their racial or national origin.

The Constitution of the USSR (article 57) provides that respect for the individual and protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens are the duty of all State bodies, public organizations and officials.

Citizens of the USSR have the right to protection by the courts against encroachments on their honour and reputation, life and health, and personal freedom and property.

Article 58 of the Constitution of the USSR specifies that citizens of the USSR have the right to lodge a complaint against the action of officials and State and public bodies. Complaints must be examined according to the procedure and within the time limits established by law.

Actions by officials that contravene the law or exceed their powers and infringe the rights of citizens may be appealed against in a court in the manner prescribed by law.

Citizens of the USSR have the right to compensation for damage resulting from unlawful actions by State or public organizations or by officials in the performance of their duties.

According to article 5 of the Fundamental Principles of Civil Procedure of the USSR and the Union Republics, any interested person has the right, in the manner established by law, to apply to the court for protection of an infringed or legally safeguarded interest.

A further important supplement to constitutional provisions is the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 18 May 1981 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."

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 inquiry or preliminary investigation, of the procurator's office, or of the court."

#### Article 7

Under article 45 of the Constitution of the USSR, citizens of the USSR have the right to education.

This right is ensured by free provision of all forms of education, by the institution of universal, compulsory secondary education and broad development of vocational, specialized secondary and higher education, in which instruction is oriented towards practical activity and production; by the development of extramural, correspondence and evening courses; by the provision of grants and privileges to students; by the free issue of school textbooks; by the opportunity to attend a school where teaching is in the native language; and by the provision of facilities for self-education.

Article 4 of the Fundamental Principles of Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics on Public Education sets forth the basic principles governing public education in the USSR, including: equality of all USSR citizens in receiving education irrespective of origin, social or property status, race, nationality, sex, language, attitude to religion, type and nature of occupation, domicile or other circumstances; freedom of choice of the language of instruction; and instruction in the native language or in the language of another people of the USSR.

The fact that the entire teaching and educational process in national schools is conducted in the language of the indigenous nationality makes a substantial contribution to protection of the linguistic heritage of the various nationalities.

For example, in a number of regions and Republics with a predominant population of Greek, Finnish, German or other nationality there are schools where the native language is studied as a separate subject from the first to the tenth year.

At schools in Union Republics where instruction is given in the native language, the key language for the study of other languages is the language of the republic.

A number of school disciplines, in particular school syllabuses in history, literature, visual arts, music and singing, provide for the study of the cultural heritage of the nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union. In addition, students at schools in Union Republics take special courses in the history, literature and geography of the Union Republic concerned to acquaint themselves in detail with the culture of its people.

Article 46 of the Constitution of the USSR proclaims the right of citizens of the USSR to enjoy cultural benefits. This right is ensured by broad access to the cultural treasures of their own country and of the world which are preserved in State and public collections; by the development and fair distribution of cultural

and educational institutions throughout the country; by developing television and radio broadcasting and publishing books, newspapers and periodicals, and by extending the free library service; and by expanding cultural exchanges with other countries.

The principle of freedom and equality of nations and their cultures, of the equal rights of citizens of different races and nationalities, in particular as regards access to and enjoyment of cultural benefits and participation in the creative process, is consistently applied in the Soviet Union.

All nations of the Soviet Union have equal opportunities for the free development of their national cultures, national literature and arts, both professional and amateur, including folk crafts. Thus, books and journals are published in 89 languages of peoples inhabiting the USSR and in 66 languages of peoples of other countries, theatrical performances take place in 50 languages, and radio and television broadcasts, including dramatic and musical programmes, are made in 67 languages.

An important result of the successful solution of the question of nationalities in our country is the all-round development of the languages of all nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union. More than 40 peoples which in the past did not have a written language have acquired a scientifically elaborated written language during the Soviet era and now possess developed literary languages and a developed theatrical culture. All nations and nationalities of the USSR have voluntarily chosen Russian as the lingua franca for communication and co-operation between nationalities.

In the Soviet Union there are no restrictions on grounds of nationality or race on attendance at theatres, cinemas, concert halls, circuses, other places of public entertainment, museums, libraries, cultural or educational establishments, parks, zoological gardens or other cultural institutions.

Mutual co-operation is being developed among Union Republics in the training of artistic personnel.

A major contribution towards the training of national artistic personnel (actors, producers, ballet masters, theatrical managers) is being made by the country's leading higher educational establishment in the field of theatre, the Lunacharsky State Institute of Theatrical Arts in Moscow. For example, since 1930 the State Institute of Theatrical Arts has trained the members of 50 national theatre workshops. National theatres have been opened in Kirghizia, Moldavia, Yakutia, North Ossetia, the Mari Republic and Karakalpakia on the basis of the Institute's actors' workshops alone. The Leningrad State Institute for Theatre, Music and the Cinema is engaged in systematic training of creative personnel for the national theatres of autonomous Republics. Theatres in Turkmenistan annually receive skilled specialists from the Ostrovsky State Institute of Theatrical Arts at Tashkent.

The training of theatre personnel for the country's national theatres has become a fine tradition at Moscow's educational establishments - the Shchepkin Theatre School attached to the Maly Theatre, the Shchukin Theatre School attached to the Vakhtangov Theatre and the Nemirovich-Danchenko Studio School attached to the Moscow Arts Theatre.

Talented young singers, ballet artists, conductors and ballet masters from Union and autonomous Republics systematically attend two-year training courses at the country's major musical theatres and artistic collectives in order to improve their qualifications. The finest opera and ballet soloists from all the Union Republics regularly appear on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre.

In Kazakhstan, where the majority of persons of German nationality in the USSR live, a professional drama theatre which puts on shows in German was recently established and is functioning. A Jewish musical chamber theatre exists in the Soviet Union and is touring various cities with great success.

Each Union and autonomous Republic has a musical and dramatic theatre in the native language, a national library, art, history and other museums, and educational establishments for the study of art and culture.

Steps are taken in the Soviet Union to develop in every possible way all national artistic forms and genres of the nations and nationalities inhabiting the USSR. All Union and autonomous Republics have professional and amateur dance, song and folk companies, folk-instrument orchestras, choirs, etc.

Monuments to the history and culture of the nations and nationalities inhabiting the USSR are protected and restored without any restriction on national or racial grounds. State bodies responsible for the preservation of monuments exist in all Union Republics, and there are Republic-wide voluntary societies for the protection of monuments (total membership around 40 million) which apply a system of measures for the identification, registration, preservation, restoration, utilization and popularization of cultural monuments.

Proceeding from the internationalist nature of the Soviet social structure, Soviet State bodies and public organizations make active use of historical and cultural monuments in educating citizens of all USSR nationalities in the spirit of internationalism and respect for other peoples, their national dignity, and specific national character, and for the equal value of the cultures of other nationalities, their national customs, languages, etc. The extensive development of tourism within the USSR, involving visits to historic cities, historical and cultural monuments and places of interest, plays an important role in this respect.

An extensive system of scientific research institutes for the study of the cultural heritage of the nations and nationalities of the USSR is in operation in the Soviet Union. Some of these form part of the system of the Ministry of Culture of the USSR, others of the system of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education of the USSR, and other Government departments.

The country's leading scientific establishment engaged in the comprehensive study of problems of culture and the arts is the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for the Study of the Arts under the Ministry of Culture of the USSR.

Each Union and autonomous Republic has specialized scientific establishments studying problems relating to the cultural heritage of the peoples and nationalities of the USSR.

The largest scientific establishments of this kind are the Scientific Research Institute for Culture of the Ministry of Culture of the RSFSR, the History of Art Institute of the Ministry of Culture of the Uzbek SSR and the Rylsky Institute for the Study of the Arts, Folklore and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR.

In addition, research in the above fields is carried out in specialized scientific laboratories and units belonging to higher educational establishments in the USSR.

Artistic problems relating to the folklore and popular arts of peoples of the USSR are also studied by special commissions of the creative arts unions of the USSR (Union of Composers of the USSR, All-Russian Theatrical Association, Union of Artists of the USSR, Union of Architects of the USSR).

An important role in the education of citizens of the Soviet Union in a spirit of internationalism and respect for the peoples and nationalities inhabiting the USSR and for their culture is played by 10-day festivals devoted to the literature and arts of the Union and autonomous Republics, which are systematically held in Moscow. During these festivals, concerts and art exhibitions are held in Moscow's major concert halls and exhibition galleries and there are literary readings, book exhibitions, film festivals, scientific conferences on matters pertaining to the development of literature and the arts, etc.

In addition, similar 10-day festivals are extensively held in other Republics, for example, the 10-day festival of literature and the arts of the Azerbaidzhan SSR in the Ukrainian SSR. As a rule, such events are organized on a reciprocal basis.

\* \* \*

A population census was held in the Soviet Union in 1979. In compliance with the revised general guidelines concerning the form and contents of reports by States parties to the Convention approved by the Committee at its twenty-first session, the detailed results of the census are appended to this report.

THE POPULATION OF THE USSR

According to data of the All-Union Population Census  
of 1979

All-Union

Population  
Census  
1979

Politizdat, 1980

Central Statistical Bureau of the USSR

THE POPULATION OF THE USSR

According to data of the All-Union Population Census  
of 1979

Moscow

Political Literature Publishing House  
1980



V. NATIONAL COMPOSITION

Breakdown of the population of the USSR  
by nationality and native tongue \*/

(Nationalities listed in order of size in 1979)

Nationality	Number of persons of each nationality (thousands)		Percentage indicating the language of their nationality as their native language		Percentage of the total number of persons of each nationality with a fluent command of a second language of a people of the USSR			
					Russian		Other	
	1970	1979	1970	1979	1970	1979	1970	1979
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Total population of the USSR	241 720	262 085	93.9	93.1	17.3	23.4	4.2	4.7
Russians	129 015	137 397	99.8	99.2	0.1	0.1	3.0	3.5
Ukrainians	40 753	42 347	85.7	82.8	36.3	49.8	6.0	7.1
Uzbeks	9 195	12 456	98.6	98.5	14.5	49.3	3.3	2.8
Byelorussians	9 052	9 463	80.6	74.2	49.0	57.0	7.3	11.7
Kazakhs	5 299	6 556	98.0	97.5	41.8	52.3	1.8	2.1
Tatars	5 931	6 317	89.2	85.9	62.5	68.9	5.3	4.2
Azerbaijanis	4 380	5 477	98.2	97.9	16.6	29.5	2.5	2.0
Armenians	3 559	4 151	91.4	90.7	30.1	38.6	6.0	5.7
Georgians	3 245	3 571	98.4	98.3	21.3	26.7	1.0	0.9
Moldavians	2 698	2 968	95.0	93.2	36.1	47.4	3.6	3.9
Tadzhiks	2 136	2 898	98.5	97.8	15.4	29.6	12.0	10.6
Lithuanians	2 665	2 851	97.9	97.9	35.9	52.1	1.9	1.5
Turkmen	1 525	2 023	98.9	93.7	15.4	25.4	1.3	1.6
Germans	1 846	1 936	66.8	57.0	59.6	51.7	1.1	1.1
Kirghizes	1 452	1 906	98.8	97.9	19.1	29.4	3.3	4.1
Jews	2 151	1 811	17.7	14.2	16.3	13.7	28.8	27.6
Chuvashes	1 694	1 751	86.9	81.7	58.4	64.8	5.5	5.5
Peoples of Daghestan, of which:	1 365	1 657	96.5	95.9	41.7	60.3	8.9	8.3
Avars	396	483	97.2	97.7	37.8	59.3	5.7	6.0
Lezgins	324	383	93.9	90.9	31.6	47.6	22.3	21.3
Dargins	231	287	98.4	93.3	43.0	64.1	2.8	2.0
Ingush	189	228	98.4	98.2	57.4	72.6	1.2	0.8
Laks	86	100	95.6	95.0	56.0	73.0	3.5	2.5

\*/ In the census, nationalities and languages were recorded on the basis of statements by the respondents. The nationality of children was indicated by the parents.

V. NATIONAL COMPOSITION (continued)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tabasarans	55	75	98.9	97.4	31.9	59.0	10.2	7.8
Nogais	52	60	89.8	90.3	68.5	75.6	1.1	1.4
Rutuls	12	15	98.9	99.1	30.7	52.0	18.8	12.3
Tsakhurs	11	14	96.5	95.2	12.2	22.4	43.5	48.7
Aguls	8.8	12	99.4	98.3	39.8	62.9	9.6	8.0
Latvians	1 430	1 439	95.2	95.0	45.2	56.7	2.4	2.2
Bashkirs	1 240	1 371	66.2	67.0	53.3	64.9	2.6	2.8
Mordvins	1 263	1 192	77.8	72.6	65.7	65.5	8.1	7.7
Poles	1 167	1 151	32.5	29.1	37.0	44.7	12.7	13.1
Estonians	1 007	1 020	95.5	95.3	29.0	24.2	2.0	1.9
Chechens	613	756	98.7	98.6	66.7	76.0	1.0	0.7
Udmurts	704	714	82.6	76.5	63.3	64.4	6.9	6.4
Maris	599	622	91.2	86.7	62.4	69.9	6.2	5.5
Ossetians	488	542	88.6	88.2	58.6	61.9	10.7	12.2
Komis and Komi-Permiaks of which:	475	478	83.7	76.5	64.8	64.4	5.2	5.8
Komis	322	327	82.7	76.2	63.1	64.5	5.4	5.7
Komi-Permiaks	153	151	85.8	77.1	68.5	64.3	4.6	6.0
Koreans	357	389	68.6	55.4	50.3	47.7	1.7	2.2
Bulgarians	351	361	73.1	68.0	58.8	58.2	7.9	7.9
Buryats	315	353	92.6	90.2	66.7	71.9	2.7	2.5
Greeks	337	344	39.3	38.0	35.4	34.1	14.5	17.7
Yakuts	296	328	96.3	95.3	41.7	55.6	1.1	1.1
Kabardinians	280	322	98.0	97.9	71.4	76.7	0.8	0.6
Karakalpaks	236	303	96.6	95.9	10.4	45.1	3.6	10.8
Uigurs	173	211	88.5	86.1	35.6	52.1	9.5	9.0
Gypsies	175	209	70.8	74.1	53.0	59.1	16.4	14.3
Ingushes	158	186	97.4	97.4	71.2	79.6	0.9	0.6
Gagauzes	157	173	93.6	89.3	63.3	68.0	8.6	7.3
Hungarians	166	171	96.6	95.4	25.8	34.2	9.8	9.4
Tuvinians	139	166	98.7	98.8	38.9	59.2	0.4	0.2
Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of which:	153	158	67.2	61.8	52.3	54.0	7.0	5.3
Nenets	29	30	83.4	80.4	55.1	64.2	3.3	3.0
Evenks	25	28	51.3	43.1	54.9	51.4	7.5	4.8
Khants	21	21	68.9	67.8	48.1	52.8	7.3	3.6
Chukotians	14	14	82.6	78.3	58.7	61.3	4.8	2.9
Evens	12	12	56.0	56.7	46.4	52.0	17.6	13.6
Nanays	10	10.5	69.1	55.8	58.0	49.4	9.4	7.4
Koryaks	7.5	7.9	81.1	69.1	64.3	60.8	5.5	5.0
Mansis	7.7	7.6	52.4	49.5	38.6	40.7	5.4	4.8
Dolgans	4.9	5.1	89.8	90.0	61.9	72.9	3.2	1.6

## V. NATIONAL COMPOSITION (continued)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nivkh	4.4	4.4	49.5	30.6	43.8	26.9	5.6	8.1
Selkups	4.3	3.6	51.1	56.6	40.8	46.6	8.6	4.4
Ulchis	2.4	2.6	60.8	38.8	56.8	33.2	7.0	8.5
Saamis	1.9	1.9	56.2	53.0	52.9	49.7	9.3	9.9
Udege	1.5	1.6	55.1	31.0	46.0	26.5	10.1	7.3
Eskimos	1.3	1.5	60.0	60.7	50.5	53.7	3.4	5.8
Itelmens	1.3	1.4	35.7	24.4	32.5	20.7	4.3	4.0
Oroches	1.1	1.2	48.6	40.6	44.4	20.4	6.6	7.2
Kets	1.2	1.1	74.9	61.0	59.1	53.5	2.0	4.2
Nganasans	1.0	0.9	75.4	90.2	40.0	71.3	15.7	2.2
Yukagirs	0.6	0.8	46.8	37.5	29.1	34.3	32.8	20.4
Aleutians	0.4	0.5	21.8	17.7	18.8	15.0	1.8	9.6
Negidals	0.5	0.5	53.3	44.4	45.1	37.7	6.0	5.2
Kalmyks	137	147	91.7	91.3	81.1	84.1	1.5	1.0
Karelians	146	138	63.0	55.6	59.1	51.3	15.1	13.2
Karachais	113	131	98.1	97.7	67.6	75.5	1.2	0.9
Romanians	119	129	63.9	41.1	28.5	48.4	16.3	14.0
Kurds	89	116	87.6	83.6	19.9	25.4	36.2	40.7
Adygeians	100	109	96.5	95.7	67.9	76.7	1.4	1.3
Turks	79	93	92.3	84.7	22.4	46.4	31.2	22.3
Abkhazians	83	91	95.9	94.3	59.2	73.3	2.8	3.0
Finns	85	77	51.0	40.9	47.0	39.9	8.5	9.0
Khakasses	67	71	83.7	80.9	65.5	68.3	3.4	3.0
Balkars	60	66	97.2	96.9	71.5	77.4	2.5	1.4
Altayans	56	60	87.2	86.4	54.9	68.7	3.2	2.4
Dungans	39	52	94.3	94.8	48.0	62.8	5.7	3.9
Cherkesses	40	46	92.0	91.4	70.0	69.6	2.5	2.3
Persians	28	31	36.9	30.7	33.9	57.1	12.7	10.6
Abazins	25	29	96.1	95.3	69.5	75.4	6.1	4.6
Assyrians	24	25	64.5	54.9	46.2	41.7	14.7	21.4
Tats	17	22	72.6	67.4	57.7	61.3	15.3	13.5
Shors	16	16	73.5	61.2	59.8	52.6	5.9	6.3
Other nationalities	157	136	64.7	59.7	38.1	34.9	15.4	22.9

The Russian language plays an important role in bringing all Soviet peoples closer together and strengthening their fraternal friendship and unity. A total of 153.5 million persons named Russian as their native language in the census (1970: 141.8 million); 137.2 million of these were Russians and 16.3 million were of other nationalities. In addition, 61.3 million persons stated that they had a fluent command of Russian as a second language (1970: 41.9 million).

Breakdown by nationality of the population  
of each Union Republic

Union Republics and nationalities	Thousands	Percentage of total
<u>RSFSR</u>	137 410	100
Russians	113 522	82.6
Tatars	5 011	3.6
Ukrainians	3 658	2.7
Chuvašes	1 690	1.2
Peoples of Daghestan	1 402	1.0
Bashkirs	1 291	0.9
Mordvins	1 111	0.8
Byelorussians	1 052	0.8
Chechens	712	0.5
Jews	701	0.5
Udmurts	686	0.5
Maris	600	0.4
Kazakhs	518	0.4
Komis and Komi-Permiaks	466	0.3
of which:		
Komis	320	0.2
Komi-Permiaks	146	0.1
Armenians	365	0.3
Ossetians	352	0.3
Buryats	350	0.3
Yakuts	327	0.2
Kabardinians	319	0.2
Ingushes	166	0.1
Tuvinians	165	0.1
Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East	155	0.1
Azerbaidzhanis	152	0.1
Kalmyks	140	0.1
Karelians	133	0.1
Karachaevans	126	0.1
Gypsies	121	0.1
Adygeians	107	0.1
Moldavians	102	0.1
Khakasses	69	0.05
Balkars	62	0.04
Altayans	59	0.04
Cherkesses	45	0.03
Other nationalities	1 675	1.3
<u>Ukrainian SSR</u>	49 609	100
Ukrainians	36 489	73.6
Russians	10 472	21.1
Jews	634	1.3
Byelorussians	406	0.8
Moldavians	294	0.6
Poles	258	0.5
Bulgarians	238	0.5
Other nationalities	818	1.6

Union Republics and nationalities	Thousands	Percentage of total
<u>Byelorussian SSR</u>	9 532	100
Byelorussians	7 568	79.4
Russians	1 134	11.9
Poles	403	4.2
Ukrainians	231	2.4
Jews	135	1.4
Other nationalities	61	0.7
<u>Uzbek SSR</u>	15 389	100
Uzbeks	10 569	68.7
Karakalpaks	298	1.9
Russians	1 666	10.8
Tatars	649	4.2
Kazakhs	620	4.0
Tadzhiks	595	3.9
Koreans	163	1.1
Kirghizes	142	0.9
Ukrainians	114	0.7
Jews	100	0.6
Turkmens	92	0.6
Other nationalities	381	2.6
<u>Kazakh SSR</u>	14 684	100
Kazakhs	5 289	36.0
Russians	5 991	40.8
Ukrainians	898	6.1
Tatars	313	2.1
Uzbeks	263	1.8
Byelorussians	181	1.2
Uigurs	148	1.0
Koreans	92	0.6
Azerbaidshanis	73	0.5
Dungans	22	0.2
Other nationalities	1 414	9.7
<u>Georgian SSR</u>	4 993	100
Georgians	3 433	68.8
Ossetians	160	3.2
Abkhazeians	85	1.7
Armenians	448	9.0
Russians	372	7.4
Azerbaidzhanis	256	5.1
Greeks	95	1.9
Ukrainians	45	0.9
Jews	28	0.6
Kurds	26	0.5
Other nationalities	45	0.9

Union Republics and nationalities	Thousands	Percentage of total
<u>Azerbaidzhan SSR</u>	6 027	100
Azerbaidzhanis	4 709	78.1
Armenians	475	7.9
Russians	475	7.9
Peoples of Daghestan	205	3.4
of which:		
Lezgins	158	2.6
Avars	36	0.6
Jews	35	0.6
Tatars	31	0.5
Other nationalities	97	1.6
 <u>Lithuanian SSR</u>	 3 392	 100
Lithuanians	2 712	80.0
Russians	303	8.9
Poles	247	7.3
Byelorussians	58	1.7
Ukrainians	32	0.9
Jews	15	0.4
Other nationalities	25	0.8
 <u>Moldavian SSR</u>	 3 950	 100
Moldavians	2 526	63.9
Ukrainians	561	14.2
Russians	506	12.8
Gagauzes	138	3.5
Bulgarians	81	2.0
Jews	80	2.0
Byelorussians	14	0.4
Other nationalities	44	1.2
 <u>Latvian SSR</u>	 2 503	 100
Latvians	1 344	53.7
Russians	821	32.8
Byelorussians	112	4.5
Ukrainians	67	2.7
Poles	63	2.5
Lithuanians	38	1.5
Jews	28	1.1
Other nationalities	30	1.2
 <u>Kirghiz SSR</u>	 3 523	 100
Kirghizes	1 687	47.9
Russians	912	25.9
Uzbeks	426	12.1
Ukrainians	109	3.1
Tatars	72	2.0
Uigurs	30	0.8
Kazakhs	27	0.8
Tadzhiks	23	0.7
Other nationalities	237	6.7

Union Republics and nationalities	Thousands	Percentage of total
<u>Tadzhik SSR</u>	3 806	100
Tadzhiks	2 237	58.8
Uzbeks	873	22.9
Russians	395	10.4
Tatars	80	2.1
Kirghizes	48	1.3
Ukrainians	36	0.9
Jews	15	0.4
Turkmens	14	0.4
Other nationalities	108	2.8
<u>Armenian SSR</u>	3 037	100
Armenians	2 725	89.7
Azerbaidzhanis	161	5.3
Russians	70	2.3
Kurds	51	1.7
Other nationalities	30	1.0
<u>Turkmen SSR</u>	2 765	100
Turkmens	1 892	68.4
Russians	349	12.6
Uzbeks	234	8.5
Kazakhs	80	2.9
Tatars	40	1.5
Ukrainians	37	1.3
Armenians	27	1.0
Azerbaidzhanis	24	0.9
Other nationalities	82	2.9
<u>Estonian SSR</u>	1 465	100
Estonians	948	64.7
Russians	409	27.9
Ukrainians	36	2.5
Byelorussians	23	1.6
Jews	5	0.3
Other nationalities	44	3.0

the appointment and functions of the Ombudsman, for the investigation of administrative decisions and acts of officials of the Government and its agencies and for other purposes connected therewith," will empower the Ombudsman to give redress.

C. Such information does not exist as racial discrimination has never been a problem in Ghana.

Article 7

- A. See article 3A above.
- B. See Part 1 - General above.
- C. See article 3A above.