INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. A.A. Mohammed (Nigeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its 1564th meeting on 23 September 1967 allocated to the Third Committee agenda item 58 entitled "International Year for Human Rights: (a) Programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights: report of the Secretary-General; (b) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights". The Third Committee discussed this item at its 1533rd to 1546th meetings, held from 30 November to 11 December 1967.

A. Programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights: report of the Secretary-General

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963, designated the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights and arranged for the preparation of a programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

3. Following the adoption in 1965 of an interim programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, as set out in the annex to resolution 2081 (XX), the General Assembly at its twenty-first session, in resolution 2217 A (XXI) of 19 December 1966,
ation 2217 B, C and D (XXI), of 19 December 1966, made a number of decisions
rning the Conference and the membership of the Preparatory Committee.
Accepting with appreciation the invitation extended by the Government of
the General Assembly decided that the International Conference on Human
s would be held in Teheran, preferably during the spring of 1968, on a
to be determined by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Preparatory
nttee and the Iranian Government. In accordance with this decision it was
sequently determined that the Conference would be held at Teheran from
ril to 13 May 1968.
The General Assembly invited States Members of the United Nations, States
rs of the specialized agencies, States Parties to the Statute of the
ational Court of Justice and States that the Assembly decided specially
vite to participate in the Conference and to include among their
sentatives eminent persons whose qualifications in the field of human rights
able them to make valuable contributions to the work of the Conference.
ent specialized agencies were invited to send observers to the
rence.
The General Assembly took note of the first progress report of the Preparatory
ntee and expressed its appreciation to the Committee for the work it had
mplished. The Assembly requested the Committee to continue its work in
ance with paragraph 14 of resolution 2081 (XX), taking into account such
rations as it might receive from the Commission on Human Rights and the
ission on the Status of Women and bearing in mind the discussions at the
ly-first session of the General Assembly, the decisions taken in resolution
(XXI) and the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights, and
port further on the progress of the preparation of the Conference to the
ral Assembly at its twenty-second session.
Recognizing the significance of the proposed Conference and the importance
the preparatory work to its success, the General Assembly decided to enlarge
embership of the Preparatory Committee from seventeen to twenty-three
bers and requested the President of the General Assembly to appoint six
ional members of the Committee - two from African countries, two from Asian
tries and two from Latin American countries. In pursuance of this request
the President of the General Assembly appointed the following Member States: Colombia, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Pakistan and Panama. As enlarged, the Preparatory Committee is composed of the following Member States: Canada, Colombia, France, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritania, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Somalia, Tunisia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.


13. The Preparatory Committee prepared and recommended draft rules of procedure and a draft provisional agenda for the Conference. The texts of the drafts are contained respectively in annexes I and II of the Committee's report.

14. The Preparatory Committee also decided to recommend that the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States and other regional inter-governmental organizations particularly concerned with human rights should be invited to participate in the Conference.

15. The question of the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference was not resolved by the Committee and was referred to the General Assembly.

16. The report of the Preparatory Committee also includes the record of the Committee's consideration of the questions of the documentation for the Conference and of its expenses, and of other arrangements for the Conference.

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

17. The Third Committee began its consideration of the item with a general debate to which it devoted six meetings (1533rd to 1538th meetings). At the 1533rd meeting an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division of Human Rights, which was subsequently circulated in document A/6/L.1500 at the request of the Committee. The report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Year (A/6670) was introduced at the same meeting by its Rapporteur, Mr. C. Beeby (New Zealand). The Committee then considered the proposal and amendments which were submitted as set out below. In the course of their consideration the Under-Secretary and Legal Counsel replied to the questions on legal matters put to him by various representatives (1539th to 1546th meetings).

A. Draft resolution and amendments

18. Canada, Costa Rica, Jamaica and New Zealand submitted the following draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1501/Rev.1):

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 designating the year 1963 as International Year for Human Rights,

"Recalling also its resolutions 2081 (XX) of 20 December 1965 and 2217 (XXI) of 19 December 1966 relating to the International Year for Human Rights,

"Reaffirming its conviction that the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights, including the International Conference on Human Rights, will contribute significantly to the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion;

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year for Human Rights (A/6656 and Add.1-2),

"Having also considered the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights (A/6670),

"1. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States, specialized agencies, regional organizations and national and international organizations concerned that have supplied information on the measures and activities contemplated or undertaken by them in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights;

"2. Welcomes the measures taken or envisaged by the Secretary-General to co-ordinate activities undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights and to implement the relevant parts of the programme for the International Year annexed to General Assembly resolution 2217 A (XXI);

"3. Further welcomes the special activities contemplated or undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights by other organs of the United Nations;..."
amendments which were submitted as set out below. In the course of their consideration the Under-Secretary and Legal Counsel replied to the questions on legal matters put to him by various representatives (1539th to 1546th meetings).

A. Draft resolution and amendments

18. Canada, Costa Rica, Jamaica and New Zealand submitted the following draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1501/Rev.1):

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

"Recalling also its resolutions 2081 (XX) of 20 December 1965 and 2217 (XXI) of 19 December 1966 relating to the International Year for Human Rights,

"Reaffirming its conviction that the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights, including the International Conference on Human Rights, will contribute significantly to the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year for Human Rights (A/6866 and Add.1-2),

"Having also considered the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights (A/6670),

"1. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States, specialized agencies, regional organizations and national and international organizations concerned that have supplied information on the measures and activities contemplated or undertaken by them in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights;

"2. Welcomes the measures taken or envisaged by the Secretary-General to co-ordinate activities undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights and to implement the relevant parts of the programme for the International Year annexed to General Assembly resolution 2217 A (XXI);

"3. Further welcomes the special activities contemplated or undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights by other organs of the United Nations;"
4. Invites Member States, the specialized agencies, regional inter-governmental organizations and national and international organizations concerned to continue to intensify throughout 1968 their efforts and undertakings in the field of human rights, including the measures set out in the annexes to its resolutions 2081 (XX) and 2217 A (XXI) and to keep the Secretary-General informed of these efforts and undertakings;

5. Expresses its appreciation to the Preparatory Committee for the work it has accomplished;

6. Takes note of the provisional agenda for the International Conference on Human Rights contained in annex II of the report of the Preparatory Committee;

7. Invites the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States and any other regional inter-governmental organizations particularly concerned with human rights to send observers to the Conference;

8. Invites non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and have a demonstrable interest in the items on the provisional agenda for the Conference and that may wish to be present at the Conference to send observers to it;

9. (a) Invites other non-governmental organizations that may be interested in sending observers to the Conference to make application to the Secretary-General before 1 February 1968;

(b) Requests the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights to consider such applications and to approve them if the non-governmental organizations concerned are of recognized standing, are international in their structure and have a demonstrable interest in the items on the provisional agenda for the Conference;

10. Decides to add to the draft rules of procedure of the Conference contained in annex I of the report of the Preparatory Committee (A/6670) the following rule:

'Observers for non-governmental organizations

'Rule 62

'Observers for non-governmental organizations invited to this Conference may, with the authorization of the President, circulate through the Secretariat written statements of a general character or questions of human rights which are on the agenda of the Conference;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the Conference all appropriate documentation and to arrange for the necessary staff and facilities that will be required, taking into account the nature and purport of the Conference;
particular cases the Conference might decide otherwise. Some other representatives, however, favoured a two-thirds majority rule for decisions on matters of substance; they pointed out that such had been the practice of recent United Nations conferences. Divergent views were also expressed on such questions as whether or not to allow representatives of non-governmental organizations to make oral statements at the Conference and whether it should be the President of the Conference or its General Committee that would authorize the circulation of written statements by non-governmental organizations.

C. Voting

43. At its 1544th and 1545th meetings the Committee voted on the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1501/Rev.1) and the amendments thereto.

44. The voting was as follows:

(a) The amendment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposing to insert a new preambular paragraph (A/C.3/L.1506/Rev.3, para.1) was adopted by 75 votes to 1, with 19 abstentions.

(b) The preamble as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 83 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

(c) Operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were adopted by 88 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

(d) At the request of the representative of Australia, a roll-call vote was taken on the amendment of Hungary and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (A/C.3/L.1505/Rev.2, para. 1) proposing the insertion of a new paragraph between paragraphs 6 and 7. The amendment was rejected by 45 votes to 35, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chad, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia.
At the request of the representative of Iraq, a roll-call vote was taken on operative paragraph 9 (b). The paragraph was adopted by 55 votes to 5, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

**In favour:** Argentina, Austria, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

**Against:** Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia.

**Abstaining:** Burundi, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cyprus, Iran, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Poland, Somalia, Turkey, Uganda, Zambia.

The sixteen-Power amendment to operative paragraph 10 (A/C.3/L.1502, para. 3) was adopted by 53 votes to 17, with 34 abstentions.

The amendments of the Congo (Democratic Republic of) and the United Kingdom to paragraph 10 (A/C.3/L.1507/Rev.1, paras. 1 and 2) as orally revised the 1545th meeting were rejected by 39 votes to 34, with 16 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 10, as amended, was adopted by 72 votes to 5, with 19 abstentions.

Operative paragraphs 11 and 12 were adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 70 votes 7, with 22 abstentions.
III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

45. The Third Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Year for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1961 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 designating the year 1968 as International Year for Human Rights,

Recalling also its resolutions 2081 (XX) of 20 December 1965 and 2217 (XXI) of 19 December 1966 relating to the International Year for Human Rights,

Reaffirming its conviction that the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights, including the International Conference on Human Rights, will contribute significantly to the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year for Human Rights,¹/²

Having also considered the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights,²/³

Bearing in mind the conclusions and recommendations of the International Seminar on Apartheid, Racial Discrimination and Colonialism in Southern Africa, held in 1967 at Kitwe, Zambia, of the Seminar on the Realization of Economic and Social Rights, held in 1967 at Warsaw, Poland, and of recent United Nations seminars on human rights held at Manila, Philippines, Kingston, Jamaica, and Helsinki, Finland,

1. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States, specialized agencies, regional organizations and national and international organizations concerned that have supplied information on the measures and activities contemplated or undertaken by them in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights;

2. Welcomes the measures taken or envisaged by the Secretary-General to co-ordinate activities undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights and to implement the relevant parts of the programme for the Year annexed to General Assembly resolution 2217 A (XXI);

¹/ A/6666 and Add.1 and 2.
of recognized standing, are international in their structure and have a
constrable interest in the items on the provisional agenda for the Conference;

12. Decides to add the following rule to the draft rules of procedure of the
Conference contained in annex I of the report of the Preparatory Committee:

"Observers for non-governmental organizations

"Rule 62"

"Observers for non-governmental organizations invited to this Conference
may, with the authorization of the General Committee, circulate through the
Secretariat written statements of a general character on questions of human
rights which are on the agenda of the Conference."

13. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the Conference all
appropriate documentation and to arrange for the necessary staff and facilities
it will be required, taking into account the nature and purpose of the
Conference;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a further progress report to
the General Assembly at its twenty-third session on the measures and activities
terred to in paragraph 4 above and a final report on the International Year for
an Rights to the Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.