

ARTICLE 64

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TEXT OF ARTICLE 64

1. The Economic and Social Council may take appropriate steps to obtain regular reports from the specialized agencies. It may make arrangements with the Members of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies to obtain reports on the steps taken to give effect to its own recommendations and to recommendations on matters falling within its competence made by the General Assembly.

2. It may communicate its observations on these reports to the General Assembly.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The material included in this supplementary study of Article 64 has been treated under the already existing headings. There has, however, been little significant practice in connexion with the application or interpretation of Article 64 during the period under review. The only development, which appears to bear on the application of the Article as discussed in the Analytical Summary of Practice in the Repertory, concerns the Council's procedure for dealing with the regular reports submitted to it by the specialized agencies. As regards the periodic reports describing developments and the progress achieved in the field of human rights, and measures taken to safeguard human liberty, called for by Council resolution 424 B (XXII), see under Article 62 (2) in this Supplement.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. Reports from specialized agencies

2. During the period under review, the Council has made no change in the arrangements described in the Repertory under Article 64 (1) for obtaining regular reports from the specialized agencies or reports by them on their implementation of recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council. The submission of regular reports by the agencies and the form and content of such reports thus remain governed by the relevant clauses of the agreements entered into with the agencies in accordance with Article 63 (1) and by the terms of Council resolutions 497 D (XVI) and 528 (XVIII). The Council has also, in a number of resolutions, requested one or more of the agencies to provide information on particular additional subjects in their regular reports. 1/

3. The report of the Council to the General Assembly continues to be the means through which the Council, in accordance with Article 64 (2), communicates to the Assembly its observations on the agencies' reports. Since the adoption of resolution 557 B, II (XVIII), the Council has, however, modified its procedures for dealing with these reports (see paragraphs 6-8 below).

4. The Council has not dealt, during this period, with the general subject of the implementation by the specialized agencies of recommendations by the Council or by the General Assembly on matters falling within the Council's competence. It has, however, in a number of resolutions, 2/ expressed its appreciation to an agency for action taken or for studies prepared at its request or that of the Assembly.

1/ See, for example, E S C resolution 607 (XXI) in which the Council invited the International Labour Organisation to include henceforth in its annual report an account of action taken in the field of forced labour; E S C resolution 630 (XXII) in which the Council recommended to the specialized agencies "to pay special attention to further concentration of their activities on major economic, social and human rights problems, as may be appropriate, and to the more efficient co-ordination of the said activities, and to include a special section thereon in their next reports to the Council"; and E S C (XXII), 951st mtg., decision of 9 August 1956 by which the Council requested the agencies, so far as appropriate, to provide certain information regarding their technical assistance activities in their annual reports to the Council.

2/ See, for example, E S C resolutions 583 B (XX), 607 (XXI) and 609 (XXI).

B. Reports from Members of the United Nations on steps taken to give effect to recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly on economic and social matters

5. During this period the Council has made no change in the arrangements described in the Repertory for obtaining reports from Member States in fulfilment of Article 64 (1) or for communicating its observations on these reports to the General Assembly under Article 64 (2). Nor has there been any discussion in the Council or in the General Assembly of the general subject of reports by Member States on steps taken to give effect to recommendations on economic and social matters. The provisions of Council resolution 450 (XIV) remain in force.

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

A. Reports from the specialized agencies

**** 1. Regular reports from the specialized agencies**

**** 2. Reports by the specialized agencies on steps taken to give effect to recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly**

3. Observations of the Economic and Social Council under Article 64 (2)

6. The reports of the Council to the ninth and tenth sessions of the General Assembly reflected the Council's decision in resolution 557 B, II (XVIII) to make at its annual summer sessions a general review of the development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole, based on the regular reports of the agencies. These reports, with the exception of those of the Bank and the Fund, 3/ were no longer considered as separate items on the Council's agenda.

7. At both the twentieth and twenty-second sessions, the Council gave general consideration to the annual reports of the agencies in plenary meeting, and subsequently referred them to its Co-ordination Committee for detailed discussion of any specific issues or proposed recommendations to an agency. 4/ At the conclusion of the debates, the Council, on both occasions, took note in a single resolution of the reports of all the agencies. 5/ At the twenty-second session, however, it also adopted a resolution 6/ arising out of a specific aspect of the report of one of the agencies.

8. In a report to the twenty-second session of the Council, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) commented on the Council's revised procedure for dealing with the annual reports of the specialized agencies and stated 7/ that it

3/ The Council has continued to consider the annual reports of the Bank and the Fund separately at its spring sessions; these reports are also before the Council as background documentation for the general review.

4/ For procedural statements by the President on this subject, see E S C (XX), 878th mtg., and E S C (XXII), 942nd mtg.

5/ The reports of the Bank and Fund have continued also to form the subject of separate resolutions adopted by the Council at the spring session.

6/ E S C resolution 630 E (XXII).

7/ E S C (XXII), annexes, a.i. 3, p. 2, E/2884, paras. 5 and 6.

would be helpful if these reports could, as in the past, be examined in terms of some of the major questions on which the agencies had been asked to concentrate, and if means could be sought to devote somewhat closer and more detailed attention to them. The ACC also expressed the hope that the annual reports of the agencies would continue to be considered by the Council in plenary meeting, and that particular questions of co-ordination and related matters would be dealt with, where necessary, in the Council's Co-ordination Committee. The Council took note of the ACC's report.

**** B. Reports from Members of the United Nations on steps taken to give effect to recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly on economic and social matters**