

INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
ON THE ELIMINATION
OF ALL FORMS OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION



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UN/DA COLLECTION

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

Sixth periodic reports of States Parties due in 1980

Addendum

IRAN^{1/}

[28 December 1979]

The Iranian Revolution, which led to the fall of the Pahlavi dynasty in February 1979, was the formidable revolt of a people united against dictatorship, tyranny, corruption, exploitation of the people and subservience to imperialist interests. Its slogan: "Independence, Liberty, an Islamic Republic" sums up the philosophy of the new system in Iran in all political, economic, social and cultural fields, both in domestic policy and in external relations.

Hence, it is in terms of this over-all philosophy that the subject of this report, namely, the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, must be viewed.

The philosophy underlying the Islamic Republic of Iran is Islam and the essential principles that determine social relations in Iran are to be found in the sacred book of Islam, the Koran. Verse 13 of Sura XLIX of the Koran says: "O men, verily we have created you of a male and a female; and we have distributed you into nations and tribes, that ye might know one another. Verily the most honourable of you, in the sight of God, is the most pious of you: and God is wise and knowing".

1/ For the previous reports submitted by the Government of Iran and the summary records of the meetings at which the Committee considered the reports, see:

- (1) Initial report - CERD/C/R.3/Add.1 (CERD/C/SR.31, 33 and 56);
- (2) Second periodic report - CERD/C/R.30/Add.3, Add.39 and Add.45 (CERD/C/SR.127 and 179);
- (3) Third periodic report - CERD/C/R.70/Add.1 (CERD/C/SR.179);
- (4) Fourth periodic report - CERD/C/R.90/Add.2 (CERD/C/SR.279);
- (5) Fifth periodic report - CERD/C/20/Add.1 (CERD/C/SR.371).

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Accordingly, faith alone bestows special dignity on man, and this verse (Islamic scholars realize full well that translations are not capable of rendering the whole of the philosophy embodied in the Arab text) condemns, with an authority beyond that of any human law, any kind of discrimination, regardless of whether it is based on origin, colour or race.

This divine law is reflected in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted by the people in the Referendum of 2-5 December 1979. The Constitution states in article 19 (chapter III, concerning the Rights of the People) that: "All Iranians, irrespective of their origin (tribe or family), enjoy equal rights, and colour, race, language, etc. does not confer any privilege".

Moreover, as announced by the Provisional Government after the Revolution, all laws that have not been specifically rescinded remain in force until a decision is taken on them by the National Assembly elected in conformity with the Constitution. Needless to say, the Iranian laws condemning racism and racial discrimination mentioned in previous reports by Iran are still in force and, in view of the over-all philosophy of the new system, the text of the Constitution and the many official declarations concerning protection of the cause of the "disinherited" and the special safeguards to which they are entitled, it is obvious that any review of such laws will be undertaken simply in order to strengthen them.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran also emphasizes its complete agreement with the view expressed by the Committee in General Recommendation III, of 18 August 1972, that "measures adopted on the national level to give effect to the provisions of the Convention are interrelated with measures taken on the international level to encourage respect everywhere for the principles of the Convention"; in this respect, the maintenance of diplomatic and economic relations with the racist régimes in southern Africa is highly indicative of the good or bad faith of the States that claim to condemn racism, racial discrimination and its most odious manifestation, namely, apartheid.

From the very beginnings of the Revolution, the Iranian people was aware of this truth and was nauseated by the hypocrisy of a Government which claimed to condemn racism and apartheid but maintained diplomatic relations with South Africa and even supplied 90 per cent of its oil. In its revolutionary slogans, the people therefore demanded that Iran's diplomatic relations with South Africa should be broken off and that the sale of Iranian oil to that country should be banned.

On 3 March 1979, the Provisional Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran officially announced that these wishes of the people had been met and, in addition, that diplomatic relations with Israel had been broken off and the sale of oil to that country had been banned. In this connexion, it is sufficient at the present time to emphasize that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran fully endorses General Assembly resolution 3579 (XLIX), of 10 November 1975, which states that "zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination".