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SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 6 April 1982, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. BURWIN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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session.

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1988 (LX)  
BY STATES PARTIES TO THE COVENANT, CONCERNING RIGHTS COVERED BY ARTICLES 6-9  
(concluded) (E/1978/8/Add.35)

Report of Yugoslavia (continued) (E/1978/8/Add.35)

1. Mr. LAZAREVIĆ (Yugoslavia), continuing his replies to the questions asked at the previous meeting, said that the representative of Japan had asked what percentage of the total government budget was set aside for social security. Under the special system obtaining in Yugoslavia, social security constituted part of the gross income of workers. Approximately 52 per cent of total income was allocated to social security requirements, including medical expenses and retirement funds, and workers received only the remaining net income. In addition there were certain special cases, such as natural disasters, when, out of solidarity, a small percentage of net income might be deducted for rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance to the region affected. After the Skopje earthquake, for example, 2 per cent of net income had been set aside for rebuilding the city. In the case of the earthquake in Montenegro, 1 per cent of the net income of all working people in several regions had been set aside for the rehabilitation of Montenegro over the next seven years.

2. He had referred previously to unemployment and to the efforts being made at various levels of Yugoslav society to deal with the problem, including the investigation of labour-intensive industry that would provide more work opportunities. The representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic had asked, in connexion with paragraph 25 of the report what protection workers enjoyed when it became necessary to relocate a workforce. Yugoslav legislation was explicit in that respect. Employers were obliged, when planning changes in their basic organization, to make provision for the needs of the workers and to secure resources for opening new jobs for those workers who became redundant. The issue was thus taken care of as far as possible. If workers were temporarily without work, the community was obliged to assist them until they found other employment. All enterprises in the community which were seeking workers were required to inform the special association for employment, which would in turn provide information on what workers were available.

3. The representative of Bulgaria had asked a question about personal income in Yugoslavia. Paragraph 54 of the report referred to the legal provisions governing the distribution of income. The first call on the income created by work was the repayment over a number of years of the equipment used to produce it and the cost of establishing the enterprise in question. Next, resources were set aside for general needs, such as education, health protection, and other areas of collective consumption. The amount remaining was the net income of the enterprise or basic organization and it was distributed among the workers according to their contribution to its production. The workers decided for themselves, through Workers' Councils and similar organizations, how resources for personal income were to be allocated. No decision was taken by management in respect of the net income

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of a basic organization without the consent of the workers. There were agreed criteria for the distribution of personal income in particular branches of industry, so that there were no extreme variations between organizations within a branch. That was accomplished through self-management agreements and social compacts in the branch of the economy concerned. The system was the object of continuous adjustment and improvement. Yugoslav society was experimenting with various aspects of the economy in an effort to find the best means of responding to the needs and interests of the workers and promoting incentives for productivity and improving the quality of output. There was a constant effort to stimulate worker participation in all decisions respecting production.

4. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany had asked about accidents at work. It was only three decades since Yugoslavia had been a predominantly agricultural country and not all workers were yet completely accustomed to industrial work. More worker education and industrial discipline was needed, and a strong effort was being made in that direction. He recalled that when automobiles had first become readily available, the traffic accident rate in Yugoslavia had been the highest in Europe. There was still a high rate of industrial accidents but fatal accidents were decreasing. Safety standards had been established and workers were being urged to respect them, though not always successfully. He regretted that he could not supply the most recent figures for occupational accidents.

5. In conclusion, he said that trade unions in Yugoslavia had special characteristics and could not be equated with unions in Western countries. In Yugoslavia, the workers were at the same time the employers, and the unions therefore played a different role. They were, nevertheless, deeply concerned with questions of remuneration and inflation, and were pressing the Government hard to control the inflation rate which in 1981 stood at 34 per cent. It was recognized throughout Yugoslav society that there were economic problems and there was urgent discussion of the best way to reduce inflation and to preserve the standard of living that had been achieved. That was not easy, given the current international economic environment and the rise of protectionism in Western Europe which had injured some Yugoslav exports.

6. In keeping with the aims that had inspired Yugoslav society since the end of the Second World War, Yugoslavia was doing all that it could to implement all the provisions of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He noted that average per capita income, which had been \$350 in 1948, was now close to \$2,000. The country would like to move still faster, but it must recognize the difficulties that existed while continuing to do all that was possible.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that as there were no further questions, he took it that the Working Group had completed its consideration of the report by Yugoslavia concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant.

8. It was so decided.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1988 (LX) BY STATES PARTIES TO THE COVENANT, CONCERNING RIGHTS COVERED BY ARTICLES 10-12 (E/1980/6/Add.20, Add.23, Add.24)

Reports of Panama (E/1980/6/Add.20 and Add.23)

9. Mr. RIERA DIAZ (Panama) said that the Group had before it two reports from Panama, E/1980/6/Add.20, concerning rights covered by articles 10 and 11, and E/1980/6/Add.23, concerning rights covered by article 12 of the Covenant. As a background to that basic information on the situation with regard to the implementation of those three very important articles, he cited a number of population statistics. At the 1980 census, the population of Panama was some 1,800,000, giving a population density of about 23 persons to the square kilometre. The rate of population growth for the decade 1970 to 1980 was 2.8 per cent. In that time, the population had risen by some 400,000, and currently more than 50 per cent, or one million persons, were under 19 years of age. Those figures provided a frame of reference for the social policy of Panama and would help in understanding the action that had been taken to implement the Covenant.

10. The Political Constitution of Panama had been adopted only in 1972, after the drafting of the Covenants, and the country's entire social philosophy could be said to have been inspired by the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its political philosophy by the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Indeed, many of the precepts of the Constitution used the actual wording of the Covenants.

11. After the adoption of the 1972 Constitution, one of the main features of the new, modern, socially-concerned State of Panama was the participation of the people in solving the country's problems of health, welfare, education and culture. Traditional State paternalism had been abandoned in favour of popular consultation at all levels, as an instrument for the development of plans to implement the articles of the Covenant with which the reports were concerned.

12. Chapter 2 of the Panamanian Constitution, entitled "The Family", embodied all the principles and ideas expressed in article 10 of the Covenant. In addition, the special protection to be accorded to mothers before and after childbirth, was provided for in article 67 of Chapter 3, "Labour", of the Constitution; it established safeguards and guarantees for all mothers, which were implemented in detail in the Labour Code and in the legislation relating to social security. The same article also provided special protection for children and young persons without discrimination, as required by article 10.

13. Since the drafting of the report, certain new initiatives had been taken. In particular, 1980 had seen the creation, within the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, of the National Directorate for the Child and Family. In view of the useful results achieved by the Directorate, it had been considered worth while to expand its scope and operations by reorganizing it, under the title of the National Institute for the Family, as an autonomous body of quasi-ministerial standing. The appropriate draft legislation was now being considered, in full consultation with all interested groups, and everything indicated that 1982 would see the Institute established, with special responsibility for all aspects of the family covered by

(Mr. Riera Diaz, Panama)

article 10 of the Covenant, including pre-natal care and instruction and infant education.

14. With respect to the requirement in article 10, paragraph 3, that children and young persons should be protected from exploitation, the conditions of employment of minors were laid down very clearly by the 1972 Labour Code. That Code had been drawn up after the finalization of the Covenant and fully reflected its principles.

15. In relation to the provisions of article 11 of the Covenant, one of the major concerns of Panama's social policy was to ensure that every citizen could maintain an adequate standard of living for himself and his family. His Government accorded the highest priority to stimulating food production with a view to eventually attaining self-sufficiency, and a few years ago had established a separate Ministry for Agricultural and Livestock Development, which was the nucleus of a group of institutions and agencies, including an agricultural development bank and insurance and marketing agencies, which were working to bring about an expansion in the nation's capacity to meet its food needs.

16. Because of its awareness of the very pressing need to expand and improve the housing situation, the Government had recently established a Ministry of Housing which was implementing a national programme of housing action, involving all sectors of the population, but particularly directed at the marginal and least-advantaged groups. A very significant increase in the provision of housing had been achieved; the recent census had shown that the number of existing houses was double the last record figure, which dated from 1950. The provision of housing was not exclusively an activity of the State; private sector involvement was encouraged and there were also facilities for local communities to participate, through mutual aid and co-operative programmes and a variety of government-supported programmes.

17. The section of the report relating to article 11 (E/1980/6/Add.20, chap. II) contained a wealth of information, in some cases very technical, on measures being taken nationally to promote the right to adequate nutrition and to improve methods of production and the quantity and quality of food produced. Those measures reflected the Government's awareness that only through the use of modern scientific techniques would it be possible to reach a level of production which would satisfy the nation's food needs.

18. Chapter 6 of the Constitution, entitled "Health, Social Security and Social Assistance", set forth the principles underlying the Government's policy in the area covered by article 12 of the Covenant. It took as its premise that not only did every citizen have the right to enjoy health but that it was the duty of the State to provide for his or her health needs. Health was not simply the absence of disease but involved the interplay of a large number of factors, including adequate housing and food, general physical and mental well-being, security in fairly paid employment and social security protection, which enabled the citizen to develop into a thinking, critical and productive member of society.

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19. His Government was conscious that its report was not as comprehensive as it might be and that it did not fully reflect what was being done in Panama to implement the rights covered by the three articles under consideration. That was perhaps due to its lack of experience in preparing such reports and to the omission of more detailed statistics which might effectively illustrate the points made. However, the Secretariat had available a statistical annex which might be consulted by members of the Working Group if they so wished.

20. Mr. MRATCHKOV (Bulgaria) referred to the provisions of article 119 of the Panamanian Labour Code concerning the employment of minors between 12 and 15 years of age, as described in point C of the section I of the report devoted to measures taken under article 10 of the Covenant. He was curious to know how that provision was applied in practice and particularly how "light work" was defined.

21. He requested more information on the implementation of article 10, paragraph 2, of the Covenant from the point of view of the special protection to be accorded to mothers.

22. Mrs. POUDADE (France) commended the initiatives which had been taken by the Panamanian Government towards the provision of adequate nutrition and housing; she was particularly attracted by the idea of using revenues from the beer tax to finance the Housing Assistance Fund.

23. She was interested in further details about the "schools for parents" referred to in paragraph 4 of the section of the report dealing with measures taken under article 10.

24. Mr. MARDOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the report of the Government of Panama contained many interesting points, particularly concerning legislation aimed at solving the problems of food and housing; there were a number of special measures which might well be of interest to other States.

25. He referred to section A, paragraph 2, of the chapter of the report dealing with article 12 (E/1980/6/Add.23). He wondered what was the position with regard to maternity benefits of women who, for one reason or another, were unable to fulfil the requirement of a minimum of nine monthly contributions in the 12 months preceding the seventh month of pregnancy.

26. Mr. BERGTHUN (Norway) said that it was evident that in Panama the legislation and regulations governing those areas of society covered by articles 10, 11 and 12 fully satisfied the Covenant from the legal point of view. However, rules and regulations could be applied in practice in many different ways and in Panama's next report it would be very interesting to have some evaluation by the Government, in the light of experience, of the practical results and effects of the action which it was taking.

(Mr. Bergthun, Norway)

27. The improvement which had been achieved in standards of nutrition, especially for children, was impressive and extremely positive; the Government was quite right to give that area the highest priority, since it had strong implications for many other rights, including the right to life itself. The progress which had been achieved in controlling infant mortality was also very commendable.

28. It would be useful to have more details of how the supplementary feeding programmes for families and for mothers and children mentioned in section B, paragraph 2, of E/1980/6/Add.23, was implemented and administered in practice, since it must be a programme of considerable dimensions.

29. Mr. ADOSSAMA (International Labour Organisation) said that, in its report of 1981, the ILO Committee of Experts had considered the situation in Panama with respect to maternity protection and the employment of children and young persons. That report indicated that, while the social security scheme under which medical care and cash maternity benefits were provided applied to all employed persons, whether in public or private employment, certain other measures, including the right to maternity leave and measures to safeguard health and security of employment, were laid down only in the Labour Code, which did not apply to public employees or to workers in agricultural or agro-industrial co-operatives. The Committee had therefore considered that it would be desirable to have more information on the maternity leave, health protection and employment security situation of women employed in the public sector and in such co-operatives.

30. With respect to the employment of children and young persons, Panama had ratified an appreciable number of ILO conventions in the field. The Committee had drawn attention to the need to adopt additional measures to give effect to several of those conventions in order to ensure medical examination and protection against occupational hazards of young persons. Subsequently, at its March 1982 session, the Committee had noted with satisfaction that appropriate legislation had been adopted.

31. The Committee had also requested additional information on any further measures to restrict the employment of children and young persons in dangerous or unhealthy work and to regulate work by children and young persons outside an employment relationship and in agricultural and agro-industrial co-operatives.

32. Mr. KAM (Panama), referring to the Bulgarian representative's question concerning article 119 of the Labour Code, emphasized that Panama was still essentially an agricultural country. It was important to keep in mind the traditional way of life of peasant families in the countryside, where it was customary for children to help their parents in farmwork from a very young age, often becoming an important element in the family's production. This had often led in the past to children missing school, especially at harvest time, and being used as full-time workers. The provisions of the Labour Code sought to safeguard the children's education by confining such work to times outside school hours, and to protect their health by restricting them to "light work", by which was meant work not requiring a physical effort greater than that which could reasonably be demanded of a 12-to-15-year-old child. In other words, children of that age might

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be engaged to perform light tasks such as fetching and carrying tools and light equipment; in urban areas they might be employed in equivalent light work, as messengers, for example, or making photocopies.

33. With regard to special protection for mothers, article 67 of the Constitution provided that a woman could not be deprived of her job, either in private or public employment, while pregnant. She had the right to paid leave during the six weeks prior to and the eight weeks following the birth and retained entitlement to her contract during that time. Furthermore, she was entitled to special conditions of work during pregnancy and could not be dismissed for one year following her return to work after giving birth to the child. He emphasized that those benefits were a minimum; some trade unions in the private sector had obtained even more advantages through collective agreements.

34. In reply to the question of the representative of France concerning the schools for parents, he emphasized that the instruction involved was quite informal and outside the formal education system. The experiment was aimed at informing and preparing parents, and especially fathers, regarding their responsibilities, both legal and moral and social, for the protection of their families and the moral education of their children. It particularly stressed the vital role played by parents in the education of their children and encouraged them to take a keen and active interest in the formal school instruction which the children received and to provide support at home. The venture was entirely voluntary and was so far on a very small scale; it was hoped that it would be possible to expand it in the future.

35. Mr. RIERA DIAZ (Panama) referred to the questions asked in relation to maternity benefits. Any pregnant woman who was not working and therefore not paying contributions, or whose contributions were insufficient to qualify her for benefits under the national social insurance scheme, was entitled, as a minimum, to reimbursement of all medical expenses involved in the birth, under a scheme operated by the Ministry of Health. That scheme was most frequently applied in the agricultural sector where the majority of people were not in paid employment and drew their living directly from the land.

36. Mr. KAM (Panama), replying to a question from the Norwegian representative concerning the supplementary food programme for families (E/1980/6/Add.20, ad para. 9) said that the programme was essentially a distribution of supplementary food to pregnant and nursing mothers and pre-school children. Wives who contributed, or whose husbands contributed to social security benefited from the programme but, if the family did not pay social security contributions, the wife could still benefit from the supplementary food programme operated by the Ministry of Health.

37. The general aim of such programmes, to improve child health, was also one of the objectives of the health centres which the Government had established, and the number of which had increased sharply in recent years. The centres brought health services into rural areas where the need for them was greatest, and also operated

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the supplementary food programme. Individual communities had also established health committees which exercised a general guardianship of the health of the community, deciding such matters as the produce to be grown in the community gardens, and ensured the distribution of food to priority groups such as pre-school children and nursing mothers.

38. There was also a school meals service operated by the Ministry of Education, especially in rural areas.

39. The CHAIRMAN thanked the representatives of Panama for their comprehensive presentation and the answers which they had given.

40. The Working Group had thus concluded its consideration of the reports of Panama (E/1980/6/Add.20 and 23) submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1988 (LX) by States Parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by articles 10 to 12.

Report of the Ukrainian SSR (E/1980/6/Add.24)

41. Mr. SLIPCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) introducing his Government's report (E/1980/6/Add.24) concerning rights covered by articles 10 to 12 of the International Covenant, said that his country was a participant in all the main international instruments concerned with human rights. There was a close connexion between social and economic rights on the one hand, and civil and political rights on the other, and the latter could not be enjoyed unless the former were guaranteed. Moreover, the establishment of international peace and security, the ending of the arms race and general disarmament, and the establishment of co-operation among States on a basis of equality without regard to their social and economic systems, were essential prerequisites for the solution of the problems of economic and social development.

42. The achievement by the Ukrainian SSR of a high level of commerce and agriculture, science, health care and education was a result of the fraternal co-operation that prevailed among the members of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Ukrainian Constitution and laws guaranteed the economic and cultural rights of the workers. The Constitution, adopted in 1978, substantially extended the guarantee of the citizen's right to work, and to leisure and social security, and also guaranteed the rights contained in articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant. The report now submitted covered the adoption and execution of the social and economic five-year plan for the period 1981 to 1985. The plan also included measures to raise still further the people's standard of living, since measures of that nature were directly concerned with securing the rights and freedoms covered by the relevant articles of the Covenant.

43. It would be seen from the report that during the period 1976 to 1980 real per capita income had increased by 17 per cent, and was to rise by a further 16 to 18 per cent in the coming five-year period. As during the previous five decades, there would be full employment for the entire working population whilst

(Mr. Slipchenko, Ukrainian SSR)

as before, wage increases would be a fundamental factor in increasing the material well being of citizens. Wages of workers in agricultural communities would rise to the same level as those of industrial and public sector workers. Another important trend was the planned rise in payments and allowances from public funds for such purposes as medical care, education and skills training, pensions, paid holidays, free accommodation in sanatoria and rest homes, day care centres and so on. If those expenditures were taken into account, the annual income of a family of four persons would increase by something like a quarter. The programme provided for an increase of 22 per cent in such funds over the five-year period, which was a larger rate of increase than the projected rise in national income in general which was estimated at 18 to 20 per cent. Such public expenditure was a means of achieving social equality.

44. Another example of the use of public spending for social ends was the maintenance of rents at the same level over more than half a century. Despite the widespread destruction of something like 40 per cent of total housing during the war years, the urban housing stock in 1980 was four and a half times higher than it had been in 1940. During the period 1970 to 1980, 3.7 million new dwelling units had been provided, and over the coming five-year period 400,000 well-built modern dwellings would be provided every year. The aim was to have such a dwelling for every family by the end of the 1980s.

45. An increase in the rate of production of consumer goods was one of the leading features of the development of trade and commerce during the years 1981 to 1985. There would be further development of the system of social security, which already covered 10 million people, and advances in health care, where it was proposed to increase the number of hospital beds to 13 per thousand of the population whilst also increasing the number of medical staff by 12 per cent. Information on the development of education, science and culture, which were also part of the five-year programme, would be given in the report on articles 13 to 15 of the Covenant.

46. He could supply additional facts to amplify the information on maternal and child care given on pages 3 to 5 of the English text of the report. During the last year a number of measures had been taken on behalf of working mothers, including a shortened working day or week, flexible shifts, work at home and so on, together with additional paid holidays for working women having two or more children. A number of other measures were contemplated in the programme adopted in 1981 for increased State assistance to families with children. They included paid leave of up to one year for looking after the children of participating working mothers (with the option of a further six months' unpaid leave with safeguarding of all working rights), a one-time payment on the birth of a child, increased children's allowances and extension of the period of payment of such allowances for single mothers, and an increase from seven to 14 days in paid leave for taking care of sick children. There would also be additional old-age pensions for mothers who had brought up five or more children or who had handicapped children, and increased benefits for families with children in such matters as allocation of housing and individual and co-operative housing construction.

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47. A number of measures had been taken after the publication of the report before the Committee, and were directly concerned with maternal and child welfare and family protection. They included an increase in the minimum old-age pension or disability benefit, in the allowance for the loss of the breadwinner, and in allowances for mothers with many children. Together those measures affected more than 2 million pensioners. The Government had also taken steps to increase the supply of basic consumer goods, and to continue to improve hospital and convalescent home care and workers' rest homes, including further improvements in facilities for family rest holidays, better pre-school education in rural communities, and the general observance in the Ukraine of the legislation providing special allowances for mothers with many children.

48. There were of course measures for public control over compliance with and practical application of the laws regulating the rights of citizens in the social and economic fields, and those measures particularly involved the trade unions which grouped 25 million people in the Ukrainian SSR. The trade unions directly administered the State system of social insurance which had a 1982 budget of 3.5 billion roubles, and they also provided a broad network of sanatoria, rest homes and children's institutions, and were empowered to supervise compliance with labour legislation, including safety at work, and to allocate funds for incentive bonuses, and for expenditure by commercial and industrial enterprises on housing and social and cultural buildings. During the period 1976 to 1980 the introduction of a number of measures for mechanization and automation of productive processes made it possible to switch more than 300,000 workers in the industrial field alone from manual to mechanized labour. During the same period 5 billion roubles were spent on improving working conditions and on hygiene and safety measures. Working conditions were improved in more than 2.5 million work places and the working conditions of more than a million women were improved. Expenditure under those heads was to be doubled in the period 1981 to 1985.

49. Mr. MRATCHKOV (Bulgaria) said he would like more information on the role played in the Ukrainian SSR by local State bodies and social organizations in educating young people for marriage, on the legal and administrative measures taken to help women carry out their roles in the family and in society at large and on the activities of the Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR on Women's Working and Living Conditions and Maternal and Child Welfare which had been established by the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR.

50. Mr. AKAO (Japan) noted that article 10, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights stipulated that a marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses. On page 2, the Ukrainian report (E/1980/6/Add.24) stated that article 15 of the Marriage and Family Code of the Ukrainian SSR stipulated two conditions for contracting marriage: the mutual consent of the persons contracting marriage and their attainment of marriageable age. He therefore wanted to know whether that meant that there were no restrictions preventing Ukrainian citizens from marrying foreign nationals.

(Mr. Akao, Japan)

51. On page 6, the report referred to a special Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet establishing the honorary titles "Mother-Heroine", the order "Maternal Glory" and first and second class "Motherhood Medals". He wondered whether the intention of those honorary titles was to encourage population increase and noted in that connexion that reference was made in the last paragraph on page 3 to a number of special benefits accorded to large families, including housing benefits. He wondered whether that also was designed to encourage population increase or whether it was related to the housing shortage implied in the second paragraph on page 2.

52. On page 18, the report referred to progress in agricultural production and noted specifically that the gross output of the public portion of the agricultural sector had increased by 11 per cent during the period of the past five-year plan. He wanted to know what the level of agricultural production had been in the past two to three years, particularly in the light of reports of agricultural shortages in the USSR. Since the Ukrainian SSR was extremely rich agriculturally, he wondered whether its situation within the USSR was exceptional.

53. Page 21 of the report stated that rents for apartments in the Ukrainian SSR had remained unchanged since 1928 and did not exceed an average of 3 per cent of income in working families and that household expenditure on rents and utility services amounted to less than a third of the total outlay on those items. He wondered exactly how high rents were and how they had been maintained at the same level for over 50 years. He also wanted to know what was meant by saying that household expenditures on rents and utility services amounted to less than a third of the total outlay on those items.

54. Mr. ALLAFI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that on page 12, the report of the Ukrainian SSR stated that persons aged between 15 and 16 worked a 24-hour week, and those between 16 and 18 worked a 36-hour week. He wondered what kind of work they did and whether it was comparable to work performed by adults.

55. On page 16, the report stated that real per capita income was expected to increase by 16-18 per cent but that the average monthly pay of manual and non-manual workers would increase by only 12-15 per cent and the payments received by collective farm workers from public consumption funds by 15 per cent. He would like clarification of the discrepancy.

56. Page 23 of the report referred interestingly to a highly-developed system of environmental protection in the Ukrainian SSR and he wanted more information about that system.

57. Mr. BERGTHUN (Norway) said that the Ukrainian SSR had indeed been very scrupulous in implementing the special protection which, under article 10, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, should be accorded to mothers before and after childbirth, but added that fathers should also play an important role in the early care of the child. Some countries in fact provided paid leave and social security benefits to enable fathers to stay home to care for young children and he wondered whether there were any developments in that direction in the Ukrainian SSR.

(Mr. Bergthun, Norway)

58. Page 6 of the report noted that every year 2.5 million roubles were allocated for free food for children under one year of age. He wanted to know what the rationale was for that arrangement and what was being done to educate the public about what constituted proper nutrition for young children.

59. Mrs. POUDADE (France) noted that on page 3 the report of the Ukrainian SSR stated that at present half the pre-school-age population attended kindergartens and day nurseries and said she wanted to know what alternative there was for the other half in a country in which all mothers worked. The first paragraph on page 4 of the report said that a medical certificate for seven days was accorded for the parent of a sick child and she wondered whether that referred to the mother only or whether it included the father as well.

60. According to the information on page 6 of the report, every family in the Ukrainian SSR had the right to determine for itself the number of children it wanted, but to implement that right the family needed proper information and she therefore wanted to know whether information on contraception was available in the Ukrainian SSR and what that country's attitude was to abortion.

61. Mr. BORCHARD (Federal Republic of Germany) noted that the economy of the Ukrainian SSR was integrated with the economic system of the USSR and that the country traded with the other Republics. He therefore wondered whether the figures on agricultural production given on page 18 of the report reflected actual consumption. It was difficult to assess the real standard of living without information on the actual per capita consumption of basic food-stuffs and it was quite possible for production to lag behind demand.

62. Page 21 of the report indicated that the working population of the Ukrainian SSR benefited from extremely low rents and it must be assumed that if rent was so low there must be a great demand for housing. He therefore wanted to know how supply and demand for housing were regulated in the absence of the price mechanism, whether priority was assigned on the basis of number of children, age of housing or other factors, and whether there was a dialogue with the public to make such determinations. The housing figures in the report were impressive, but failed to indicate how many square metres of housing were available per capita and what future plans were in that connexion.

63. Mr. ADOSSAMA (International Labour Organisation) noted that the Ukrainian SSR had ratified the ILO Maternity Protection Convention of 1952 and the ILO Minimum Age Convention of 1973 and that the ILO Committee of Experts wanted further information on measures taken in the Ukrainian SSR to regulate work by children and the young people on collective farms, what restrictions were placed on dangerous and unhealthy work on collective farms, and what provisions were made for working hours and rest on collective farms.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

