

ethnic bias in, and failure of, the courts to meet international fair-trial standards; and ongoing attempts to limit press freedoms.

General developments noted in the reports included: commencement by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) of cases against individuals accused of planning, inciting, and executing the massacres of Croatian civilians in Ovcara, near Vukovar, in November 1991; the fact that members of the Croatian Party of Rights (HSP) reportedly encountered few obstacles to freedom of expression when they gathered at a public forum in Eastern Slavonia and sang fascist songs and unfurled the black flags of the HSP's paramilitary force; resumption of exhumations; publications of the names of persons affected by the Law on General Amnesty (13,575 persons) for offences, such as armed rebellion, committed during the aggression against Croatia — noting that charges were dropped against 2,862 people; preliminary consideration of issues related to the state-controlled Croatian Radio and Television (HRT) and the membership and status of an eventual oversight council; consideration by Parliament of new procedures governing returns; government support for repeal of the Laws on the Temporary Takeover and Administration of Certain Specified Property and on Leasing of Flats in the Liberated Territory; adoption of the controversial Procedures for the Return of Persons Who Have Left the Republic of Croatia which may discriminate against those legitimate Croatian citizens who are not in possession of documents which prove their citizenship or who are not in the Croatian register of citizens; and continuation of war crimes proceedings in Croatian courts.

The activities of the Field Operation included, *inter alia*: interventions related to denial of pension benefits and other entitlements; discussions of the possibility of funding specific NGO-run projects that will promote human rights, civil society and independent media; compilation of a comprehensive list of human rights NGOs in Croatia; an investigative mission to Krnjak in response to alleged human rights violations; trial monitoring and monitoring of implementation of the 1996 Law on General Amnesty; and support for the work of national human rights NGOs, including through coordinated action on Croatian legislation on associations.



CZECH REPUBLIC

Date of admission to UN: 19 January 1993.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: The Czech Republic has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.71) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government

notes that upon admission to the UN the Czech Republic succeeded to all human rights instruments binding on the former Czechoslovakia.

The Constitution which was adopted in December 1992 includes a Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and international treaties ratified by the Republic are immediately binding and superior to law. In addition, the Czech Republic has incorporated into domestic law most of the civil and political rights set out in the ICCPR.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Succeeded: 22 February 1993.

The Czech Republic's initial report was due 30 June 1995.
Reservations and Declarations: Article 26.

Civil and Political Rights

Succeeded: 22 February 1993.

The Czech Republic's initial report was due 31 December 1993.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 48; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Succeeded: 22 February 1993.

Racial Discrimination

Succeeded: 22 February 1993.

The Czech Republic's initial and second periodic reports were submitted as one document (CERD/C/289/Add.1) which was considered at the Committee's March 1998 session; the third periodic report was due 1 January 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Articles 17 and 22.

Discrimination against Women

Succeeded: 22 February 1993.

The Czech Republic's initial report (CEDAW/C/CZE/1) was considered at the Committee's May 1998 session; the second periodic report was due 24 March 1998.

Torture

Succeeded: 22 February 1993.

The Czech Republic's second periodic report is due 31 December 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Declarations under articles 21 and 22.

Rights of the Child

Succeeded: 22 February 1993.

The Czech Republic's second periodic report is due 31 December 2000.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 7.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The Czech Republic's initial and second periodic reports were submitted as one document (CERD/C/289/Add.1, June 1997) which was considered by the Committee at its