

United Nations General Assembly

EIGHTEENTH SESSION — FINAL REPORT

THE EIGHTEENTH regular session of the General Assembly ended on December 17, 1963. In the three-month period during which it lasted, the Assembly disposed of 78 of the 86 items on its agenda. Lack of time prevented it from taking any action on that proposed by Roumania on "actions on the regional level with a view to improving good neighbour relations among European states having different social and political systems" or on any of the following items scheduled for consideration by the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee:

- (1) Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriage;
- (2) Measures to Accelerate the Promotion of Respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- (3) Manifestations of Racial Prejudice and National and Religious Intolerance;
- (4) Draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance;
- (5) Draft Declaration on the Right of Asylum;
- (6) Freedom of Information.

Concerning the item on the United Nations Administrative and Budgetary Procedures, the Assembly took note of the Fifth Committee's decision to refer the records of its discussions and the Secretary-General's report on the matter to the Working Group on the Examination of the Administrative and Budgetary Procedures of the United Nations for further consideration.

Finally, it will be recalled, in connection with the question of the violation of human rights in South Vietnam, that a United Nations fact-finding mission visited the Republic at the invitation of its Government in October.¹ The mission's report was submitted without conclusions or recommendations to the Assembly on December 7 and considered in plenary on December 14. Without discussion or vote, the Assembly decided that "oppression of Buddhists by the South Vietnamese Government" had ceased to be an issue since the overthrow of President Ngo Dinh Diem on November 1, 1963.

The Assembly's activities during its eighteenth session centered round what the President, Dr. Carlos Sosa-Rodriguez of Venezuela, described as "the three great political imperatives of our times": the maintenance of peace; the elimination of colonialism and of racial segregation, and the improvement of economic

¹See *External Affairs*, November 1963, Page 386.