

5. Other special events

88. With the co-operation of United Nations information centres, solemn meetings in observance of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights were held by many Governments, including those of Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia. Human Rights Day was also observed in thousands of commemorative ceremonies held by non-governmental organizations, libraries, and academic and religious institutions.

89. To involve the general public actively in the celebration of the fortieth anniversary, public meetings were held at Colombo, Lima, Moscow, Tunis, Tokyo and many other major cities throughout the world. At these meetings, attended by thousands of people, copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other information materials from the Department were distributed. Ten thousand people were reported to have attended the public meeting in Lima. The UNESCO Club of the University of Yaoundé and the Information Centre at Yaoundé organized a vigil that was observed by approximately 1,000 people in support of the movement against apartheid. Several sports events were organized around the theme of human rights, including a citizens' marathon in Madrid where over 2,000 copies of the Declaration were distributed. A poetry reading was held at Port-of-Spain.

90. Posters, historical photographs and lithographs supplied by the Department were part of numerous exhibits organized and sponsored by United Nations information centres and services. Many poster competitions among artists and schoolchildren were co-sponsored by information centres with government ministries and non-governmental organizations. These posters were displayed as part of the exhibits. The Centre at Islamabad organized an exhibit on its own premises and co-sponsored other exhibits at various academic institutions and government agencies. An exhibit organized by the Information Centre at Tokyo was viewed by over 800 people. Exhibits were also held by United Nations information centres at Brussels, Dakar, Kinshasa, Lagos, Ouagadougou, Panama, Santiago and Washington.

91. Film festivals related to human rights were sponsored by the information centres at Madrid and Rio de Janeiro, among other major cities. Information centres and services also loaned United Nations films on human rights to numerous non-governmental organizations, libraries and educational institutions.

92. Concerts were also organized to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Declaration. In Paris, 2,500 people attended a concert at which the preamble of the Declaration was read. In Colombia, over 400 concerts were organized throughout the country. A concert was also held in Burundi.

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