

**Rights of the Child**

Succeeded: 28 May 1993

Slovakia's initial report was due 31 December 1994.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 1 of article 7.

**THEMATIC REPORTS*****Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights*****Mercenaries, Special Rapporteur on the use of:**

(E/CN.4/1997/24, para. 20)

Information provided to the Special Rapporteur (SR) by the government states that Slovakia's legal system does not permit either the existence of mercenary units in the country or any activities related to the operation of mercenary groups abroad. The Penal Code prohibits service in foreign armed forces, regular armed forces or foreign legions. Anyone charged and found guilty under this provision will be sentenced to three to eight years' imprisonment. The government informed the SR that no activities related to recruitment into foreign armed forces were registered in Slovakia.

**Racial Discrimination, Special Rapporteur on:**

(E/CN.4/1997/71, para. 30)

In summarizing the situation of the Romanies in Czechoslovakia, the report notes that provisions in the Czech citizenship law has resulted in a number of Roma being deported to Slovakia.

**Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on: (A/52/477, paras. 21, 25, 28, 33, 37, 38)**

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly notes that communications were transmitted to the government related to violations of religious freedom against Jehovah's Witnesses. Reference is made to the fact that there is a legal time limit within which conscientious objectors must declare their refusal to undertake military service or apply to do non-military national service and, further, that the duration of alternative service is such as to make it appear a form of punishment. The report cites information indicating that there have been cases of conscientious objectors being sent to prison.

**Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the: (A/52/482, para. 28)**

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly notes that the authorities in Slovakia are cooperating with their Austrian and Belgian counterparts in investigations into alleged paedophile rings.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, para. 446)**

The latter report summarizes one case involving a photographer who was approached by several police officers while photographing a student demonstration in Bratislava in September 1995. The information alleges that the photographer was kicked, beaten and had a breathalyser forced into his mouth against his will. The government reply stated that the photographer had refused to show police his identification and was therefore taken to the police station where, in response to his aggressiveness, he was handcuffed, and police used self-defence grips against him. An investigation into the incident was conducted and the government provided the SR

with a copy of the report of the psychiatrist who examined the photographer and diagnosed him with acute stress disorder.

**Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/19, para. 31)**

The report includes information provided by the government on measures taken to protect the environment and the health and safety of citizens. Among those cited were laws prohibiting the import of toxic waste, requiring consent of the state to import waste for recycling, setting out procedures for controlling waste disposal, classifying waste and establishing procedures for the treatment of wastes. The government also noted that Slovakia has ratified the Basel Convention and is in charge of a subregional training centre for the implementation of the Basel Convention for Central and Eastern Europe.

***Other Reports*****Conscientious objection to military service, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/99, paras. 6, 30, 37)**

The report of the Secretary-General notes that there is conscription in Slovakia and that conscientious objection is recognized. Anyone refusing military service on that basis must perform civil service for a period twice as long as the basic military service which is 12 months. Since adoption, in 1990, of the Act on Civil Service No. 73/1990 almost 30,000 individuals have legally refused to perform military service and all based their refusal on religion or belief. Of this number, approximately 25,000 declarations of refusal of basic military service were revoked.

**Terrorism, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/39, Section I)**

The report of the Secretary-General summarizes information provided by the government that states that the security situation in Slovakia was marked by both the increasing brutality and aggression of criminal perpetrators, and qualitative changes in the structure of criminal activity. The information indicated that the authorities had also dealt with atypical forms of terrorism — e.g., discovery of explosive materials — which were characterized by the motives or symptoms of "typical" terrorism. The government suggested that because of its geographical position, Slovakia could become a centre of international terrorism through the activities of terrorist groups expelled by their own countries. Measures anticipated by the government to offset this possibility include establishment of a system of control over the borders, systematic control of the activities of possible terrorist groups within Slovakia, creation of a system of information collection and distribution concerning terrorist actions, an extension of powers and improvements in the technical equipment of the police, and cooperation between the police and other authorities responsible for judicial trials. The report notes that there is no special law in Slovakia to combat terrorism.

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**SLOVENIA**

Date of admission to UN: 22 May 1992.

**TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES**

**Land and People:** Slovenia has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/Add.35) for use by the treaty bodies. The