

and difficulties encountered in the reintegration of the region's judiciary; deaths of returnees under suspicious circumstances and murders; the proposed law on peaceful assembly and problems related to its provisions; the fact that judges in the functioning courts did not have copies of the Croats laws under which cases were to be tried; the persistence of serious irregularities in war crimes trials; and, the failure of recent agreements to take into account the situation of members of mixed families and other minorities who had often lost their jobs under the "Krajina" authorities.

The reports note that the activities of the Field Operation included: a focus on war crimes prosecutions, including through trial monitoring, participation in meetings, and contacts with judicial authorities, legal professionals and non-governmental organizations; the training of the Civilian Police of UNTAES and newly-recruited members of the Transitional Police Force; provision of assistance to help residents gain access to pensions to which they are entitled; participation in activities related to the rights to a home and to peaceful enjoyment of property; interventions to the government to resolve individual complaints related to legal documentation and denial of Croatian citizenship; and, submission of cases of possible human rights violations to the Office of the Croatian Ombudsman.

* * * * *

CZECH REPUBLIC

Date of admission to UN: 19 January 1993.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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 have been submitted as one document (CERD/C/289/ Add.1)

which has not yet been scheduled for consideration by the Committee; 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) has been submitted and is pending for consideration by the Committee at its July 1998 session; the second periodic report is 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.

The initial report of the Czech Republic (CRC/C/11/Add.11) was considered by the Committee at its September/October 1997 session. The report prepared by the government includes information on: measures taken to harmonize national law and policy with provisions of the Convention; mechanisms for coordinating policies related to children; measures taken to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known; the definition of the child; the general principles of non-discrimination, best interests of the child, the right to life, survival and development, and respect for the views of the child; civil rights and freedoms; family environment and alternative care; basic health and welfare; education, leisure and cultural activities; and, special protection measures. Much of the information refers to laws relevant to areas covered by the Convention, such as the Law on the Family (1963, and 1992 amendment), the Foster Care Act (1992), the Code of Civil Procedure, the Criminal Code, and the Labour Code. Information is also provided on Commission for the Family which is mandated: in the area of education, to propose and promote comprehensive education in elementary and secondary schools on the values of life, partnership relations and responsible parenthood; in the area of legislation, to formulate back-up material for the amendment of the Family Act and identify arguments for discussions on fundamental social security legislation; and, to initiate the establishment of regional crisis centres aimed at the prevention of crime and pathological addictions.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CRC/C/15/Add.81) acknowledged that the transition to a market economy has caused higher rates of unemployment, poverty and other social problems and has had a serious impact on the general welfare of vulnerable groups including children.

The Committee viewed positively a number of developments in the Czech Republic, among them comprehensive law reform which included the drafting of new legislation, such as the proposed Law on Social and Legal Protection of Children, and proposals to amend the Law on the Family, the