

that the Swiss authorities had found no evidence to substantiate the fears, the Swiss embassy in Khartoum would observe whether the return took place without incident and the person concerned was free to contact the embassy at any time.

Other Reports

Economic, social and cultural rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/17, para. 2, Section I)

The report of the Secretary-General cites information provided by the Swiss government, noting a bill adopted by Parliament on, *inter alia*, debt cancellation and measures to help alleviate the harmful social and ecological consequences of the economic crisis affecting many countries. The government pointed out that, in principle, contributions by Switzerland to debt-reduction are linked to the conditions: (a) measures must focus, in particular, on the least-developed countries (LDCs) and on countries where Switzerland is actively involved in cooperation for development; (b) the recipient country must be engaged on a medium-term economic reform programme which encourages broad participation by the population in development; (c) the country must possess a debt-management system; (d) the debt to be written off as a result of Switzerland's contribution and those by other countries must be sufficiently large for it to have a marked impact on the growth and development of the country concerned; and, (e) in debt buy-back, debt-conversion and similar operations, private creditors must be involved.

The government also referred to the fact that Switzerland is one of the major contributors to the World Bank's debt-reduction facility, which has made it possible to cancel almost 100 per cent of the commercial debt of eligible countries. Switzerland also participates in international operations to fund the arrears and current obligations of the poorest countries to multilateral institutions. The government noted that the Debt Initiative of the World Bank and IMF is aimed at the sustainable reduction of the debt of the most indebted LDCs.

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People: (E/CN.4/1997/101, para. 9)

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights notes that Switzerland has contributed to the Voluntary Fund for the Decade.

Minimum humanitarian standards: (E/CN.4/1997/77/ Add.1, paras. 2, Section I)

The report of the Secretary-General refers to information provided by the government, referring to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the fact that Switzerland, as the State presiding over OSCE in 1996, convened an informal open-ended ad hoc OSCE meeting on minimum standards of humanity in Vienna in February 1996. The need to prepare a declaration on minimum standards at the meeting concentrated on two main themes: standards of humanity, on relations between such standards and international law, and on relations between international humanitarian law and the international law of human rights in the framework of such a declaration; and, on the content and recipients of the declaration. The government also noted that the purpose of the workshop (organized in Cape Town in September 1996 by the Nordic countries and South Africa in cooperation with the ICRC), was to raise awareness of the very serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law

which are committed by government authorities, armed groups or individuals in situations of internal disturbances, crises and tensions, including latent or low-intensity conflicts. The government expressed the view that, in light of such violations, there is an urgent need to promote the universal adoption of a political declaration concerning minimum standards of humanity applicable in all circumstances and at all times. The government expressed the hope that the UN Commission on Human Rights would mandate the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake an analytical study, jointly with the ICRC, of all matters related to minimum standards of humanity and that the study would be discussed at an open seminar, under the aegis of the Commission on Human Rights.

The government provided information on Swiss laws related to situations of public emergency or crises.

World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1997/36, paras. 98)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that, in the context of activities for the Decade of the World's Indigenous People, in 1995, UNIS Geneva organized a round table discussion on the theme "UN 50 and the world's indigenous people" and, in 1996, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, organized a screening of the film "The gene hunters", followed by a round table discussion on the issue of health and indigenous people.

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TURKEY

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Turkey has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 13 October 1972.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 20 December 1985.

Turkey's fourth periodic report is due 19 January 1999.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraphs 2 and 4 of article 15; paragraphs 1 (c) (d) (f) and (g) of article 16; paragraph 1, article 29; paragraph 1 of article 9.

Turkey's second and third periodic reports were submitted as one document (CEDAW/C/TUR/2-3) which was considered by the Committee at its January 1997 session. The Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/1997/L.1/Add.5) welcomed Turkey's support for the adoption of an optional protocol to the Convention.

The Committee viewed positively a number of developments in Turkey, including: the draft law to amend the various articles of the Civil Code pertaining to family law, which will allow Turkey to withdraw its reservations; the government's intention to revise the Citizenship Law; the decision of the government to conclude bilateral agreements with other countries that would permit Turkish citizens, women and men alike, to keep their citizenship upon marriage to a foreign national; the legal guarantees of the equal right of