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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Second periodic reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9, in accordance with the first stage of the programme established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988 (LX)

Addendum

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

[21 November 1983]

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report supplements the initial report submitted on the implementation in the Soviet Union of the provisions of articles 6 to 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1978/8/Add.16).
2. The period since the submission of the initial report has been characterized by the further development and strengthening of social democracy, and the improvement of the living standards of the Soviet people.

* E/1984/30.

** The initial report submitted by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant (E/1978/8/Add.16) was considered by the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts at its 1980 session (see E/1980/WG.1/SR.14).

3. In accordance with the 1977 Constitution of the USSR, with the decisions of the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (February 1981) which adopted the Main Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for the Years 1981-1985 and until the Year 1990, and with the decisions of the plenary sessions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, consistent implementation of the economic strategy has continued. The main goal of this strategy is to ensure the further improvement of the welfare of the Soviet people, the creation of the most favourable conditions for the all-round development of the individual on the basis of the stable, progressive development of the national economy, the acceleration of scientific and technological progress, the further improvement of the efficiency of all social production, the increase in labour productivity, and the growth of the social and labour activity of citizens.

4. The socio-economic progress of our society has been accompanied by the development and updating of legislation on the basis of the Constitution of the USSR. Since the submission of the initial report by the Government of the Soviet Union, a number of all-union legislative instruments, designed to guarantee in a comprehensive manner the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens and further strengthen socialist democracy, have been adopted. Many of these instruments concern the rights under consideration in articles 6 to 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

5. For example, on 17 June 1983, at the eighth session of its tenth convocation, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted the USSR Law on Work Collectives and the Enhancement of their Role in the Management of Enterprises, Institutions and Organizations which entered into force on 1 August 1983.

6. In April 1983, the draft version of this act was submitted for a nation-wide discussion in which more than 110 million Soviet citizens participated. There were 1,230,000 meetings of work collectives, at which more than 5 million people voiced their opinions, devoted to the consideration of this draft legislation. A large number of proposals were made in letters sent by citizens directly to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Council of Ministers of the USSR. All of the observations and proposals received were given careful consideration and were summarized in the Committees on Legislative Proposals of the Soviet of the Union and of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. In accordance with these proposals, 70 additions and amendments were included in the final text and 21 of the 23 articles were revised.

7. The USSR Law on Work Collectives is a document of great political, economic and social importance. It embodies the Leninist ideas concerning the further strengthening of collectivism in the social practice of the socialist system, reflects the consistent policy of further improving socialist democracy, and gives concrete expression to the provisions of the Constitution (the fundamental law) of the USSR on the role, tasks and rights of the work collective, which were formulated on the basis of proposals made by workers during the nation-wide discussion of the draft Constitution. The Law on Work Collectives generalizes the progressive experience acquired in the USSR and the other countries of the socialist community. Its adoption is convincing evidence of the constant improvement in the political system of socialist society. The new Law, which broadens the powers and opportunities of the work collectives for discussing and

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deciding public and State affairs and for managing enterprises, is based on the principles of socialist society - a society of free labour and social justice.

8. The provisions of the USSR Law on Work Collectives to some extent relate in essence to most of the articles of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The substance of the provisions which relate to the articles under consideration in the present report is given in the sections below. The provisions of the Law which go beyond the terms of any article of the Covenant, but which must be stated in view of their fundamental importance, are cited in the present introduction.

9. The Law on Work Collectives provides that the work collective of an enterprise, institution or organization is the basic unit of socialist society and, in accordance with the Constitution of the USSR, that it exercises broad powers in the political, economic and social life of the country. The activities of work collectives in the USSR are based on socialist ownership of the means of production and planned development of the economy. In work collectives, joint labour is carried out in accordance with the principles of fraternal co-operation and mutual assistance, and the unity of State, social and personal interests is guaranteed. The tasks of the work collectives are to increase the material and spiritual wealth of the country, use existing resources in a rational manner, give untiring support to the members of the collective, and improve the conditions of their work, everyday life and leisure time.

10. The Law stresses that "in conditions of mature socialism the work collectives play a greater role in production, society and the State; that there be greater possibilities for the active participation of workers, collective farmers and the intelligentsia in the management of enterprises, institutions and organizations; and that true socialist self-government, which develops during the building of communism, be achieved".

11. In accordance with the Law (art. 3), work collectives closely interact with the organs of State and Government. Thus, work collectives examine the questions of State and of economic and socio-cultural construction which are submitted for their consideration by the Soviet of People's Deputies and the bodies accountable to it; they submit for the consideration of the local soviets of people's deputies proposals for all-round economic and social development in their territories and also proposals with regard to other questions falling within the competence of the relevant local soviets.

12. Under the Law, work collectives are given broad powers to discuss and decide State and public affairs (art. 5). They consider draft laws and decisions of the local soviets of people's deputies affecting the interests of work collectives, and other questions of state and public life raised for discussion, and make proposals with regard to them. They nominate candidates for the posts of deputies of the soviets of people's deputies and representatives on the electoral committees. They hear the reports of the deputies of the soviets of people's deputies who are nominated by the work collectives and also the reports of the executive committees of the local soviets of people's deputies, and their departments and offices. They nominate candidates for the posts of people's judges. They elect the people's assessors of district (municipal) people's courts and hear their reports. They raise the question of recalling deputies of the soviets of people's deputies and

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people's judges and recall people's assessors of district (municipal) people's courts who have not justified the trust of the electorate. They elect the members of the standing conferences of works, the people's control committees and the groups and posts thereof, the comrades' courts and other public bodies operating in work collectives, and hear their reports. They discuss other questions relating to State and public life.

I. ARTICLE 6: THE RIGHT TO WORK

13. The initial report of the Government of the USSR contained a description of the most important provisions contained in the Fundamental Principles Governing the Labour Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 15 July 1970.

14. Article 2 of the Fundamental Principles was included among other articles in the report. Its text was revised and incorporated in a new wording into the Fundamental Principles on 12 March 1980:

"The right of citizens of the USSR to work, that is, to guaranteed employment and pay in accordance with the quantity and quality of their work and not below the State-established minimum, including the right to choose their trade or profession, type of job and work in accordance with their inclinations, abilities, training and education, with due account taken of the needs of society, is ensured by the socialist economic system, steady growth of the productive forces, free vocational and professional training, improvement of skills, training in new trades or professions, and development of the systems of vocational guidance and job placement.

"Manual and non-manual workers exercise their right to employment by signing a contract of employment at an enterprise, establishment, institution or organization. They have the right to leisure and rest in conformity with the laws on the working day and working week and on annual paid leave, the right to healthy and safe working conditions, the right to unite in trade unions, the right to take part in the management of production and the right to material maintenance in old age and in case of sickness or complete or partial disability at the expense of the State through State social insurance".

15. In accordance with the USSR Law on Work Collectives (art. 7), work collectives participate in drawing up collective agreements, discuss them and take decisions on them, and carry out measures to ensure the implementation of the collective agreements. They hear the reports of the management of enterprises, organizations and trade union committees on the implementation of the collective agreements. When necessary, they raise the question of calling to account persons who have not carried out their obligations under the collective agreements.

16. In the initial report it was pointed out that Soviet labour legislation, by establishing legal guarantees of the right of citizens to work and ensuring the stability of contracts of employment, prohibits the dismissal of workers at the initiative of the management in the absence of the grounds specified by law. The law strictly limits the number of grounds for dismissal. A contract of employment concluded with a worker for an indefinite term and a fixed-term contract of employment may be annulled, before the expiration of the term, by the management of

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an enterprise, institution or organization only in the cases enumerated in article 17 of the Fundamental Principles Governing the Labour Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics, that is:

(a) The closing down of the enterprise, establishment, institution or organization or a reduction in its staff;

(b) Unfitness of the manual or non-manual worker for the post or the work to be carried out, owing to an inadequate level of skill or a state of health that prevents him from continuing the work;

(c) Systematic failure by the manual or non-manual worker, without valid grounds, to fulfil his obligations under the contract of employment or work rules, if the worker has earlier been penalized by a disciplinary sanction within the enterprise or a sanction imposed by a public authority;

(d) Absenteeism without valid grounds;

(e) Failure to appear at work for more than four months in succession owing to temporary disability, except in the case of maternity leave, if the USSR legislation does not provide for a longer period for retention of the post by the worker in the case of a specific illness. If a worker has been disabled as a result of an industrial accident or occupational disease, his post shall be held open for him until his complete recovery or until his disablement is held to be unchangeable;

(f) Reinstatement of the manual or non-manual worker in his previous post.

17. It should be noted that the annulment of a contract of employment on the grounds referred to above is only a right and not an obligation of the management. A decision on the advisability of dismissal or the implementation of other measures (transfer to another post, a disciplinary or public sanction) is taken in each individual case with due regard for the worker's personality and the specific production conditions. In this respect, article 18 of the Fundamental Principles Governing the Labour Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics prohibits the annulment of a contract of employment on the initiative of the management without the prior consent of the trade union committee.

18. Dismissal without the prior consent of the trade union committee or on grounds other than those provided for in article 17 of the Fundamental Principles is unlawful, and the discharged worker must be reinstated in the post that he held previously with remuneration for the period of enforced idleness calculated on the basis of his average earnings.

19. As was pointed out in the initial report, unemployment in the USSR had been eliminated in the 1930s, and the consistent development of the economy, the expanded rates of construction and the introduction of new industrial capacities have created a large number of new vacancies. Therefore, there is always a need for workers in the USSR and each person who is capable of working can readily find work in accordance with his inclinations, abilities, education and training. There are no unemployment benefits because of the absence of unemployment. Nevertheless,

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if a worker has been dismissed on the initiative of the management through no fault of his own, he receives severance pay amounting to two weeks' average earnings.

20. In December 1980, the new Standard Regulations concerning Job Placement Bureaux were drawn up. The job placement bureaux in the labour departments of the executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies play an intermediary role in finding work for the population with due regard for the needs of society by helping citizens to exercise their guaranteed right to work and choice of profession, type of work and job, in accordance with their inclinations, abilities, training and education. The decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, published on 7 August 1983, recognized that it was advisable that the task of informing the population about the need of enterprises, organizations and institutions for manual and non-manual workers should be carried out, as a rule, through the job placement bureaux, thus facilitating the choice of work by the persons concerned, with due regard for their interests.

21. The opportunity to learn a trade and receive further training is of great importance in implementing the right to work. In accordance with article 13 of the Law on Work Collectives, work collectives participate in discussions and decisions on questions relating to the training, placement and rational use of personnel, the maintenance of the stability of collectives, and the improvement of the structure of enterprises, institutions and organizations. They recommend members of the collective who have distinguished themselves at work for a more skilled post (grade) or for promotion. They consider the questions of the further training of personnel, instruction in new trades, the development of tutoring systems, and the work of schools teaching progressive labour methods. The work collectives also consider questions relating to the education of young workers, their vocational training and their integration into the collective, and submit relevant proposals. They help to improve the labour education and vocational guidance provided to students in schools under the patronage of factories. They approve the candidacy of outstanding workers for transfer to training at higher and secondary specialized educational institutions with scholarships financed by the enterprises and organizations.

22. At present, the following types of training for workers are being used in factories: training of new workers, re-training and instructing workers in a second trade, and improving the skills of workers.

23. The system of vocational-technical education has reached a high level in the USSR. It has become the basic means for training qualified workers for the national economy. In 1982, the vocational-technical educational institutions trained approximately 2.6 million young skilled workers.

24. The Soviet State truly guarantees the right of citizens to education, proclaimed in the Constitution of the USSR. This right is ensured by the free provision of all forms of education; the institution of universal, compulsory secondary education and the broad development of vocational, specialized secondary and higher education; the development of correspondence and evening courses; the provision of State scholarships and privileges for students; the free issue of school textbooks; the provision of facilities for self-education etc. At present,

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more than 103 million persons are enrolled in the various types of education in the USSR; of that number, 44.3 million are in general education schools, 4.5 million in secondary specialized educational institutions and 5.3 million in higher educational institutions.

II. ARTICLE 7: THE RIGHT TO JUST AND FAVOURABLE
CONDITIONS OF WORK

25. In the reporting period, the Government of the USSR continued, on a planned basis, to take measures to increase the remuneration of labour and the real income of working people.

26. A new step towards the solution of social problems was taken during the tenth five-year plan. Some 334 billion roubles more than in the previous five-year plan were allocated from the national income to raise the people's standard of living. Real per capita income increased by 18 per cent and doubled in comparison with 1965.

27. In 1982 alone, payments and privileges from social consumption funds, which come largely from the State budget (80 per cent), as well as from the incomes of enterprises and organizations, amounted to 128 billion roubles, or 475 roubles per inhabitant. This is 5.8 billion roubles more than in 1981.

28. Important steps were taken in the 1970s in the area of wages, with new rates and fixed salaries being introduced for more than 100 million manual and non-manual workers.

29. To supplement the basic wage structure, the bonus system is also being expanded. According to the results of the year's work, and with due regard for its quality, in continuous service, manual and non-manual workers are paid additional remuneration. Other kinds of bonuses are also in wide use. The basic purpose of the introduction of the bonus system for remunerating labour is to stimulate the efforts of collectives to improve the results of the industrial operations of enterprises and to increase the labour contribution of each worker to social production.

30. Payments and privileges from social consumption funds accounted for 23.3 per cent of the income structure of a worker's family in 1980.

31. The USSR Law on Work Collectives gives broad powers to work collectives in establishing the organization, norms and remuneration of work. Under article 11 of the Law, work collectives propose and implement measures to introduce advanced forms of labour organization; participate in solving problems relating to the proper use of the collective's savings from the wage fund for incentives to workers who have performed a great amount of work in excess of the existing norms (targets); make proposals for improving the remuneration of work, gearing the wage of each worker to his personal labour input and making him more dependent on the final results of the collective's work; discuss and approve proposals to improve bonuses for workers and other payments and privileges from the material incentive fund; and supervise the implementation of existing labour norms and the conditions for the remuneration of labour.

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32. Under article 14 of the Law, work collectives are given broad powers in the distribution and use of economic incentive funds. They participate in solving problems relating to the use of money from the material incentive fund, the fund for social and cultural measures and for housing construction and the production development fund; they discuss and approve the estimates for the expenditure of these funds and monitor their execution. Money from the material incentive fund and the fund for social and cultural measures and for housing construction, created in enterprises and in organizations, may not be withdrawn without the consent of the work collective. Work collectives participate in solving problems relating to the provision of material assistance, in the proper form, to workers for co-operative or individual housing construction and for improvement of their housing conditions or for the purchase of domestic equipment with money from the material incentive fund, the fund for social and cultural measures and for housing construction and other funds (money) designated for those purposes; they approve the applications of workers who may be eligible for such material assistance.

33. On the basis of article 6 of the Law, work collectives participate in the preparation and discussion of drafts of long-term and short-term plans for the economic and social development of enterprises, institutions and organizations. It should be especially stressed that, under this article, drafts of such plans are submitted for approval after their examination by work collectives. The collectives formulate and receive counter-plans which take into account additional reserves and possibilities; implement measures to execute plans and contractual obligations and to strengthen and develop profit and loss accounting; and approve and implement measures to increase labour productivity, production efficiency and the quality of work and goods produced. The work collectives receive reports from the management on the progress made in the execution of plans and contractual obligations, the reasons for changing plans and the results of industrial management activity, make appropriate recommendations and, when necessary, refer them to the higher organs.

34. Under article 13 of the Law, work collectives participate, through public organizations and in conformity with the laws of the USSR, in solving problems relating to the assignment of leading workers to enterprises, institutions and organizations. These workers are assigned to and released from duty with due regard for the opinion of the work collective.

35. Under article 18 of the Law, the collective of a production brigade, the primary unit of the work collective, gives the management's consent to the appointment of the brigadier and has the right to ask the management to relieve him of his functions as brigadier if he has not justified the trust placed in him by the collective.

36. In the initial report on articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant, reference was made to the efforts made to develop promising areas of Siberia and the far east. It should be noted in this connection that the laws provide additional privileges for persons working in these and other areas with unfavourable climatic conditions, thereby encouraging the influx of personnel into these areas.

37. Article 82 of the Labour Code of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic and the corresponding articles of the labour codes of the other union republics

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establish higher remuneration for work on jobs with harmful working conditions or in harsh climates. In addition, all manual and non-manual workers in enterprises, institutions and organizations in the regions of the far north and comparable localities, receive a monthly salary increment, the amount of which increases with the length of continuous service in those regions, up to established limits. Furthermore, supplementary leave over and above the established annual leave is granted in localities with unfavourable climatic conditions. After a certain length of service in these localities, manual and non-manual workers are eligible for old-age pensions at an earlier age, as well as for additional privileges.

38. The initial report of the Government of the USSR set forth in detail the provisions relating to the regulation of the working and leisure hours of manual and non-manual workers. The working hours of collective farmers are governed by charters and by the collective farm's rules. During heavy field operations (sowing, crop maintenance, laying-in of fodder, crop harvesting, autumn ploughing etc.), if production so requires, the work day on collective farms may be lengthened, in agreement with the trade-union committee, but to no more than 10 hours. At other times of the season, working hours are reduced correspondingly so that the average length over the year does not exceed 7 hours.

39. When production conditions make it impossible to shorten the working day, overtime work is compensated by supplementary days of rest at the rate of up to five days a month; in many cases even more such days may be given in a month. For example, the average length of working hours and times of rest on collective farms corresponds to the normal length of working hours and times of rest of manual and non-manual workers in enterprises, institutions and organizations and calculated over the year does not exceed 41 hours a week.

40. The Government of the USSR has continued to implement comprehensive measures to improve labour protection and sanitation and health measures.

41. The five-year plans for economic and social development of the industrial ministries, combines and enterprises include measures to reduce manual labour and mechanize highly labour-intensive work.

42. A decision dated 29 April 1980 of the State Labour and Social Affairs Committee of the USSR and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions ratified the Schedule Regulations Respecting the Procedure and Conditions for Employing Women having Children and Working Part Time. Under these Regulations, the length of the working day (shift) may be reduced to 4 hours and the working week to 20-24 hours. In addition, all part-time work done by a woman having children is counted both towards her continuous service and towards service in her occupation for the purposes, *inter alia*, of calculating benefits under the State social insurance scheme, State pensions, service bonuses etc.

43. On 22 January 1981, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted the decision entitled "Measures to strengthen State assistance to families with children". This decision for mothers who are working or are in school entitles them to paid leave to look after children until they have reached the age of one year, as well as to additional unpaid leave, counted as part of continuous service and as part of

continuous service in the particular occupation for purposes of pension and other material benefits. Working women with two or more children under 12 years of age are given priority for annual leave in the summer or at a time which is convenient for them; they are entitled to unpaid additional leave of up to two weeks to care for children and the amount of paid leave for the care of a sick child is increased.

44. On 19 August 1982, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted the decision entitled "Additional measures to improve public health care". This decision significantly increased the responsibility of the heads of enterprises and organizations for the strict observance of sanitary rules and norms and labour safety standards and for the implementation of health measures designed further to improve workers' conditions of work and of leisure. It has been proposed that plans for the social and economic development of enterprises should provide measures to improve disease prevention and the health of manual and non-manual workers, and to reduce further the incidence of occupational injuries and diseases.

45. The work collectives are called upon to play an important role in improving labour protection. Pursuant to the USSR Law on Work Collectives (art. 15), they discuss and approve comprehensive plans for improving working conditions, labour protection and health and sanitary measures and monitor the execution of these plans. They make proposals regarding technical equipment, mechanization and automation; improvement of the organization and raising of standards of production; reduction of manual, unskilled and heavy physical labour; and participate actively in implementing such proposals. They devise and implement measures to improve the working conditions and daily life of working women, and to increase the protection of mothers and children. They monitor the use of funds allocated for labour protection and the observance by all workers of the rules and instructions for labour protection in enterprises, institutions and organizations; they discuss problems relating to the use of social insurance funds and make appropriate proposals. They make proposals and take part in the implementation of measures to improve environmental protection. They raise questions about holding accountable persons guilty of violating labour protection rules and environmental protection legislation.

46. The trade unions have broad powers in the area of labour protection. For example, in accordance with the regulation dated 26 August 1966 of the Presidium of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions regarding technical inspectors, and with its supplement dated 20 January 1969, if defects are discovered, as the result of an inspection of individual workshops, tools or machinery by a trade union technical inspector, which might be detrimental to the workers' health, he has the right to prohibit work in the shop or work with the tools, machinery or equipment in question until such time as the defects have been corrected. The technical inspector also has the right to raise before the presidium of the appropriate sectoral trade union committee or council of trade unions the question of suspending work in certain shops or undertakings which do not comply with occupational safety and health requirements.

47. In addition, every enterprise is provided with posts for labour protection and safety engineers to monitor the observance of the existing legislation, instructions, rules and norms for labour protection, safety and industrial hygiene

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in the workshops and services of the enterprise. They also participate in the formulation and introduction of measures to establish safe and healthy working conditions in industry and monitor their implementation. They check the technical condition of equipment in order to ascertain whether it meets safety requirements and, if necessary, suspend its operation in the prescribed manner. The implementation of labour protection legislation is monitored by organs of the procurator's office which are responsible for overall supervision of the precise and uniform execution of the laws by all ministries, departments, enterprises, institutions and organizations and executive and administrative organs of local soviets of people's deputies, co-operatives and other public organizations, officials and citizens.

48. On 7 January 1982, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions adopted a joint decision, entitled "Measures for the further improvement of treatment in sanatoria and health resorts and of leisure for working people and the development of a network of trade-union health resorts" which provided for the implementation in 1982-1985 and in the period up to 1990 of an extensive programme of measures aimed at the further improvement of treatment in sanatoria and health resorts and of the leisure of working people, expansion of the network of sanatoria and health resorts and leisure establishments, primarily of the specialized sanatoria for the treatment of patients with cardio-vascular diseases, locomotive, digestive, nervous and kidney diseases, and sanatoria and health resort establishments for parents and children. In 1982, 60 million people visited sanatoria, holiday hotels, rest homes and tourist centres.

III. ARTICLE 8: TRADE UNION RIGHTS

49. In the initial report it was stated that citizens of the USSR have the right freely to join trade unions and the powers of trade unions were described in detail.

50. At present, the trade unions in the USSR have 132 million members.

51. Article 95 of the Fundamental Principles Governing the Labour Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics stipulates that "the trade unions shall act in conformity with the rules and statutes they adopt themselves; they shall not be obliged to be registered with any State bodies". Soviet legislation contains no provisions preventing the establishment of trade unions in addition to the existing ones. The unity of the trade union movement in the USSR is an outgrowth of its historical development and is regarded by the trade unions themselves as an important advantage compared with fragmentation which leads to weakening and rivalry.

IV. ARTICLE 9: RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY

52. As indicated in the initial report, citizens of the USSR have the right to maintenance in old age, in sickness, and in the event of complete or partial disability or loss of the bread-winner. This right is guaranteed by social insurance of workers and other employees and collective farmers; by allowances for
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temporary disability; by the provision by the State or by collective farms of retirement pensions, disability pensions and pensions for loss of the bread-winner; by provision of employment for the partially disabled; by care for the elderly and the disabled; and by other forms of social security.

53. In the reporting period, the social security system of the USSR underwent further development.

54. For most working people in the USSR, allowances for temporary disability amount to 100 per cent of earnings. An allowance equal to full pay is given, for example, to all manual and non-manual workers who have completed a continuous period of service of at least eight years and to all who have three or more dependent children. An allowance equal to full pay is given for temporary disability resulting from an industrial injury or an occupational disease.

55. Since 1981, an allowance equal to 100 per cent of earnings has been paid to disabled workers in certain categories (disabled veterans and other persons with the same status - decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR of 23 February 1981).

56. Pregnancy and childbirth allowances for women also cover full earnings. The need has been recognized to increase in the near future the length of post-maternity leave for women to 10 weeks with full pay (para. 10 of the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and of the Council of Ministers of the USSR of 22 January 1981). The same decision provides for an extension in the near future of the period during which an allowance is paid for the care of a sick family member.

57. In the period 1981-1983, the size of the special allowances paid on the birth of a child and the monthly allowances for single mothers were significantly increased.

58. An important type of social insurance in the USSR is pension insurance. For the reporting period, the size of pensions continued to increase. There was an increase in the minimum pensions for disability, old age, loss of breadwinner (Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 2 September 1981), those paid to disabled veterans of the Great Patriotic War and to families of soldiers killed in battle (Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 30 May 1980), and to collective farmers and certain other categories of the population.

59. Other kinds of social security are also being introduced. The network of State establishments for the elderly and disabled is growing and living conditions in them are improving. New children's institutions are being built. More than 15 million children are now enrolled in permanent pre-school institutions. Nearly 27 million children and adolescents spent the summer of 1982 at pioneer and school camps and holiday and tourist centres or spent the summer months in the country at children's institutions.

60. The economic and social development plans of the USSR provide for the further improvement of the material and cultural standard of living and of the working and daily living conditions of the Soviet people.
