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ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. In his report on technical assistance to the Government of Equatorial Guinea (E/CN.4/1986/34/Add.2) submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-second session under the item "Advisory services in the field of human rights", the Secretary-General informed the Commission that two legal experts had undertaken a mission to Equatorial Guinea in January 1986 for the purpose of providing assistance in the drafting of certain basic legal texts.
2. The two jurists, Messrs. Fernando Cruz and Oscar Fernández, selected in consultation with Mr. Fernando Volio Jiménez, the expert appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/36, remained in the country for two weeks. They subsequently prepared two complete reports on their work and on the results of their mission, as well as a number of recommendations which they submitted to the Secretary-General in July 1986.
3. The experts gave a most detailed account of the conditions under which their mission took place and, in that connection, they expressed regret that, although they had received the warmest and most pleasant welcome from the authorities and had a number of most interesting and informal discussions with the Minister of Justice, the President of the Supreme Court and other

magistrates and high officials, the kind co-operation extended to them had not been able to remove a number of serious difficulties which, in the end, had affected the results of their mission.

4. In many cases, they pointed out, those difficulties had been caused by lack of the material conditions required to carry out any form of codification work: many of the laws applicable in Equatorial Guinea, for instance, had not been issued in the country, because there were no proper printing facilities, and they were therefore unobtainable.

5. Regarding the lack of qualified personnel, the experts indicated that on a number of occasions they had not been able to meet the competent official to discuss a specific issue, because he had been absent on a mission of an entirely different nature which he had had to undertake at the last minute as no other trained official was available.

6. In their recommendations, the experts suggest a number of concrete measures, without which, they fear, the work of codification can hardly proceed satisfactorily.

7. These reports and recommendations were transmitted to the Government of Equatorial Guinea for their comments. Furthermore, at a meeting held in New York on 13 November 1986, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Foreign Minister of Equatorial Guinea and stressed the importance of obtaining his Government's comments on the reports as soon as possible. On that occasion, the Assistant Secretary-General renewed the offer made earlier by the Centre for Human Rights to the Government of Equatorial Guinea to organize a national training course on human rights in that country; he also mentioned the availability of fellowships.

8. Subsequently a reminder was sent to the authorities of Equatorial Guinea. However, at the time of completion of this report, no reply had been received by the Secretary-General, nor had the Government of Equatorial Guinea given any indication of its needs in that respect.