

On the suggestion of the Chairman, the Group then unanimously elected Branimir Jankovic, Rector of the University of Nis, Yugoslavia, as Vice-Chairman of the Group.

The Chairman said that Luis Marchand-Stens of Peru would arrive in New York on Tuesday, 2 July, while Felix Ermacora of Austria would be able to join the Group at a later stage of its work.

The Working Group then heard and approved a set of draft cables, which would be sent to the Governments of Portugal and South Africa, major trade union organizations of the world, liberation movements and individual witnesses for the purposes of facilitating future investigation of the questions before the Group.

Members of the Group requested that the Secretary-General address to the Governments of Portugal and South Africa a Note Verbale asking them for any information relevant to the mandate of the Group and for any indication whether the Group would be allowed to enter the Portuguese territories in Africa and the territory of South Africa for the purpose of visiting prisons and detention camps, of hearing the persons detained in these institutions and of contacting trade union organizations.

One cable was intended for distribution among the large number of liberation movements which are operating in the African countries falling within the mandate of the Group. In this cable, the Working Group invites the organizations to provide it, as soon as possible, the names and addresses of persons prepared to supply information relevant to the mandate of the Group by oral testimony or in writing.

In cables addressed to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU), the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the International Organization of Employers (IOE), the Group requested them to supply it as soon as possible with the names and addresses of persons prepared to furnish information in writing or orally with regard to the question of violations of trade union rights.

The Working Group also approved a draft cable to possible individual witnesses residing overseas, inviting them to contact the Group as soon as possible for the

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purpose of making arrangements for hearing their testimony on matters before the Group, during its forthcoming trip to some countries of Europe and Africa.

The Chairman said that the Working Group had a number of witnesses to hear in New York, including two persons who had escaped from imprisonment in Southern Rhodesia.

It was agreed that the hearing of witnesses would start on Wednesday, 3 July.

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WORKING GROUP ON TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS
IN SOUTH AFRICA BEGINS SERIES OF MEETINGS

The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts established by the Commission on Human Rights in 1967 and now authorized to investigate the treatment of prisoners in South Africa, South West Africa (now Namibia), Southern Rhodesia and Portuguese Territories in Africa, as well as violations of trade union rights in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, began its series of meetings at Headquarters this morning and considered the organization of its work.

The Working Group adopted the agenda for its forthcoming meetings, elected Branimir Jankovic (Yugoslavia) as its Vice-Chairman, approved a set of draft cables and agreed to start the hearing of witnesses on Wednesday, 3 July.

The Working Group will meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow, 28 June.

Terms of Reference

Originally, the Working Group was set up by the Commission on Human Rights to investigate charges of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, detainees and persons in police custody in South Africa. Later, the Economic and Social Council requested the Group to carry out an investigation of allegations regarding infringement of trade union rights in South Africa.

Early this year, both bodies enlarged the mandate of the Working Group.

Under the mandate given by the Commission on Human Rights (resolution 2 (XXIV)), it was authorized to extend its area of investigations, in relation to prisoners, also to Namibia, Southern Rhodesia, Mozambique, Angola and all other Portuguese Territories in Africa.

The Commission also empowered the Working Group to investigate the consequences which flow from the illegal arrest and arraignment of nationals of Namibia, a Territory under direct United Nations administration, by the South

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African authorities; and those elements of the situation in South Africa which might establish the existence of the crime of genocide, in accordance with the United Nations convention on that subject.

The Economic and Social Council requested the Group to include Namibia and Southern Rhodesia in its examination of the violations of trade union rights (resolution 1302 (XLIV)). Investigation of this matter in Southern Rhodesia should be carried out in co-operation with the United Kingdom, the administering Power, and in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), "taking due account of the latter's primary responsibility in this matter".

The composition of the previously five-member Group was also increased by one member from Asia. Now the Working Group consists of the following persons, serving in their personal capacity: Ibrahima Boye (Senegal), the Chairman-Rapporteur of the Group; Felix Ermacora (Austria); N.N. Jha (India); Luis Marchand-Stens (Peru); Waldo E. Waldron-Ramsey (United Republic of Tanzania); and Branimir Jankovic (Yugoslavia).

Adoption of Agenda

In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Boye, who is also the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations and the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, suggested adoption of the following agenda for the current series of meetings of the Working Group:

1. Organization of work;
2. Investigation of the treatment of prisoners in South Africa, Namibia, Southern Rhodesia, Mozambique, Angola and all other Portuguese Territories in Africa; of the consequences which flow from the arrest and arraignment by South African authorities of nationals of Namibia; and of the conclusion contained in paragraph 1137 of the first report of the working group on the question of genocide, in accordance with the mandate given by the Commission;
3. Examination of the infringements of trade union rights in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, in accordance with the mandate given by the Economic and Social Council;
4. Adoption of the reports of the Working Group to both bodies.

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

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