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CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. With reference to the inquiry on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, eight additional replies were received from the following Governments during the period from 1 April to 20 July 1985: Bahamas, Iran, Kiribati, Mauritius, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. Thus, a total number of 62 States have submitted information on the implementation of the Code. The present addendum contains an analysis of the replies of the eight countries mentioned above.
2. As in the countries mentioned in the main report (A/CONF.121/12), provisions of the Code were already reflected in the existing national laws and regulations of all eight countries and, therefore, specific legislative action to implement the Code was not considered to be necessary.
3. Furthermore, in all countries law enforcement officials were provided with the text of the Code, or with similar provisions, in their own languages. All eight Governments agreed on the importance of using the provisions of the Code in training courses, and most of them had, in fact, organized national seminars on the role of law enforcement officials in the protection of human rights.
4. Additional measures to achieve a better implementation of the Code were proposed by several Governments, as for instance, the preparation of a commentary to the Code and relevant administrative instructions.
5. In nearly all countries, law enforcement officials were civil servants and their remuneration was in accordance with the payment systems of other State employees. Their salaries, as well as the requirements for recruitment and further training, were laid down in general regulations. Only in one country was the police subject to the laws governing the armed forces. Tests to determine intellectual and physical ability, as well as inquiries made by selection boards, were considered sufficient to provide a picture of the candidate's qualities for recruitment or promotion on a competitive basis.

6. Precise regulations on the use of force and firearms were of great concern to the Member States. As regards such regulations for prison staff, in one country, it was prohibited for the institutional personnel to be armed; should conflicts arise, a regional armed assistance unit would be called in. Another Government reported that in the event of serious attacks by prisoners, the police would be informed immediately. If possible, no force should be used by the prison staff before the arrival of the police.

7. In order to supervise the careful implementation of the principles contained in the Code and to redress violations by law enforcement officials, control systems and investigative procedures had been established in all countries. In one country, a comprehensive system of investigation by public prosecutors, who had the right to replace the police officer in certain circumstances, had been instituted.

8. Ways and means of enhancing the implementation of the Code at the national level included advanced training of law enforcement officials and the promotion of human rights-oriented standards. At the regional and international levels, many Governments proposed the exchange of information and experience on progress made in these and related fields. All eight Governments emphasized that the United Nations and its regional and interregional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders played an important role in accomplishing the above task and that their activities should be expanded and strengthened further.

This archiving project is a collaborative effort between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and American Society of Criminology, Division of International Criminology. Any comments or questions should be directed to Cindy J. Smith at CJSmithphd@comcast.net or Emil Wandzilak at emil.wandzilak@unodc.org.