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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARD MINIMUM RULES FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

Addendum

During the period of 1 June to 25 July 1985, four additional replies were received to the latest inquiry on the implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, namely from Argentina, Bahamas, Mauritius and Mozambique. Taking into account the 58 countries which had submitted their replies on this subject before 31 May 1985, the total number of Member States from which information had been received amounted to 62. This addendum contains information provided by the four additional replies.

Echoing the responses contained in the main report, the Governments showed great concern regarding the implementation of the Rules and made considerable efforts to put an end to abuses and illegal measures in the treatment of prisoners. One country amended its legislation in order to conform to the provisions of the Rules. It was further emphasized that living conditions in prisons should be as similar as possible to those outside. Furthermore, one Government reported that it had issued a special decree extending all the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials to its prison staff.

Various observations were made in connection with some specific points covered by the Rules. One country reported that, in order to alleviate conditions of accommodation, a list of all prisoners under trial was supplied to the prosecutors' offices, so as to alert them regarding the period that detainees had already spent in prison. Furthermore, discussions had been held with members of the criminal justice system regarding the use of alternatives to imprisonment, with a view to reducing overcrowding.

With respect to special categories, one country reported that welfare officers had been recruited to work for various categories to ensure that the required needs were met. Shortage of equipment was also pointed out. This shortage was reported to be counterbalanced with increased staff training and the expansion of academic and recreational programmes.

Regarding prison work, one country reported its endeavours to provide inmates with a spectrum of activities as broad as possible.

One country mentioned that, in compliance with the provisions of the Rules, corporal punishment had been recently abolished.

This archiving project is a collaborative effort between United Nations

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International Criminology. Any comments or questions should be directed to

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