

136. The Working Group at its fifth session had before it reports from relatives concerning the disappearance of four persons and decided to transmit them to the Government of the Philippines together with a request for any information the Government might wish to send (letter dated 21 September 1981). Three of the persons reportedly disappeared at the same time, in July 1981, from a military detention centre in Bataan where they had been held after having been arrested. The fourth person also reportedly disappeared from official detention in June 1981. Subsequent to the transmission of these reports to the Government, a non-governmental organization informed the Working Group that the fourth person had been returned to the detention centre from which he had been reported to have disappeared. Summaries of the reports transmitted to the Government of the Philippines and copies of the Government's replies are on file with the secretariat and available for consultation by members of the Commission.

137. At its fifth session, the Group authorized its Chairman to contact the representative of the Philippines Government in order to emphasize the wish of the Group to receive, as a matter of urgency, details about the cases referred to in paragraph 135 above. This was done. The Working Group through a letter dated 10 November 1981, informed the Government of the Philippines of the Group's wish to be able to consider at its sixth session any information the Government might wish to send. It also stated that it would be happy to meet with a representative of the Philippine Government should the Government so wish. As of the date of adoption of this report the information requested has still not been received.

R. Information concerning Sri Lanka and communications with
the Government of that country

138. The Working Group at its fourth session had before it information from a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council concerning the establishment in Sri Lanka, in the second half of 1979, of a Parliamentary Select Committee under the Chairmanship of the Sri Lankan Minister of Trade Lalith Athulathumudali, for the purpose of investigating certain events which had occurred in July 1979 in the northern part of Sri Lanka. Among the events to be investigated was the reported disappearance of three persons.

139. The Working Group, in a letter dated 29 May 1981, informed the Government of Sri Lanka of the Group's establishment and its mandate, and stated that it would appreciate receiving any information the Government might wish to send on the Select Committee, including the Committee's report when available. By a letter dated 13 November 1981, the Government of Sri Lanka was informed of the sixth session of the Working Group and of the Group's wish to consider at that session any information the Government might wish to transmit. By a letter dated 26 November 1981, the Government of Sri Lanka informed the Working Group that the Parliamentary Select Committee had not been able to conclude its sittings. The Government stated that the Committee had held about 30 sittings and was expected to conclude its work in the next few months. The Government said a copy of the Committee's report would be provided to the Group.