

Zaire

126. Since it was established the Working Group has transmitted to the Government of Zaire reports on the enforced or involuntary disappearance of 13 men which had been received from a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.<sup>7/</sup> These disappearances reportedly occurred in 1975 (five persons), 1977 (one person), 1978 (two persons), 1979 (one person), 1981 (six persons). The arrests reportedly took place in the region of Bas-Zaïre or in the southern regions of Kivu and in Uvira and soldiers or military intelligence officers were reported as having made the arrest in some cases. In most cases the arrested person was reportedly taken to a named detention centre such as Kikwit prison, the military headquarters of Kalemie (in the north of Shaba), the military prison of N'Dolo in Kinshasa. In one case, a person arrested with the missing person reported sharing detention with him until his release. The Working Group has written to the Government of Zaire requesting information. During its eighth session the Group met with the Permanent Representative of Zaire to the United Nations Office at Geneva who stated his Government's interest in co-operating with the Working Group in order to clarify the reports transmitted.

Other matters

127. The Working Group in 1981 transmitted to the Government of Lesotho reports on two disappearances which allegedly took place in September 1981.<sup>8/</sup> One person, a church leader reportedly disappeared when his house was attacked and another also connected with the same church allegedly disappeared after he had gone to a police station. In this latter case the Group subsequently learned that the body of the person had been found. In 1982, responding to a request for information from the Working Group, the Government of Lesotho reported that the one remaining missing person had been killed as the result of conflict between two warring factions and that a police investigation had been opened and the Government was seeking to resolve the crime.

128. In its second report<sup>9/</sup>, the Working Group referred to a Parliamentary Select Committee set up in Sri Lanka for the purpose of investigating certain matters, including the reported disappearance of three persons. The Government of Sri Lanka told the Group that this Committee had concluded its work, that the Report was being printed, and that a copy would be sent as soon as it was available. The Government was thanked for its assistance.

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<sup>7/</sup> E/CN.4/1492, paras. 148-151.

<sup>8/</sup> E/CN.4/1492, paras. 118-119.

<sup>9/</sup> E/CN.4/1492, paras. 138-139.

129. One auxiliary procedure adopted by the Group should be reported to the Commission. A few cases of alleged disappearances have been handled on an informal basis, and are not referred to elsewhere in this report. This has been done, in the exercise of the Group's discretion and in order to facilitate the solution of cases by the Group where news has been received of a recent case and where rapid intervention might help to save a life or at least regularise a detention. Either the Government concerned was not previously contacted by the Group or the details available did not measure up to the standards required for a formal transmission; or in some cases both. No Government refused to co-operate and in some cases clarification was achieved.