

2378 (XXIII). Assistance to Iran in connexion with the earthquake of August 1968

The General Assembly,

Noting with deep regret the tragic consequences of the severe earthquake in Iran, which caused the death of some 10,000 persons and devastation over an area of more than 5,000 square kilometres, including the complete destruction of ten towns and 170 villages,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2034 (XX) of 7 December 1965,

Noting the energetic and urgent measures taken by the Government of Iran to provide relief for the victims of the earthquake and to restore normal living conditions in the devastated areas,

Noting also the plans prepared by the Government of Iran for the reconstruction of the devastated areas,

Aware of the very high cost of the realization of these plans,

Further noting with appreciation the assistance rendered to the victims of this disaster by many nations, the United Nations family of organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals,

1. *Expresses its deep sympathy* to the people and Government of Iran regarding this catastrophe;

2. *Invites* Member States and non-governmental organizations to consider ways and means of rendering whatever further assistance they may be in a position to offer to the Government of Iran;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the heads of the specialized agencies, the Executive Directors of the World Food Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in the light of the funds available, to bear in mind the needs of the Government of Iran in connexion with its plans for the reconstruction of the devastated areas when deciding on the services to be provided to Member States.

*1705th plenary meeting,
23 October 1968.*

2391 (XXIII). Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity

The General Assembly,

Having considered the draft Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity,

Adopts and opens for signature, ratification and accession the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution.

*1727th plenary meeting,
26 November 1968.*

ANNEX

Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity

PREAMBLE

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Recalling resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations 3 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 170 (II) of 31 October

1947 on the extradition and punishment of war criminals, resolution 95 (I) of 11 December 1946 affirming the principles of international law recognized by the Charter of the International Military Tribunal, Nürnberg, and the judgement of the Tribunal, and resolutions 2184 (XXI) of 12 December 1966 and 2202 (XXI) of 16 December 1966 which expressly condemned as crimes against humanity the violation of the economic and political rights of the indigenous population on the one hand and the policies of *apartheid* on the other,

Recalling resolutions of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations 1074 D (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965 and 1158 (XLI) of 5 August 1966 on the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity,

Noting that none of the solemn declarations, instruments or conventions relating to the prosecution and punishment of war crimes and crimes against humanity made provision for a period of limitation,

Considering that war crimes and crimes against humanity are among the gravest crimes in international law,

Convinced that the effective punishment of war crimes and crimes against humanity is an important element in the prevention of such crimes, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the encouragement of confidence, the furtherance of co-operation among peoples and the promotion of international peace and security,

Noting that the application to war crimes and crimes against humanity of the rules of municipal law relating to the period of limitation for ordinary crimes is a matter of serious concern to world public opinion, since it prevents the prosecution and punishment of persons responsible for those crimes,

Recognizing that it is necessary and timely to affirm in international law, through this Convention, the principle that there is no period of limitation for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and to secure its universal application,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

No statutory limitation shall apply to the following crimes, irrespective of the date of their commission:

(a) War crimes as they are defined in the Charter of the International Military Tribunal, Nürnberg, of 8 August 1945 and confirmed by resolutions 3 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 95 (I) of 11 December 1946 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, particularly the "grave breaches" enumerated in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims;

(b) Crimes against humanity whether committed in time of war or in time of peace as they are defined in the Charter of the International Military Tribunal, Nürnberg, of 8 August 1945 and confirmed by resolutions 3 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 95 (I) of 11 December 1946 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, eviction by armed attack or occupation and inhuman acts resulting from the policy of *apartheid*, and the crime of genocide as defined in the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, even if such acts do not constitute a violation of the domestic law of the country in which they were committed.

ARTICLE II

If any of the crimes mentioned in article I is committed, the provisions of this Convention shall apply to representatives of the State authority and private individuals who, as principals or accomplices, participate in or who directly incite others to the commission of any of those crimes, or who conspire to commit them, irrespective of the degree of completion, and to representatives of the State authority who tolerate their commission.

ARTICLE III

The States Parties to the present Convention undertake to adopt all necessary domestic measures, legislative or otherwise,