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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on the protection and defence of human rights

Rapporteur: Mr R. JOHNSTON

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PE 48.680/fin.

At its sitting of 20 April 1977 the European Parliament referred to the Political Affairs Committee the motion for a resolution tabled by:

- Mr Fellermaier and Mr Sieglerschmidt, on behalf of the Socialist Group, pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure, on the protection of human rights (Doc. 60/77 - 20 April 1977);
and the motion for a resolution tabled by:
 - Mr A. Bertrand, on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group
Mr Bangemann, on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group
Mr Rivierez, on behalf of the Group of European Progressive Democrats
Lord Reay, on behalf of the European Conservative Group,
pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure, on the protection of human rights throughout the world (Doc. 62/77 - 20 April 1977);

and instructed the committee to draw up a report for the May part-session.

At its meeting of 25 and 26 April 1977 the Political Affairs Committee appointed Mr Johnston rapporteur and unanimously adopted the resolution.

Present: Mr A. Bertrand, chairman, Mr Radoux, vice-chairman, Mr Johnston, vice-chairman and rapporteur, Mr Amadei, Mr Blumenfeld, Lord Brimelow, Mrs Cassanmagnago-Cerretti (deputizing for Mr Scelba), Mr Ewans, Mr Jahn, Mr Mitchell, Mr Patijn, Lord Reay, Mr Ripamonti (deputizing for Mr Colin), Mr Schuijt, Mr Seefeld, Mr Sieglerschmidt and Mr Spinelli.

The rapporteur will present the explanatory statement orally.

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The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the protection and defense of human rights

The European Parliament,

- profoundly concerned at the renewed outbreak and escalation of violations of human rights throughout the world,
- reaffirming, as a democratic assembly, its role as guardian of fundamental freedoms, and recalling its numerous resolutions calling for their respect;
- resolutely determined to uphold the implementation of the fundamental principles embodied in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which the European Community and its Member States are signatories;
- considering that the Final Act of Helsinki, an essential factor in the policy of détente aimed at promoting cooperation among all its signatories, contains a principle entitled 'Respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, including the Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief';
- considering that the Final Act of Helsinki has rightly been described as the Charter of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms by all the citizens of the countries signatory to the Final Act who are deprived of their human rights and basic freedoms;
- having regard to the report by the Political Affairs Committee (Doc.89/77):
 1. Reaffirms its solidarity with all men and women throughout the world who suffer violations of their freedoms;
 2. Calls on the institutions of the Community and on the Foreign Ministers of its Member States meeting in political cooperation:
 - (a) to adopt and uphold a joint position at the preparatory meeting to be held in Belgrade in June 1977 to ensure that all the principles and provisions of the Final Act of Helsinki are respected by all the signatories;

- (b) to obtain recognition of the link between the pursuit of a policy of détente and willingness to respect fundamental rights and freedoms;
 - (c) to promote throughout the world - and particularly within the United Nations Organization and its Human Rights Commission, whose role should be strengthened - general awareness of this problem in order to multiply and reinforce the means of combating all violations of human dignity;
 - (d) to be ready to make joint representations to the governments of the countries where human rights are violated;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, to the Foreign Ministers of the nine Community Member States meeting in political cooperation, to the Parliaments and Governments of the Member States of the Community and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr FELLERMAIER and Mr SIEGLERSCHMIDT on behalf of the Socialist Group pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure on the protection of human rights (Doc. 60/77 - 20 April 1977)

The European Parliament,

- concerned at the fact that human rights are being violated in many member states of the United Nations,
- reaffirming that it is essential to achieve a real improvement in the position of those whose basic rights and basic freedoms are being violated,
- taking account of the fact that, as past experience has shown, the most effective means in each individual case must be used to protect human rights,
- welcoming the undertaking by the signatory states of the Final Act of Helsinki to respect human rights and basic freedoms,
- recalling that the European Community signed the Final Act of Helsinki,
- noting that there is an inseparable link between this Final Act, which was the outcome of the policy of détente, and the fact that it has meanwhile become the Carta of the civil rights movements,
- convinced, therefore, that the movement discernible in the Eastern European signatory states since Helsinki has a chance of further development only if the Belgrade Conference leads to a continuation of the policy of détente,

calls on the Foreign Ministers of the Member States meeting in political cooperation to ensure that their representatives in Belgrade

- (a) speak with one voice,
- (b) endeavour to have all three parts of the Final Act of Helsinki treated equally,
- (c) stress the link between the Helsinki decision on respect for human rights and the continuation of the policy of détente,
- (d) direct their efforts in respect of the violation of human rights at a real improvement in the position of those affected.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by

Mr A. BERTRAND on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group

Mr BANGEMANN on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group

Mr RIVIEREZ on behalf of the Group of European Progressive Democrats

Lord REAY on behalf of the European Conservative Group

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the protection of human rights throughout the world

(Doc. 62/77 - 20 April 1977)

The European Parliament,

- alarmed at the escalation throughout the world of campaigns of repression and the repeated violations of elementary human rights,
 - deeply concerned in particular at the attitude of countries which continue to violate and infringe those clauses of the Final Act of Helsinki guaranteeing freedom of thought, liberty of conscience, freedom of religion and respect of human rights and the other basic freedoms,
 - aware, in its capacity as a democratic assembly, of its role as a guardian of the basic freedoms, and recalling its many previous resolutions on the respect of human rights in various countries,
1. Stresses the importance it attaches to the basic principles of the United Nations Charter, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to their application by the signatory states;
 2. Reaffirms, in the spirit and the letter of the Act of Helsinki, that the respect of human rights is an essential prerequisite for peace and justice likely to foster friendly relations and cooperation between all states, and that the very application of the provisions of Helsinki therefore calls for the denunciation of violations of these human rights and freedoms;
 3. Supports the repeated demands for the application of the humanitarian clauses of the Helsinki agreements;
 4. Calls on the Foreign Ministers of the Member States meeting in political cooperation:
 - (a) to give their attention to all violations of human rights everywhere in the world,
 - (b) to give priority in the near future to concerted European measures to promote human rights and basic freedoms within the framework of the United Nations, and
 - (c) to improve the powers of investigation of the Human Rights Commission, in particular by introducing procedures similar to those already used by the ILO in connection with the respect of trade union freedoms
 5. Calls on the Community to speak with one voice at the Belgrade meeting in June 1977 and to denounce unequivocally all violations of the Final Act of Helsinki;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.