

the question of the danger of a revival of the concepts of nazism and racial intolerance;

9. *Appeals* to regional intergovernmental organizations to consider this question at the regional level;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, particularly those which control mass information media of world or continental scope, the United Nations and its various bodies, specialized agencies and international and national organizations to increase public awareness of the danger of a revival of nazism and racial intolerance, especially among young people, by education, by the preparation and dissemination of information on this subject and by recalling the history of nazism and its crimes and of racial intolerance;

11. *Calls upon* all States to take legislative and administrative measures to prevent activities of any kind in favour of nazism and the concept of racial superiority;

12. *Decides* to place the question of measures to be taken against ideologies and practices based on terror or on incitement to racial discrimination or any other form of group hatred on its agenda and under continuing review, and urges other competent organs of the United Nations to do likewise, so that appropriate measures can be taken promptly as required;

13. *Confirms* the principles of international law with regard to the eradication of nazism, and appeals to all States to act in conformity with those principles.

*2025th plenary meeting,
18 December 1971.*

2840 (XXVI). Question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 170 (II) of 31 October 1947 on the extradition and punishment of war criminals and its resolution 95 (I) of 11 December 1946 affirming the principles of international law recognized by the Charter of the International Military Tribunal, Nuremberg, and the judgement of that Tribunal,

Recalling further its resolution 2712 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 in which it condemned the war crimes and crimes against humanity at present being committed as a result of aggressive wars and the policies of racism, *apartheid* and colonialism,

Again noting with regret that the numerous decisions adopted by the United Nations on the question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity are still not being fully complied with,

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

Convinced that the effective punishment of war crimes and crimes against humanity is an important element in putting an end to and preventing such crimes, in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in the strengthening of confidence and in promoting co-operation between peoples as well as peace and international security,

Expressing its deep concern at the fact that many war criminals and persons who have committed crimes

against humanity are continuing to take refuge in the territories of certain States and are enjoying their protection,

Affirming that war crimes and crimes against humanity are among the most dangerous crimes under international law,

Firmly convinced of the need for international co-operation in the thorough investigation of war crimes and crimes against humanity, as defined in article I of the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, and in bringing about the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of all war criminals and persons guilty of crimes against humanity who have not yet been brought to trial or punished,

1. *Urges* all States to implement the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and to take measures in accordance with international law to put an end to and prevent war crimes and crimes against humanity and to ensure the punishment of all persons guilty of such crimes, including their extradition to those countries where they have committed such crimes;

2. *Further urges* all States to co-operate in particular in the collection and exchange of information which will contribute to the detection, arrest, extradition, trial and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity;

3. *Again calls upon* all States which have not yet done so to become as soon as possible parties to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity;

4. *Affirms* that refusal by States to co-operate in the arrest, extradition, trial and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to generally recognized norms of international law;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to consider the principles of international co-operation in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity and to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

*2025th plenary meeting,
18 December 1971.*

2841 (XXVI). Creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2062 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2333 (XXII) of 18 December 1967, 2437 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2595 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 concerning the creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1237 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 on the creation of an Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and of Council resolution 1238 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 concerning the implementation of human rights through a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or some other appropriate international machinery,

Taking further note of the views expressed in the general debate on this question and of the draft reso-

lution submitted to the Third Committee for consideration during the current session,²⁴

Considering that there was not sufficient time during its twenty-sixth session to conclude the study of this item,

1. *Decides* to give consideration to this item at its twenty-eighth session;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session the documentation pertaining to the study of this question.

*2025th plenary meeting,
18 December 1971.*

2842 (XXVI). Question of the elderly and the aged

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2599 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and its decision of 15 December 1970 recommending that a high priority be given to the question of the elderly and the aged,

Taking note with appreciation of the preliminary report of the Secretary-General,²⁵ which reviews the major socio-economic problems of the elderly and the aged and the impact of technological and scientific advances on their well-being,

Bearing in mind the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with reference to respect for the dignity and worth of the human person,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which emphasizes the protection of the rights and the assuring of the welfare of the aged,

Bearing in mind that demographic projections and anticipated social change indicate that the position of the elderly and the aged in society is expected to deteriorate in many industrialized as well as in many developing countries unless appropriate policies are initiated to deal with their needs and to ensure opportunities for their participation in national life and their contribution to the development of their communities,

Considering that the interaction of social, cultural, economic and technological factors affecting the elderly and the aged calls for integrated policies and appropriate programmes at the country level,

Noting that an exploratory cross-national survey is being conducted by the Secretary-General, in co-operation with several countries, to analyse the changing socio-economic role and status of old people,

Bearing in mind the importance for the elderly and the aged to be informed of the interest and concern of the United Nations about their welfare and needs,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the study of the changing socio-economic and cultural role and status of the aged in countries of different levels of development and to prepare, within existing resources and in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization and other

interested specialized agencies, a report suggesting guidelines for national policies and international action related to the needs and the role of the elderly and the aged in society in the context of over-all development, particularly in countries where the socio-economic problems of the aged are marked;

2. *Requests* Governments to disseminate, in the best way they deem appropriate, the information contained in the present resolution for the benefit of the elderly and the aged;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on this subject to the Economic and Social Council in 1973, through the Commission for Social Development, and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session on the action taken on the present resolution.

*2025th plenary meeting,
18 December 1971.*

2843 (XXVI). Criminality and social change

The General Assembly,

Recalling the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and control under General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950 and the leading role in this area assigned to it by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948, which the Council reaffirmed in its resolutions 731 F (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959, 830 D (XXXII) of 2 August 1961 and 1086 B (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965,

Taking account of the note by the Secretary-General on criminality and social change,²⁶

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration unanimously adopted by the Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Kyoto, Japan, from 17 to 26 August 1970,²⁷ which underscored the seriousness of the crime problem in many countries and called attention to the urgent need to give priority to the strengthening of international co-operation for crime prevention,

Conscious of the serious threat that criminality in its diverse forms and new dimensions presents to economic and social development and the quality of life,

Aware of the limited time available at its twenty-sixth session for the General Assembly to consider the matter adequately,

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1584 (L) of 21 May 1971 on criminality and social change and the action taken to implement the conclusions of the Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

2. *Decides* to consider the question of crime prevention and control in depth at its twenty-seventh session.

*2025th plenary meeting,
18 December 1971.*

²⁶ A/8372.

²⁷ The text of the Declaration is contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1584 (L). See also the report entitled *Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.71.IV.8).

²⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 61, document A/8594, paras. 5 and 6.

²⁵ A/8364.