

SAVA PENKOV: NATURE JURIDIQUE ET PORTÉE
DE LA DÉCLARATION UNIVERSELLE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

This is a study contained in *Recueil d'études et de documents* published in Sofia by the *Association bulgare de droit international* for International Human Rights Year, 1970. Before expounding on the legal value of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the author gives a historical background and a reminder of some opinions on this subject, particularly of Soviet publicists.

Emphasizing the interdependence of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration, he expresses the opinion that the latter is neither a treaty nor a convention. Consequently it may not be considered as a source of legal obligations like international agreements. It must however be borne in mind that the United Nations adopted the Declaration unanimously and that the development of national and international rules on human rights and the extension of international humanitarian law are influenced by that declaration.

According to Penkov, the Declaration, as an international deed, does in certain cases at least have a moral, ideological, political and legal significance. It has given new impetus to the codification of international humanitarian law.

J. H. P.

MALCOLM S. ADISESHIAH: "LET MY COUNTRY AWAKE"¹

In this book of up-to-date interest, the main theme recurs and the same idea is discernible in the chapters which are followed by a full bibliography: all men and all countries must awaken. Although we cannot yet conceive of tomorrow's world in all its fullness and reality, the modern charters of human rights and the humanitarian conventions remind us of an essential human fellowship. That is

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the theme which is the link between the various economic, social and political aspects of development.

Although human welfare is the first objective of the vast international effort we today call "development", it must be realized that it is only possible through education which "should promote understanding, co-operation, tolerance and charity" and should work in favour of peace.

The title of the book—which is a collection of studies on various subjects including development and the mind of man; what tomorrow's culture may be; the human crisis; the role of the university; UNESCO at work; towards a community of thought—is borrowed from a poem by Rabindranath Tagore. But the country which should awaken and which the great Indian poet evokes is the country of each one of us. The optimistic conclusion which is drawn by Mr. Adiseshiah, retired as Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, is that a day will come when all men will recognize allegiance not only to the country of their birth, where they were bred and nourished, where they first felt solidarity, but with the world where all men will be brothers and will work not to secure material wealth but to contribute to the happiness of their neighbour.

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¹ UNESCO, Paris, 1970.