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ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL  
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Communication dated 5 March 1979 from the  
Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United  
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

1. The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to his unnumbered note of 31 August 1978 from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, has the honour to transmit to him herewith the information provided by the Government of Ecuador on the measures taken and systems adopted in Ecuador for the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of the disabled.
2. The Permanent Mission of Ecuador requests that Ecuador's comments and provisions on the matter, which are being furnished in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/133, should be circulated as an official document of the thirty-fourth session.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND  
SOCIAL WELFARE

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION\*

In establishing the National Council for Vocational Rehabilitation on 28 November 1973, under the jurisdiction of this Ministry, our country recognized that all people have the right to vocational rehabilitation and training. Realizing that the high percentage of disabled persons would, sooner or later, constitute a problem for the national economy, it established the appropriate body to meet the needs associated with disability in general on a progressive basis and within the scope of the resources of the State.

This Ministry has set up vocational rehabilitation centres in the main cities of Ecuador: Quito, Guayaquil and Cuenca.

These centres apply the principles and methods of vocational guidance, vocational training and the placement of disabled persons.

They provide orthopaedic and prosthetic appliances at cost and even, in deserving cases, free of charge.

The centres maintain liaison with all the medical and educational services of the geographical area concerned in order to provide better care to the disabled.

The Ministry has introduced special measures with regard to the diagnosis and treatment of the communication problems of disabled children and young people, and it receives advice from the ILO on the subject of vocational rehabilitation.

It has organized national meetings to keep the medical and psychiatric professions, social workers, teachers and workshop instructors up to date on problems relating to the rehabilitation of the handicapped.

Agreements have been concluded with the country's voluntary sector for the purpose of providing financial support to the extent permitted by the budget.

Most important of all, there is legislation on the vocational rehabilitation of the disabled which ensures State action to deal with this problem. The legislation in question is Decree No. 1327 of 27 November 1973.<sup>a</sup>

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\* The text of Decree No. 1327 is available in Spanish in the United Nations Secretariat.