

**Communiqué issued by the Secretary
to the European Commission of Human Rights**

INFORMATION NOTE No. 148

**on the 276th Session of the
European Commission of Human Rights**

(Strasbourg, Monday 2 March - Friday 13 March 1998)

The 276th Session of the European Commission of Human Rights (Council of Europe) was held at the Human Rights Building in Strasbourg from 2 to 13 March 1998. At the close of the session the Secretary gave the following information on matters dealt with in the Commission:

The Commission dealt with 715 applications under Article 25 of the Convention and also examined one application under Article 24 of the Convention. Among the applications examined by the Commission were the following:

A. EXAMINATION OF ADMISSIBILITY

- I. 77 applications declared admissible
- II. 371 applications declared inadmissible
- III. 11 applications struck off the list of cases
- IV. 95 applications communicated to Governments

B. EXAMINATION OF ADMITTED APPLICATIONS

- I. 15 references to the European Court of Human Rights
- II. 123 Reports adopted:
 - (i) 5 Reports under Article 28 para. 2 of the Convention (friendly settlement)
 - (ii) 3 Report under Article 30 of the Convention (striking off)
 - (iii) 115 Reports under Article 31 of the Convention (merits)

II. Reports adopted

(i) Reports adopted under Article 28 para. 2 of the Convention (friendly settlement)

(a) **One Report was adopted by the *plenary Commission* under Article 28 para. 2 of the Convention, concluding that a friendly settlement had been secured:**

- KHRISTIANSKO SDRUZHENIE "SVIDETELI NA IEHOVA"
(CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES) v. Bulgaria
(Application No. 28626/95)

The case concerned the refusal to re-register the applicant association pursuant to a 1994 law, and the alleged suppression of its activities and those of its members. In settlement, the Government agreed to introduce legislation as soon as possible to provide for civilian service for conscientious objectors, as an alternative to military service, and to register the applicant association as a religion. The applicant undertook with regard to its stance on blood transfusions to draft a statement for inclusion in its statute providing that members should have free choice in the matter for themselves and their children, without any control or sanction on the part of the association.

(b) **4 Reports were adopted by the *Chambers* under Article 28 para. 2 of the Convention:**

- Anthony REDFERN and others v. the United Kingdom
(Applications Nos. 24842/94, 25276/94, 25278/94, 25282/94, 25284/94 and 26063/94)

The case concerned the committal of the applicants to prison for non-payment of the poll tax, and the absence of legal aid for the proceedings. In settlement, the Government agreed to pay the applicants respectively £4,000, £1,250, £4,000, £2,500, £3,000 and £1,750, and also to pay a total of £15,700 in respect of the legal costs relating to the six applications.

- H.D. v. France (Application No. 26928/95)

The case concerned the length of criminal proceedings. In settlement, the Government agreed to pay the applicant 60,000 francs.

- Maria Virgínia RODRIGUES DIAS v. Portugal (Application No. 31201/96)

The case concerned the length of civil proceedings. In settlement, the Government agreed to pay the applicant 600,000 escudos, including 200,000 escudos in respect of costs.

- Roger JACOB v. France (Application No. 32162/96)

The case concerned the length of civil proceedings. In settlement, the Government agreed to pay the applicant 40,000 francs.