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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Note verbale dated 19 May 1980 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in connexion with the invitation sent on his behalf to attend the "Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance and Relief to the Kampuchean People to be held at Geneva on 26 and 27 May 1980, has the honour to state the following.

The Soviet Union supports efforts to render humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people. Together with other socialist countries it has provided and provides considerable bilateral assistance to the People's Republic of Kampuchea with a view to the speediest rehabilitation of the economy and normalization of the lives of the people of that country. In 1979-1980, the volume of non-reimbursable aid alone being provided by the Soviet Union to that country amounts to about \$220 million. In addition, more than \$68 million have been allocated for rehabilitation of Kampuchea's economic structures and medical and educational institutions.

The relief provided under various international programmes is also of great importance to the Kampuchean people. The Government and local authorities of the People's Republic of Kampuchea are successfully co-operating with international organizations in supplying food and drugs to the population of the country. For all those sincerely interested in expanding aid to the people of Kampuchea, ample

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\* A/35/50.

opportunities are available in the form of existing channels for such aid. Furthermore, there can be no objection to the idea of holding an international meeting which would be genuinely humanitarian in nature and would seek to achieve additional contributions in aid to the Kampuchean people.

However, the meeting scheduled to be held at Geneva on 26 and 27 May 1980 would involve measures clearly dictated by political and not humanitarian motives. As may be seen from statements by the representatives of a number of countries which put forward the idea of holding such a meeting, as well as from the contents of the resolution adopted at their initiative by the Economic and Social Council, they envisage discussing at that meeting questions relating exclusively to the competence of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, without the representatives of that country being present. Such an approach can be viewed only as an attempt at blatant interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State, the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

In the light of the foregoing, the Soviet Union is unable to attend the meeting in question.

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations has the honour to request the Secretary-General to have this note distributed as a document of the General Assembly under item 12 of the preliminary list.

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