



General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/41/315 ✓
E/1986/71
29 April 1986
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-first session
Items 12, 39, 70 and 81 of the
preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL
QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1986
Item 8 of the provisional
agenda**
REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 29 April 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement of the Soviet Government issued on 23 April 1986.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this statement distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 12, 39, 70 and 81 of the preliminary list, and under item 8 of the provisional agenda of the second regular session of 1986 of the Economic and Social Council.

(Signed) Y. V. DUBININ

* A/41/50/Rev.1.

** E/1986/100.

ANNEX

Statement of the Soviet Government issued on 23 April 1986

The world is passing through a troubled and crucial stage of development which calls for political will, new approaches, far-sighted solutions and practical action to achieve a radical improvement in the international situation. This is a time in which it is essential to acquire the great art of living together, both in the world as a whole and especially in certain regions.

In its advocacy of détente, complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of this century, establishment of a comprehensive system of international security and development of co-operation - proposals which were clearly reflected in the documents of the Twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union - the USSR also takes fully into account the interests of the countries of the Asian and Pacific region. Important processes are taking place in that region which cannot but affect the positions of the Soviet Union, as one of the major Asian and Pacific Powers, and of its friends and allies, as well as the interests of international peace and security.

Under present conditions, it is particularly necessary to exercise mutual restraint and not allow any actions that would worsen the political climate in that part of the world or hinder the consolidation and development there of positive processes favouring continued dialogue and the search for ways of improving the international situation.

At the same time, actions of a kind that lead to increased tension in the region are being undertaken by the United States and its allies. It would appear that certain political circles in the United States and Japan do not envisage the future of the Asian and Pacific region in any other terms than confrontation between various countries. In practice, they are attempting for this purpose to establish the structure and machinery of a so-called "Pacific community" which can eventually be transformed into an exclusive regional grouping or into yet another militarist bloc.

Adopting a highly selective approach to the potential membership of the "Pacific community", its initiators clearly have no interest in ensuring that the planned organization really constitutes a representative forum for discussing and solving the long-standing economic problems or for changing the inequitable structure of economic and commercial relations between States in that region.

The world has on many occasions witnessed how the screen of economic aid and co-operation and the objective processes of the internationalization and integration of the world economy have been used to advance and support imperialist plans to establish military groupings, "mutual defence treaties", and so forth.

In the view of the Soviet Government, if such a course of events in a part of the world in which the interests of many States converge and are interrelated is not halted, then this can lead to a serious aggravation of tension in the Asian and Pacific region.

Rather than confrontation between States, the basis for friendly relations and the consolidation of trust and understanding among peoples in this region, as in others, can and must be the development of equitable co-operation open to all. In such an approach - and all peoples have an interest in this - there can be no place for the setting up of blocs and counterblocs, the creation of all kinds of "axes" or "triangles", the formation of exclusive groupings or the cultivation of protectionism and discriminatory measures in the conduct of economic and commercial relations.

The Soviet Government considers that, in spite of their differing political systems, ideologies and outlooks, the peoples of the Asian and Pacific region have vital interests in common. In view of the growing interdependence of States, it is many times more difficult, if not totally impossible, for countries to solve their problems alone or in isolated groups, and what is required is joint constructive efforts by all States of the region, regardless of their political and social systems.

The elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of this century and prevention of the militarization of outer space, as proposed by the Soviet Union, would rid the peoples of the whole world - including, of course, the Asian and Pacific region - of the fear posed by the nuclear and chemical threat, would bring about radical change in the situation, raise the security of States to a new level and contribute to the establishment of favourable conditions for the development of mutually advantageous co-operation.

The Soviet Union also proposes that bilateral and multilateral consultations be used as a means of resolving contentious issues, reaching better understanding and building confidence, and thereby of achieving the prerequisites for holding an all-Asian forum for joint efforts to find constructive solutions. A separate conference of Pacific countries could be prepared and held in an appropriate manner in order to consider matters of security, including economic security. Bearing in mind the political and economic potential of the countries of the Pacific basin, the holding of such a conference - and care should be taken to ensure that it resulted in important decisions - would be a major event for the region and would have a positive impact on the situation in the world as a whole.

The adoption of confidence-building measures and reduction of the activities of naval fleets in the Pacific Ocean would have a stabilizing effect.

The Soviet Union would welcome the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Asian and Pacific region. The decision by the States of the South Pacific to declare that region a nuclear-free zone was greeted with a most positive response in the Soviet Union.

It goes without saying that all Pacific States wishing to do so should take part in the consideration of matters of security in the Pacific Ocean and in the elaboration of solutions. A number of States have already come forward with various proposals aimed at strengthening security in that region. Those proposals deserve serious attention.

In accomplishing the large-scale tasks of accelerating social and economic development, the Soviet Union gives priority to the districts of Siberia and the Far East, which are part of the Asian and Pacific region. The Soviet Union has developed stable, mutually advantageous trade and economic relations with many States in the region. The growth of the industrial and agricultural base, the completion of the building of the Baykal-Amur railway, the development of the richest oil and gas, coal and other energy deposits and the economic exploitation of new timber resources in that region are in fact establishing additional important material prerequisites for the more active participation of the USSR in the process of the international division of labour and trade, economic, scientific and technical co-operation with the Asian and Pacific countries.

The Soviet Union proposes that all the interested countries of that part of the world should begin a wide-ranging exchange of views on the development of commercial, economic, technological, scientific and cultural co-operation on an equitable, stable and mutually beneficial basis. The areas of such co-operation might include the development of productive capacity, the training of cadres, the use of new sources of energy, including nuclear energy, the improvement of means of transport, communications, the emergence of new forms of commercial, economic and financial co-operation with due regard for the interests of the developing countries of the region, the exchange of research and of scientific and technical information, the development of measures to protect the environment and make rational use of the living and mineral resources of the oceans and seas, the peaceful exploration of outer space for the benefit of all, joint action in medicine and public health and joint action in response to natural disasters and in order to eliminate their effects.

Obviously these complex, diverse and immense problems call for the joint preparation of large-scale and long-term projects and programmes and for the involvement of all the countries concerned in their implementation. It might be possible to consider the available suggestions within the framework of the existing mechanisms of the United Nations, in particular in the context of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The Soviet Union is firmly convinced that the development of wide-ranging co-operation, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, among all the countries of Asia and the Pacific, irrespective of differences in their social systems, is consistent with the fundamental interests of the States of that region, and will further the restructuring of international relations on an equitable and democratic basis. Our country is prepared to play a most active role in such peaceful co-operation in the region, and to use to that end the economic, scientific and technical resources at its disposal.

The strengthening of good-neighbourly and friendly relations among all the Asian and Pacific countries and a concerted effort by them in the common search for constructive solutions to the security problems of Asia and the Pacific not only would have a favourable effect on the situation in that region, but would contribute to the maintenance and consolidation of universal peace.