



**General Assembly**  
**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/41/462  
E/1986/121  
15 July 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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  
Agenda item 8  
REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 14 July 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the comments of my Government on the statement of the Soviet Government issued on 23 April 1986, distributed as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council (A/41/315-E/1986/71). I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter 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 agenda of the second regular session of 1986 of the Economic and Social Council.

The above-mentioned statement by the Soviet Government alleges that "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", and that "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 military bloc".

These allegations, which are totally extraneous to the main body of the statement, are utterly groundless.

\* A/41/50/Rev.1.

Japan believes that the promotion of co-operation among various countries in the Asian and Pacific region, fully utilizing their vast potentiality for development, is of great importance in that it will contribute to the maintenance of peace and the promotion of prosperity in the region as well as in the whole world.

Contrary to the Soviet allegations, Japan has pronounced its firm belief that the following points should be borne in mind in promoting such regional co-operation:

(a) Such co-operation should centre on the economic, cultural and technological fields and should not assume a military or political character;

(b) Such co-operation should be open and must not be exclusive vis-à-vis other regions;

(c) Initiatives from ASEAN and other developing countries in the region should be respected;

(d) Initiatives from the private sector should be respected and encouraged.

Japan has made the above-mentioned points abundantly clear on numerous occasions. It is also a fact that many regional countries or groups of countries such as ASEAN and the South Pacific Forum are developing a continuous and constructive dialogue with their industrialized neighbours. The participants, the thrust and the objectives of such dialogues are diverse, but they all share one characteristic: none of them is aimed at military co-operation.

(Signed) Yasuo NOGUCHI  
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.  
Minister and Head of Chancery

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