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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 7 July 1986 from the Permanent Representative
of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to request you to circulate the attached joint statement of the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic concerning the "Contribution of the economic organs of the United Nations to the International Year of Peace" as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 12 of the provisional agenda, and of the Economic and Social Council, under item 3 of the agenda of the second regular session of 1986.

(Signed) E. NOWORYTA
Permanent Representative of Poland
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Joint statement by the socialist countries concerning the
"Contribution of the economic organs of the United Nations
to the International Year of Peace"

1. The socialist countries attached great importance to the celebration in 1986, in accordance with a decision of the United Nations General Assembly, of the International Year of Peace. They are motivated in this by their belief that there is an inseparable link between the aim of maintaining lasting peace and security and the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis, the development of broad and mutually beneficial international economic co-operation and the achievement of international economic security. As emphasized in the Statement of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty entitled "To avert the nuclear threat and bring about a turn for the better in European and world affairs", the socialist countries "consider questions of securing peace and international security, ending the arms race and going over to disarmament in close connection with the settlement of other global problems facing mankind, such as the overcoming of economic backwardness and the eradication of hunger, poverty, epidemics and illiteracy in vast areas; the meeting of mankind's growing needs for energy, raw materials and food resources; environmental protection; and the peaceful exploration of the world ocean and outer space".

2. The detailed programme for the complete and universal elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, the freeing of humanity from the threat of self-destruction, and the guaranteeing of reliable security for present and future generations that was set out in the statement made on 15 January 1986 by M. S. Gorbachev, General-Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, would not only provide humanity with more security but would permit the release in the genuinely foreseeable future of enormous financial and material resources for use in solving the global problems of our age and meeting the needs of social and economic development, including those of the developing countries. The principle that has been imposed by the militarists of armament instead of development must give way to the opposite state of affairs: disarmament for development.

3. The socialist countries once again draw the attention of the international community to the concrete programme for the improvement of international economic relations, the achievement of international economic security and confidence-building in this important sphere of relations between States that was put forward by the economic summit of the countries members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, held at Moscow in 1984, and is of direct significance for the activity of the United Nations economic organs in the International Year of Peace. Implementation of that programme would, objectively, meet the aspirations and be consistent with the interests of all States and would foster the attainment by developing States of genuine economic independence.

The socialist countries consider that one of the most important tasks of the United Nations must be to contribute effectively towards improving international economic relations, confidence-building in this important sphere of relations between States, and the achievement of international economic security through the

creation of a comprehensive system of international security. The United Nations economic organs and the States Members of the United Nations participating in their work can assist in this by drawing up principles for such a system in the economic sphere that would provide for the following measures:

The exclusion from international practice of all forms of discrimination;

The renunciation of the policy of economic blockades and sanctions where such a policy is not directly provided for by recommendations of the world community;

A joint search for ways of bringing about a just resolution of the problem of indebtedness;

The establishment of a new world economic order guaranteeing equal economic security to all States;

The elaboration of principles for the use for the benefit of the world community, particularly the developing countries, of part of the resources released as a result of the cutting of military budgets;

The pooling of efforts in the exploration and peaceful use of space, and the resolution of the global problems on which the fate of civilization depends.

In this connection, the socialist countries support the appeal of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, set forth in the Memorandum entitled "The international economic security of States, an important condition for the improvement of international economic relations", to all countries to show political will as regards the creation of the conditions necessary for the achievement of international economic security.

4. The socialist countries consider that the celebration of the International Year of Peace must, as all the social and economic organs, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system are bound to do under General Assembly resolutions 38/188 J and 39/151 E, contribute to real progress in United Nations activities on the topic of the interrelation between disarmament and social and economic development. That would be fully consistent with the aspirations of the peoples who, in their longing to escape from backwardness and attain the level of the highly industrialized countries, associate their prospects of liberation from dependence on the West, which is draining their economies, with the limitation and elimination of armaments, the reduction of military expenditure, and the transfer of resources to social and economic development goals. The socialist countries hereby express their conviction that this topic will occupy an extremely important place during the forthcoming international conference on disarmament and development.

5. The United Nations economic organs could make an important contribution to the fulfilment of the objectives of the International Year of Peace and, therefore, to the improvement of international economic relations and the achievement of international economic security by taking decisions aimed at stabilizing the overall economic, monetary and financial situation and giving effect to the texts

adopted by the United Nations on the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis, particularly the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the implementation of which is being blocked by Western countries.

6. The socialist countries consider that the International Year of Peace could become an important milestone in the improvement of international economic relations if an end was put to the policy of undermining equitable and mutually beneficial economic co-operation and of using international economic ties to exert pressure on and interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States, to retard the independent economic and social development of countries that have liberated themselves and to reinforce their exploitation by transnational corporations. It is time to exclude from economic relations between States methods contrary to the principles of the United Nations, such as unilateral refusal to implement duly-concluded economic treaties and agreements, the organization of commercial, credit and technological blockades, and discrimination in the spheres of trade and scientific and technological relations.

Acts of those kinds create in international relations a situation of tension and mistrust, disrupt the world economy and world trade, undermine their legal bases, and constitute an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of the International Year of Peace and the ensuring of international economic security.

7. The socialist countries view the disastrous situation of the developing countries, including their enormous foreign debt, as a major, world-wide problem in which lie the true sources of many conflicts in Asia, Africa or Latin America. In conjunction with the profits taken out of them each year, which have now attained the sum of \$200 billion, the developing countries' accumulated debt burden means the narrowing of their development prospects and, inevitably, the further aggravation of their already extremely serious social, economic and other problems.

The noose of trillion-dollar debt that is now choking tens of countries and whole continents is a direct consequence of the arms race. The militarists accordingly have a vested interest in preserving the system of neo-colonial super-exploitation and making it still harsher, for the resources derived from it go to enrich the monopolies and finance the budget deficits and military programmes of Western countries.

With this in mind, the socialist countries are of the view that the celebration of the International Year of Peace can contribute to the just resolution of the problem of external indebtedness and to the halting of the practice of using the monetary and financial difficulties of individual countries to exert political pressure upon them and to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

8. The solution of this whole set of problems would permit the creation of a new system of international economic relations founded on the principles of equal rights and mutual benefits. That would be in the interests of the social and economic progress of all countries and peoples.