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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 30 September 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request you to have the enclosed communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic entitled "Assistance of the German Democratic Republic to developing countries and liberation movements in 1985" circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 29, 79, 80, 82 and 143.

(Signed) Harry OTT
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary

Deputy Minister of
Foreign Affairs

ANNEX

Communication dated 30 September 1986 of the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the German Democratic Republic on the assistance of
the German Democratic Republic to developing countries and
national liberation movements in 1985

1. The German Democratic Republic stands firmly by the side of the developing countries in their quest for economic independence. Since its inception, it has supported the just demands of the nationally liberated States in Africa, Asia and Latin America for the establishment of a new international economic order. The German Democratic Republic displays active solidarity towards and is developing equitable and friendly relations with all peoples and States struggling for their national and social liberation. This principled position was reaffirmed in the documents adopted in April 1986 at the Eleventh Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), the leading political force of the country.
2. Despite complicated international conditions, the development of the German Democratic Republic as a politically stable and economically efficient State continued also in 1985. Co-operation with the active assistance to developing countries were further expanded.
3. Extensive assistance provided to these States and national liberation movements on the basis of the proven principles of equal intergovernmental relations increased by 9.9 per cent over the previous year. Material and financial assistance granted by the German Democratic Republic in the bilateral and multilateral framework to developing countries and national liberation movements exceeded 2 billion marks in 1985, thus totalling 2,001.2 million marks or 0.86 per cent of the country's national income produced in that year. The voluntary contributions of the German Democratic Republic to the operational activities of the United Nations system form part of this assistance.
4. A considerable portion of the assistance went to African countries. Further information in this connection is contained in the communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic of 26 May 1986, which was circulated as an official document at the thirteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, held in May 1986 (A/S-13/8-E/1986/115). In close co-operation with the other member States of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and in the spirit of the joint statement of socialist countries of 30 May 1986 (A/S-13/14), the German Democratic Republic will also in future contribute to the implementation of the United Nations programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, adopted at the thirteenth special session.
5. In 1985, assistance from the German Democratic Republic to developing countries and national liberation movements focused on:

Promotion of an integrated and balanced development of the economic potentials of the developing countries, notably in building an industrial basis and enhancing efficiency in agriculture;

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Assistance in the development of natural resources on the basis of mutual benefit and on terms which guarantee the full sovereignty of and respect for the legitimate rights of the co-operating parties;

Advancement of co-operation in the field of planning, particularly in the elaboration of national plans and programmes for economic and social development;

Support in setting up efficient public and co-operative sectors in the economies of the developing countries in accordance with their national development programmes;

Aid in creating the necessary scientific and technological potential;

Assistance in the fields of public education, vocational training, basic and advanced training of national cadres, and health care;

Provision of relief aid to help overcome the aftermath of natural disasters and other emergency situations.

6. Socio-economic development presupposes an available potential of qualified national cadres. This is also the underlying objective of resolution 1986/73 of the Economic and Social Council on the development of human resources which was submitted by the German Democratic Republic and adopted by consensus at the second regular session of the Council in 1986 and which deals with United Nations activities concerning an integrated professional development of cadres as an elementary basis for socio-economic progress in developing countries.

7. The German Democratic Republic attaches great attention specifically to this issue. At the beginning of 1986, a total of 27,647 nationals from developing countries were undergoing vocational training or upgrading courses (at levels below technical college or university education) at enterprises or institutions in the German Democratic Republic. In line with the needs of the developing countries, training is available primarily in various industries, in mining, agriculture, public education, health care, and the planning and management of economic processes at the national level. In 1985, a total of 10,973 foreign cadres took up vocational training or upgrading courses; 8,993 cadres completed their basic or advanced training, bringing the number of nationals from developing countries who since 1970 have received job training in the German Democratic Republic, to a total of about 80,000.

8. In 1985, a total of 2,126 nationals from developing countries graduated from universities, colleges or technical schools in the German Democratic Republic, while 2,615 nationals commenced studies at such institutions, thus raising the total number of graduates from those countries in the German Democratic Republic since 1970 to around 19,900. In early 1986, some 7,500 students from developing countries were enrolled in institutions of higher learning in the German Democratic Republic mainly for courses in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, agricultural sciences, transport and communications, civil engineering, economics, pedagogy and medicine.

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9. Through the secondment of experts, the German Democratic Republic directly assists developing countries in elaborating and implementing programmes and projects of crucial importance to the development of their national economies. Last year, 1,031 experts financed by the German Democratic Republic took up their assignment in developing countries. Since 1970, more than 22,600 specialists funded by the German Democratic Republic have worked in developing countries, notably economists, engineers, teachers and vocational instructors, physicians and other medical personnel. At the beginning of 1986, there was a total of 1,156 experts from the German Democratic Republic on assignment in developing countries.

10. As in the past, funds were set aside also in 1985 for the provision of medical care to nationals from developing countries. In the period between 1970 and 1985, approximately 6,400 patients were afforded free medical treatment, including hospitalization, in the German Democratic Republic. In 1985 alone, the respective figure was 1,244. In addition, medical care is provided free of charge to nationals who are undergoing professional training and upgrading or who are studying in the German Democratic Republic.

11. On various occasions, the German Democratic Republic rendered emergency assistance to help alleviate the consequences of natural disasters and other emergency situations. Extensive assistance was rendered especially to drought-stricken Ethiopia. Since the end of 1984, the German Democratic Republic has provided relief supplies and other services worth some 100 million marks (e.g., food, aircraft and pilot services, agricultural machinery). Emergency consignments were also sent to Angola, Mozambique, Nicaragua, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Emergency aid was also granted to Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Congo, Madagascar, Mali, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Zimbabwe.

12. The German Democratic Republic regards assistance particularly to the economically least developed countries as an important task. Last year, its material and financial assistance to those States totalled 283 million marks, which is 0.12 per cent of the country's national income produced in that year. Under these schemes, 743 nationals of these countries graduated from universities, colleges or technical schools and 898 cadres completed vocational training or upgrading courses. At the beginning of 1986, more than one-third of the experts from the German Democratic Republic on assignment in developing countries were working in least developed countries.

13. As far as multilateral activities are concerned, the German Democratic Republic has always supported the activities of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies designed to promote the scientific and technical potential of developing countries. In co-operation with these bodies and agencies, the German Democratic Republic has repeatedly organized courses, study tours and field training for groups and individuals. In 1985, more than 330 cadres from developing countries were staying in the German Democratic Republic for the purpose of advanced training. The courses on industrial planning, on the production of plant protectants and pesticides and in the field of printing organized in conjunction with UNIDO and the UNEP/UNESCO courses for specialists of developing countries on ecologically based resource development, land management and environmental impact assessment in developing countries, were continued also in 1985.

14. In 1984/85, the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic, in co-operation with UNESCO and IAEA, held international training courses and organized study tours, meetings of specialists and seminars, inter alia, in the following fields;

Tectonics, seismology and seismic risk evaluation;

Bio-technological fundamentals of bio-mass and product formation;

Digital image processing;

Training of inspectors;

Advanced training of radiological health and safety officers in government authorities;

The use of N-15 isotopes in agriculture;

Irradiation techniques in industry;

Manufacture, control and use of radioisotopes, including radioactive-labelled pharmaceuticals.

15. The German Democratic Republic considers the dynamic development of foreign trade as well as stable economic, scientific and technical co-operation on an equal footing to be the main way of assisting the developing countries in their effort to establish and enhance effective socio-economic infrastructures, especially endeavours towards industrialization, towards modernization of agriculture as well as towards overcoming economic problems.

16. Increasingly, the German Democratic Republic sells licences to developing countries for the promotion of their national economies. In 1985, some 68 licence agreements were concluded with 23 developing countries.

17. The construction of factories and plants, including the transfer of relevant know-how and the training of the necessary skilled work force and managerial personnel has come to be an essential element in economic co-operation between the German Democratic Republic and developing countries.

18. In early 1986, the German Democratic Republic assisted in the realization of 68 industrial enterprises and other projects in developing countries; 25 such projects were completed in 1985. They involve, in particular, the supply of installations and equipment for the transport and communications sector; electrification projects, the production of building materials, machine-building, textile and printing industries; animal husbandry and farm produce processing, as well as equipment for hospitals, schools and universities. Furthermore, agreement was reached in 1985 on the construction of 33 projects in 17 developing countries.

19. The German Democratic Republic will also in the future stand up for the peoples' right to national sovereignty and self-determination, for peace and

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disarmament. It will support developing countries in their efforts to achieve genuine economic independence, just as it will contribute to establishing and strengthening just international economic relations, and will promote international economic security.
