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REPRESENTATION BY GREECE

The following communication, of 11 May 1968, addressed by the Permanent Representative of Greece to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, is submitted to the Committee on Contributions for consideration:

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his Note No. FI 312/1 dated 5 April 1968 concerning the session of the Committee on Contributions which opened at Headquarters on 1 May 1968.

In this connexion, this Permanent Mission would like to note that the assessment for the Greek contribution to the United Nations budget has been recently increased once again. Indeed, the assessment for the three-year period 1965-67 was raised from 0.23 per cent to 0.25 per cent; it has been raised to 0.29 per cent for the three-year period 1968-1970.

While being aware that the Committee on Contributions drew up the scale of assessments taking into account national income statistics for the years 1963, 1964 and 1965, this Mission would nevertheless wish to make the following observations, availing itself of the opportunity kindly granted by the Secretary-General's above-mentioned Note.

General Assembly resolution 1927 (XVIII) requested the Committee on Contributions "in calculating rates of assessment to give due attention to the developing countries in view of their special economic and financial problems". This criterion, which, in the view of this Mission, is just as pertinent as the criterion of national income, should be taken fully into account in establishing the assessment of each individual country-member. In accordance

with the above resolution, the purpose of which is to avoid inflexibility in determining the rates of assessment, the Committee on Contributions should hold under review all the relevant factors which determine the over-all picture and the dynamics of a member's economic and financial situation at a given time.

Further, it should be observed that the current system for establishing the scales of assessment places certain countries with a per capita income between \$300 and \$1,000 at a disadvantage in comparison with countries with less than \$300 or more than \$1,000 per capita income. The General Assembly resolution quoted above, however, makes no distinction between countries with a per capita income of less than \$300 and those with a per capita income of more than \$300, so that both categories of countries should be treated alike. In this connexion, the Permanent Mission of Greece would like to refer to paragraphs 19 to 23 of the Mexican memorandum dated 30 April 1968 (document A/CN.2/R.255) which give a clear picture of the paradoxical situation resulting from the current system.

In the view of this Mission, special attention should also be given, within the framework of General Assembly resolutions 1927 (XVIII) and 2118 (XX), to developing countries whose contributions have been substantially increased since their admission. It fully supports the position taken with respect to this matter by the Government of Mexico in the above-mentioned memorandum, and feels that the general proposals contained therein should be taken into serious consideration by the Committee on Contributions.

The Permanent Mission of Greece would be grateful if the Secretary-General could submit the above observations to the Committee on Contributions, and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to His Excellency the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 11 May 1968
