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COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
Thirty-seventh session
New York

REPRESENTATION BY POLAND

The following communication dated 7 April 1977 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions is submitted to the Committee for its consideration.

"As the Committee on Contributions is now in session to avail itself of its mandate under resolution 31/95 of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, inter alia, requesting the Committee 'to study urgently and in depth ways and means of increasing the fairness and equity of the scale of assessments in the light of views expressed by Member States at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly'. I wish to refer to the assessment of Poland's contribution which between two successive scales was given a very steep increase by having been raised from the level of 1.26 per cent to 1.40 per cent.

Consequently, at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly Poland was unable to accept the proposed scale of assessments. Our substantiated reasons thereto, also in the light of the letter of the Acting Permanent Representative of the Polish People's Republic of 28 May 1976 to Your Excellency, were presented in the debate on the question in the Fifth Committee of the thirty-first session.

Given the terms of reference of the Committee on Contributions at this year's session, under resolution 31/95, the Government of Poland hopes for appropriate corrections to be introduced, mitigating the contested figure of 1.40 per cent.

In soliciting for the understanding on the part of the Committee on Contributions of the important considerations in favour of reverting to a fair and equitable assessment of my country's contribution, I wish to extend to you and to the membership of the Committee the full co-operation of the Government of Poland and its appreciation of your efforts to amend the scale accordingly.

I shall be most grateful to Your Excellency for bringing the urgent question of Poland's contribution to the attention of the distinguished Members of the Committee for their careful consideration and fair recommendation to the General Assembly."

The text of the communication dated 28 May 1976 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, together with an annex thereto, was submitted to the Committee for its consideration at its thirty-sixth session in 1976 (A/CN.2/R.365 and Add.1). For the convenience of the Committee, that communication is reproduced as an annex to the present document.

"On the instructions of my Government and in connection with this year's work of the Committee on Contributions on the new scale of assessments of Member States' contributions to the United Nations regular budget for the forthcoming years, I have the honour to hereby inform you that in the relevant calculations of the transfer to dollars of the Polish national income, a co-efficient of 1 US dollar to 33.20 zlotys should be applied.

"In substantiating the above, I wish to recall that so far, there has been no uniform exchange rate in Poland in relation to Western currencies. In fact, there exist several different rates, dependent as they are on the kind of transactions or currency transfers. None of these rates can be applicable as a synthetic co-efficient to define the national income in dollars.

"In view of the foregoing, any fair calculation of the per capita national income for the purposes of assessing the scale of Poland's contribution to the budget of the Organization, requires application of an economically equitable co-efficient. Although between 1971 and 1974, due to Western currencies' fluctuations, there have been changes in some exchange rates in Poland vis-à-vis the US dollar, yet they have not led to working out of a standard, economically equitable rate of exchange.

"For the reasons above, I shall be very grateful to Your Excellency for bringing the question to the attention of the distinguished Members of the Committee on Contributions in the process of the latter's deliberations on the rate of assessment of Poland's contribution. May I add, in conclusion that the co-efficient in question [1 US dollar to 33.20 zlotys] is at present broadly applied in various currency operations. I, therefore, rest assured that the Committee on Contributions will deem it proper to accept the co-efficient for the purpose of calculating Poland's contribution.

"ANNEX

"The co-efficient of 33.20 zlotys to 1 US dollar has been in use since January 1972 inter alia in the following international financial operations:

- tourist exchange purposes,
- transfer of pensions to individuals in Poland,
- social security payments to individuals in Poland,
- indemnities due to Polish citizens,
- financial transfer of amounts arising from inheritance settlements due to Polish citizens in Poland,
- most transactions of the PeKaO Bank Trading Corporation, Warsaw, Poland /branches all over the world/.

"It should be noted that in the above operations, during the period under consideration /1972-1974/ there were examples of an even higher co-efficient in use than 33.20 zlotys which ranged up to the sum of 66.00 zlotys to 1 US dollar."
