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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Letter dated 17 December 1976 from the Permanent Representative  
of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of  
the General Assembly

The Group of 77 met yesterday afternoon to take note of the decision by members of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation to postpone their Ministerial Meeting, which was to have taken place between 15 and 17 December, to a date sometime in the first half of next year. Discussion in the Group reflected disappointment at the fact that the meeting has had to be postponed and at the meagre results yielded by the Paris Conference so far. The meeting also took into account the wish of the General Assembly, expressed in its resolution 31/14 of 19 November 1976, that the results of the Conference should be assessed in the course of the current session. The Group also issued a communiqué containing its views on the subject, a copy of which is enclosed.

In the light of the postponement of the final Ministerial Meeting of the Conference, the Group of 77 was of the view that the current session of the General Assembly should not close on 21 December as previously decided and that it should be reconvened in a resumed session to discuss agenda item 66, entitled "Development and international economic co-operation: implementation of the decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventh special session".

I would request that this letter as well as the enclosed communiqué of the Group of 77 developing countries be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Iqbal AKHUND  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of  
Pakistan to the United Nations  
Chairman of the Group of 77

ANNEX

Communiqué issued by the Group of 77 developing countries

1. Following the decision of the countries participating in the Conference on International Economic Co-operation not to convene the concluding Ministerial Meeting on 15 to 17 December 1976 and to hold that meeting in the first part of 1977, the Group of 77 met at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 16 December 1976, to consider the situation. The Group took note of that decision.

2. The Group also noted that, as Minister Pérez Guerrero, the Co-Chairman of the Conference, stated to the press:

"The developing countries of the Group of 19 were prepared to meet on the original dates, but they have accepted the postponement in view of the argument advanced that at this time some industrialized countries of the Group of 8 are not able to assume the political position which will ensure the success of the Conference and that early in the next year the prospects appear favourable. The initiative for the postponement did not come from the Group of 19 but it arose from the Group of 8."

3. The developing countries had agreed to participate in the restricted Conference on International Economic Co-operation on the understanding that it would seek to translate into action the agreements and understandings reached at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and also seek new areas of agreement on issues affecting the world economy. The developing countries expected the Conference to lead to concrete action to resolve the fundamental problems arising from the inequitable economic relations between the developed and the developing countries, make a significant contribution to the development of the developing countries and thereby promote the prosperity of all nations, the ultimate objective of the New International Economic Order. This expectation was reinforced by the consensus reached at the seventh special session of the General Assembly for concrete action to resolve the economic problems of the developing countries in certain specific areas.

4. The developing countries have become increasingly concerned that after a whole year, during which their economic conditions have continued to deteriorate, no progress has been registered at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation, despite the fact that the Conference was to have submitted its final conclusions to the General Assembly in December 1976.

5. The developing countries have presented detailed and specific proposals for concrete action in all the areas of the work of the Conference. There has been no positive response to these proposals from the developed countries; the few proposals put forward by them were limited in nature.

6. It is in this perspective that the General Assembly, in its resolution 31/14, has expressed its deep concern and disappointment at the failure of the Conference

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to achieve any concrete results so far, and its profound concern at the adverse effect which the failure of the Conference will have on international economic co-operation. The Assembly has urged all the participants in Paris, especially the developed countries, to ensure the success of the Conference and to respond positively to the proposals put forward by the developing countries.

7. While taking note of the postponement of the concluding Ministerial Meeting, the Group of 77 affirms the hope and expectation of the developing countries that positive and concrete results in all areas under consideration at the Conference will be forthcoming at the meeting which should be held in the early part of 1977. The Group expects the developed countries also to demonstrate the necessary political will and vision required to achieve substantial and real progress in the dialogue and to promote solutions to the grave and urgent problems affecting the developing countries and the world economy. The Group of 77 reiterates its conviction that the achievement of substantive and concrete results in all areas of major concern is a prerequisite for the success of the Conference. The developing countries will not be prepared to consider marginal results on peripheral issues as constituting such a success.

8. The Group of 77 also attaches great importance to the achievement of substantive results in the negotiations taking place in other forums, particularly in the current negotiations on commodities, including on the establishment of a common fund, the multilateral trade negotiations and the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting of the Trade and Development Board on the problem of indebtedness of the developing countries.

9. The Group of 77 wishes to emphasize once again the central role of the United Nations, especially the General Assembly, in the field of international economic co-operation. The General Assembly decided in its resolution 31/14 "to consider during its present session the results of the concluding Ministerial Meeting of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation", which has now been postponed to the early part of next year. In view of this, the Group of 77 considers that the present session of the General Assembly should not be closed on the scheduled date. A resumed meeting of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly should be convened in the early part of 1977 to consider the results of the concluding Ministerial Meeting of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation and other relevant negotiations which are under way.

10. In this context, the Group of 77 expressed the general desire to consider convening a meeting of the developing countries at an appropriately high political level to assess the situation and to co-ordinate their strategy.

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