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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

Letter dated 24 February 1969 from the Permanent Representative of
the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In a letter dated 20 February 1969 (A/7269/Add.2) you announced your decision to appoint the Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Romania to the remaining four seats on the Preparatory Committee, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII).

The Byelorussian SSR was included in the Preparatory Committee without consultation with its Government or with the Permanent Mission of the Byelorussian SSR to the United Nations. Such action on your part can only be regarded as arbitrary and contrary to the practice followed in establishing United Nations bodies, and, in effect, as a violation of the sovereign rights of States Members of the United Nations.

The position of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic with regard to the Preparatory Committee provided for in the above-mentioned resolution of the General Assembly was well known. The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR voted against that resolution at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, because, in violation of the United Nations Charter, it would open the way to an unlawful method of appointing the members of one of the principal organs of the United Nations, i.e., the Economic and Social Council, and would illegally allow non-members of the United Nations to take part in its work on a footing of

equality with States Members of the United Nations. Moreover, the resolution discriminated from the outset against the socialist States, particularly the German Democratic Republic.

The decision to include the Federal Republic of Germany in the Preparatory Committee has confirmed our misgivings concerning the negative consequences of the above-mentioned resolution. It is bound to have undesirable effects on the functioning of the United Nations and attests to the fact that certain circles in the United Nations have adopted a course of action in accordance with which they are flagrantly violating the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and undermining the conditions in which genuinely fruitful international co-operation in the interests of the second Development Decade could be achieved.

In view of the foregoing, the Permanent Mission of the Byelorussian SSR to the United Nations states that the decision to include the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic among the members of the Preparatory Committee cannot have binding force and that the representatives of the Byelorussian SSR will not take part in the work of that Committee.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly.

(Signed) G. TCHERNOUCHTENKO
