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REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

Letter dated 6 December 1973 from the Permanent Representatives
of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia,
Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We should be grateful if you would have the joint statement by the delegations of the socialist countries on the first review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade circulated as an official document of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly in connexion with agenda item 46.

The text of the statement is attached hereto.

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ANNEX

Statement by the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the first review and appraisal of progress in the Second United Nations Development Decade

In connexion with the report on the first review and appraisal of progress in the Second United Nations Development Decade (A/9401), the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics wish to state the following.

1. The delegations of the above-mentioned socialist countries support the idea and the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade in so far as they are in line with the joint statements made by the socialist countries to the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session (A/8074) and other joint statements by the socialist countries, in particular that made in UNCTAD (TD/B/440, TD/154), and also in the joint resolution submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the formulation and adoption in the United Nations of a "Declaration by the United Nations on promotion of the development of equitable co-operation in economic, trade, scientific and technological matters" (A/C.2/L.1253).

The development of international economic relations and trends in the economic development of the developing countries in recent years fully confirm the correctness of the propositions put forward in those documents. The introduction of the progressive propositions set out in those documents, which have been evolved on a scientific basis and confirmed by the practice of many States, can and should bring about a decisive improvement in world economic relations and the acceleration of social and economic development. The socialist countries continue to maintain the positions set out in those important documents.

2. The system of international economic ties in modern times should be based on equitable, mutually advantageous long-term international economic co-operation, both bilateral and multilateral. The establishment of such co-operation is a reliable means of materially strengthening peaceful relations between States.

3. The essential condition for such social and economic co-operation among all countries is peace. Only through a system of international relations based on peaceful coexistence is it possible to tackle on a sound basis problems of the future of concern to all mankind and to cope with the numerous urgent problems of the present. In the last analysis the development of economic, trade and scientific

and technological co-operation on the basis of full equality and mutual benefit without any discrimination and without any attempt to intervene in the internal affairs of others will be truly effective in the implementation of the ideas and objectives of the Second Development Decade.

4. Peace and security cannot be the concern of only a small circle of States. All States should actively contribute to the process of détente and encourage the world to turn away from hostility, confrontation and alienation to business-like co-operation on a basis of equality and mutual advantage. All countries should strive to make the process of détente, which has begun, irreversible.

5. The first review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, from the point of view of the socialist countries, is a useful attempt to identify the basic trends of social and economic development and the factors underlying them. From this point of view the review and appraisal is important for all countries inasmuch as it has in some degree afforded an opportunity to show both the successes in attaining the objectives of the Second Development Decade and the difficulties and obstacles in the way of world economic development in general and that of the developing countries in particular.

6. The document sets out - and this is a positive feature - important proposals for the development of co-operation on a basis of equality and mutual advantage and the social and economic advancement of all countries, including the developing countries. Attention should be drawn in particular to the proposition to the effect that "international peace and security ... are necessary conditions for the social and economic progress of all countries", that "the extension of the relaxation of tension to all regions of the world ... would ... enable all countries, irrespective of their social and economic system or level of development, to benefit from this process and utilize it" for realization of the goals of economic development.

The report rightly points out that "peace, security, freedom from all forms of external pressures and coercion and a general climate of détente could and should create greater opportunity for development support for the benefit of developing countries".

Another important proposition in the report is the recognition of "the link that should exist between the process of détente and the creation of better conditions for international co-operation in all fields". The socialist countries particularly welcome the inclusion in the report of the important proposition to the effect that "all countries should actively promote the achievement of general and complete disarmament through effective measures. The resources that may be released as a result of effective measures of actual disarmament should be used for the promotion of economic and social development of all nations. The release of resources resulting from those measures should increase the capacity of developed countries to provide support to developing countries in their efforts towards accelerating their economic and social progress".

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Those parts of the report which refer to the need for developing countries to carry out far-reaching social and economic transformation should be regarded as a step forward: the establishment and strengthening of the State and co-operative sectors of the economy, the training of qualified national personnel, control by the State of outflows of capital etc.

7. The conclusions and recommendations in respect of these questions and the tasks outlined should be extensively applied in international trade relations. They should serve as a basis for the continuing implementation of progressive political, economic and social measures designed to help to make economic relations between States an effective means of accelerating the social and economic advancement of the peoples of all countries and strengthening the political and economic independence of the developing countries. A vital condition for a new approach to the restructuring of international relations, of course, must be consideration of the interests of all countries, irrespective of their level of development or their social structure, as well as truly equitable participation by States in mutually advantageous international economic, trade, scientific and technological co-operation on a basis of mutual advantage and the application of the most-favoured-nation principle, without any discrimination whatsoever.

8. The socialist countries wish to note that, together with positive elements, the report on the first review and appraisal of the Second Development Decade contains a number of serious short-comings and unacceptable propositions. As a result of circumstances which are familiar to all, certain propositions in the report have not been based on a genuinely scientific and profound analysis of real reasons for lack of success in realizing the ideas and goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade. The report does not set out sufficiently precisely the principal obstacles to socio-economic development, especially in the developing countries. In that regard, the document suffers from the same essential short-comings as the International Development Strategy itself, which was drawn up during the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly and which remains the real basis of the programme for the Second Development Decade.

9. In a number of passages, the report still draws an insufficiently clear distinction between the developed capitalist countries and the socialist countries: this may produce an erroneous impression of a sort of "equal responsibility" to be shared by the capitalist countries and the socialist countries for the economic backwardness of the developing countries and for their prospects of economic development. Such an approach is displayed in particular in paragraphs 8, 11, 23, 24, 35, 50, 53 and 55 as well as some others, which set out qualitative "targets" and impose on all the developed countries without exception identical demands for a review of their policies with regard to economic co-operation and development.

The socialist countries believe that such an approach in respect of them is objectively equivalent to consigning to oblivion the entire centuries-long historical stage of colonial rule and exploitation, the responsibility of the colonial Powers for the present difficult position of the developing countries

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and the current policy of neo-colonialism being pursued against the developing countries as a form of economic oppression. The developing countries have the incontestable right to receive compensation for material damage from the colonial Powers and also from capitalist States which have exploited and continue to exploit the human and natural resources of the developing countries; they also have the right to demand that the developed capitalist States, which bear historical responsibility for the economic situation of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, thoroughly review their policies. The socialist countries did not participate and are not participating in the colonial and neo-colonial exploitation of the developing countries and, accordingly, bear no responsibility whatever for the disastrous economic situation.

10. The socialist countries, faithful to the spirit of internationalism, consistently support the struggle of the developing countries for their political and economic independence, and render those countries support in building their national economies and pursuing progressive policies. A progressive policy is one which represents a resolute rebuff to neo-colonialism and spells out the struggle of the developing countries to strengthen their independence and sovereignty over their natural resources and to achieve economic self-sufficiency, peace and security, social progress, the raising of the standard of living of working people and progressive domestic socio-economic reforms and transformations in such sectors as those of industry and agricultural relationships. Such a policy is aimed at developing equitable and mutually advantageous international co-operation in the fields of trade, economics, science and technology, including co-operation with the socialist countries. The socialist countries are developing and will continue to develop friendly ties and all-round co-operation with States which pursue such policies.

11. In their economic, trade, scientific and technological ties with the developing countries, the socialist countries will - as they have stated several times previously - continue to base their position on their own economic capacity and the capacity of our partners among the developing countries. During the Second United Nations Development Decade, as heretofore, the socialist countries will adhere to forms and methods of economic and technological co-operation with the developing countries which have already been vindicated in practice - those which accord fully with the socio-economic plans and programmes of those countries and ensure respect for their national sovereignty and their unconditional right to be full masters of their natural wealth.

12. At the same time, the development of economic ties between the socialist and the developing countries is not conditioned exclusively by the growing economic potential of the socialist countries and their readiness to co-operate. It depends in equal measure on the developing countries' own efforts to expand their trade with the socialist countries constructively and, for that purpose, to create conditions which are not inferior to those they offer their trading partners among the developed capitalist countries; it also depends on the general normalization of all aspects of international trade.

13. The implementation of the "Comprehensive Programme of Socialist Economic Integration" will provide additional opportunities for the further development of economic, scientific and technological ties between the countries members of CMEA and other countries, irrespective of their social system, based on the principles of equal rights, mutual benefit and respect for sovereignty.

14. The realization of the ideas and goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade will, as is recognized, require enormous levels of funds. An important supplementary source for financing economic development must be a proportion of the funds made available by disarmament and the reduction of military budgets. Accordingly, it is essential that all countries should increase their efforts to ensure the early convening of a World Disarmament Conference. The achievement of genuine progress in the field of disarmament would provide a powerful impetus for speeding up socio-economic development in all countries, including the developing countries, thus making a decisive contribution to the settlement of the problems they encounter in economic development.

15. In this connexion, the implementation of the USSR proposal before the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, concerning the reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to the developing countries, would make a specific additional contribution to the socio-economic development of all countries, especially the developing countries, since its principal result would be an increase in the volume of assistance at present provided to the developing countries through existing channels.

16. The delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics continue to believe that the Second Development Decade can and must be a decade of substantial economic and social progress all over the world. That end will be promoted by the favourable political conditions at present taking shape, which could potentially open up broad possibilities for the effective settlement of the problems of development and international economic co-operation. The socialist countries are profoundly convinced that joint efforts can make it possible to achieve these vital goals.
