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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH

Letter dated 23 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of
Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the summary report adopted on 30 September 1985 at the European Meeting on Co-operation in the Field of Youth Policies, held at Budapest from 26 to 30 September 1985.

I should be grateful if you could have the attached report circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 89 and 95.

(Signed) Pál RÁCZ

ANNEX

Summary report of the European Meeting on Co-operation in the Field of Youth Policies, held at Budapest from 26 to 30 September 1985

Introduction

1. In accordance with the relevant point of United Nations General Assembly resolution 34/151, the State Committee of Youth, attached to the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Hungary, organized a European Meeting on Co-operation in the Field of Youth Policies, held in Budapest between 26 and 30 September 1985. The Meeting, an item on the agenda for the International Youth Year, was attended by representatives of the competent United Nations agencies and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and 55 delegates from 23 countries in response to a Hungarian invitation circulated to government bodies concerned with youth policies in the member States of the Economic Commission for Europe.
2. The Meeting was officially announced to the third (1984) and the fourth (1985) sessions of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year by the Hungarian delegation. The participants of the Meeting sought ways and means of promoting development in contacts between European youth by exchanging information and experience in the field of youth policies in their own countries and made efforts to foster co-operation between Governments in fields of youth policies where joint action is both needed and possible.
3. The Hungarian delegation announced the present Meeting at several international events of the IYY, assuring that during its activities it would make use of the experiences of IYY events.

Experiences of the plenary working sessions

4. In the course of the general debate, the participants broadly exchanged their ideas about the content of the slogan of the IYY "Participation, Development, Peace" and recognized the necessity of promoting the direct and active participation of youth in shaping the future of our continent and of mankind in all fields of social and civil life.

They also underlined the necessity that youth problems should be dealt with by Governments and the United Nations system not only during the IYY, but also in the future as part and parcel of a long-term strategy.

5. The delegates of all the Governments taking part in the European Meeting on Co-operation in the Field of Youth Policies outlined the youth policies of their respective Governments. They introduced the various structures and solutions adopted in their countries. The participants acknowledged the existence of a wide variety of youth policies.

In addition to the differences, however, it became obvious during the discussion that there are several viewpoints in common in shaping and implementing the youth policies of different countries. They are attributable to historical traditions and differing geographical, social and economic situations.

6. In the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act it was stated several times that the existing international tension, economic difficulties, conflicts and the arms race, especially in the nuclear field, hindered a solution to the social, economic and cultural problems facing youth.

In the opinion of several delegations, it is therefore essential that in order to ensure a future for the youth of Europe and of other continents détente should prevail, the arms race should be curbed and Governments should take efficient measures for achieving disarmament, first of all nuclear disarmament. Several Governments expressed the conviction that in accordance with the agenda of the Meeting, a solution to existing problems lay in ensuring and strengthening the basic pre-condition of peace.

7. The contributors emphasized that in 1985, the year of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and of the victory of the anti-Fascist alliance and that of the tenth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the historical lessons must be kept alive in order to prepare youth for the task of peaceful creation.

8. In analysing tasks in connection with the situation of youth, attention was drawn by the delegates to the fact that in order to ensure conditions for education and learning, the improvement of the living and working conditions of young people can be promoted through international exchange of information and experience.

9. It was agreed that bilateral, multilateral and regional exchanges of experiences in the field of youth policies are necessary in order to utilize the positive results accumulated in many European countries and to overcome the negative phenomena involving young people.

10. Contributions by the participants also reflected the consensus that youth relations and co-operation in the field of youth policies must be based on already established bilateral links that have been fruitfully and broadly unfolding between several European countries and on the basis of which further successful multilateral and regional co-operation may develop between the interested Governments and youth organizations.

11. Several participants emphasized the regional activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the framework of which effective co-operation may also be established in the field of youth, for example among the member States of the Economic Commission for Europe, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, UNICEF and other organizations.

12. Several participants urged the Governments of countries involved in youth policy co-operation by "strips", i.e. in subregions, to share the best of their available experience with the rest of the continent.

13. Some of the participants offered to publicize the positive results achieved in the socialization of young people as well as their research achievements.

14. There are broad opportunities for co-operation, bilaterally or multilaterally, in research into implementation in the following fields:

- (a) Solution to the socio-economic problems of youth;
- (b) Cultural activities and leisure;
- (c) Preventive youth health care;
- (d) Cherishing folk heritage in different fields of arts;
- (e) Physical education, sports and recreational activities;
- (f) Use of sophisticated educational facilities in school and extra-mural education;
- (g) Publicizing established methods in helping young people to start their careers, to become integrated into the local working communities as well as to set up their households.

15. At the plenary session as well as in the working groups thereafter the participants stressed the role of the following main fields of orientation and co-operation:

- (a) More detailed exchange of information on the youth structures of interested Governments;
- (b) Informative delegation exchanges between Governments not having stable relations;
- (c) Exchanges of leading youth officials, leaders of youth organizations, organizers, lecturers, union activists and government officials;
- (d) The fields of exchange mentioned were the following: recreational centres, summer camps, youth clubs, youth building camps and information as well as groups of young specialists.

16. The participants stressed the need for co-operation in youth policies within the individual countries between government departments, regions and administrative bodies in general, which may also be extended to co-operation at the European regional level of sister cities in youth policies.

17. In co-operation between Governments an important factor in the activities can be the so-called associative sector, that is, organizations of youth, women, students, trade unions, cultural and sport institutions, leisure centres and youth travel agencies.

18. The main co-operation partner of the Governments - and the object and subject of co-operation - is youth, whose involvement in all fields of life from decision-making to implementation is an indispensable factor for citizens to

exercise their rights, responsibilities and duties. In the above, the voluntary contribution of youth, namely through their own initiatives, to the development of society is of particular importance.

19. It is the task of the Governments to establish a framework in order to develop leisure-time activities that can be completed with the autonomous activities of young people, the main fields being leisure after school and work, culture, self-education, sports and holidays.

20. International exchanges are important elements of the education for peace and international understanding.

21. One of the creating elements of the youth policy should be support for the family, which is in favour of youth.

22. It is the general interest and task of youth to cherish the value of national cultures and the universal heritage of mankind as well as certain experiences. In this field regional programmes of young intellectuals and artists, which are regular among writers, poets, musicians and representatives of the figurative arts and supported by UNESCO and other institutions, have long established traditions, which offer additional opportunities for intergovernmental co-operation.

23. Several participants in the Meeting underlined the importance of implementing the results of the European Regional Meeting for the International Youth Year and the "Guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth" (see A/40/256, annex) that had been prepared by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year.

24. The participants in the Meeting observed that the Year meant a contribution in promoting the activity of the young generation designed to achieve the goals and tasks of the Year. In this connection they approved the procedure of the practice of international events and meetings that contribute to the strengthening of solidarity in the fields of peace, co-operation and mutual understanding and in the struggle for the rights and interests of youth.

Several delegations mentioned that there had been numerous activities on the local, national and international levels that contributed to the achievement of those goals.

Many delegations informed the participants about the results of the twelfth World Youth and Students Festival.

25. The participants in the plenary sessions considered the ideas concerning the details of the above-mentioned fields within the working group.

26. The participants of the European Meeting on Co-operation in the Field of Youth Policies expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Hungarian hosts for holding the meeting. They were also thankful for the supporting programme which made the participants acquainted with the results and achievements of Hungarian youth policy.