



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/41/351
21 May 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-first session
Item 27 of the preliminary list*

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

Letter dated 20 May 1986 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you a letter sent to Your Excellency by the members of the Committee of the International Music Festival "Prague Spring" on the occasion of the opening of the Festival this year to express the commitment of the organizers of the Festival to the objectives of the International Year of Peace.

I would be most grateful if you could have the text of the letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 27 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jaroslav CÉŠAR

* A/41/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 12 May 1986 from the members of the Committee
of the International Music Festival "Prague Spring" to the
Secretary-General

We, composers and concert artists, musicologists, music critics, publicists and cultural officers, who have met in the great hall of the centre of Czech culture and education, the venerable Charles University in Prague, on the occasion of the solemn opening of the forty-first year of the International Music Festival "Prague Spring", are turning to you and through you to all States Members of the United Nations and their peoples with a message of peace and an appeal to do everything in their power for preserving peace on our planet.

Mankind has lived on the Earth a long, agitated history. It is our supreme duty to cherish all the values and beauties created and left to us by the preceding generations so that we may pass this great and irreplaceable treasure on to posterity.

In the present times, complicated and tense, nothing is more concordant with the interests of the entire human race than the endeavour aimed at immediate discontinuation of nuclear-weapon testing and gradual elimination of weapons of mass destruction. That is where we find a way to maintain a lasting peace and save life on Earth. Under no circumstances can we agree to the continued policies of arms build-up and militarization of outer space.

The International Music Festival "Prague Spring" came into being immediately after an end had been put to the atrocities of the Second World War. Every year since that time it becomes a stimulus to and opportunity for artistic manifestation of the idea of active co-operation of musical creators and performing artists from different countries and continents. The underlying idea of the Festival as voiced in its central motto - "Through Music towards Peace, Friendship and Understanding among Nations" - coalesces with the feelings, wishes and desires of nations from all over the world.

Especially now, in the year that was proclaimed the International Year of Peace, the commitment to the effort to maintain peaceful life on the Earth should be redoubled on the part of the people of all United Nations Member States.

We are therefore turning to them from this artistic rostrum with the following appeal: do not forget even for one single moment the most important task of our time. Work for peace as citizens of your respective States, work for peace as human beings.

(Signed) The Committee of the International
Music Festival "Prague Spring"
National Artist Jan Seidel
Chairman
Zdeněk Vokurka
Secretary