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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

Implementation of the Programme of the International Year of Peace

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/41/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 40/10 of 11 November 1985, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of the programme of the International Year of Peace. Since the Year is still in progress, many activities are still planned and the Secretariat has not yet received information on all the events that already have taken place. The present report cannot, therefore, constitute a summary of all the events of the Year or the ultimate impact that those events will have.
2. The present report takes note of major trends that have become apparent in the implementation of the programme. Such an assessment is being made in order to facilitate the debate and action of the General Assembly at its forty-first session. The events contained in the calendar for the International Year of Peace, adopted as a part of its programme, are taking place as planned. The calendar is updated on a regular basis. As more activities are being organized than can be listed in the calendar, a register of events is being maintained. This register will be compiled in summary form at the end of the Year. The activities referred to in the present report represent examples rather than a comprehensive catalogue.
3. The International Year of Peace is being observed at a time when international relations are particularly complex and fragile. With the persistence of so many tensions and conflicts, attention is often drawn to the lack of visible results in efforts to build peace. This focus, however, is often superficial in its treatment of the problem at hand and, in the worst case, is used as a means of questioning the usefulness of the United Nations. At the same time, the Organization often faces serious difficulties in implementing the basic principles of the Charter. The United Nations is sometimes unable to secure the necessary commitments and resources to implement even those resolutions that reflect the consensus of Member States. Given existing constraints, it is encouraging that the International Year of Peace has generated many positive initiatives.
4. In implementation of the programme of the Year innovative action is being taken at the local, national and international levels towards achieving the objectives of the Year. The Year has focused attention on the role of the United Nations in the promotion and maintenance of peace as well as on issues of international security and conflict resolution. The crucial questions of disarmament and the prevention of nuclear catastrophe are being emphasized. The interrelationship of peace and development is one of the more important concerns. Peace is also being discussed in the context of the exercise of human rights, with special emphasis on the elimination of apartheid and racial discrimination. The process of preparation for life in peace is another important issue being focused upon in the context of the Year. These subjects reflect priorities identified in the course of preparations for the Year. The preparatory regional seminars held in 1985 provided a useful basis for the implementation of the programme.
5. Over the four years spent in preparing for the Year, the Secretary-General has called the attention of Member States to the fact that the Year should focus on action and should bring concrete and positive results. The support expressed for

the programme of the Year to date shows that its timing was appropriate and it is a step in the right direction. The most urgent questions posed by those active in the Year relate to the steps to be taken next.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

6. By resolution 40/10 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to assist in the observance of the Year and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information about the Year and its objectives. The proclamation of the Year, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly at the commemorative session on 24 October 1985, was widely distributed and is regarded as a meaningful outcome of the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

7. On 1 January 1986 the Secretary-General inaugurated the Year with a special message summarizing the background and objectives of the Year. During the Year, the Secretary-General has addressed messages to the participants of various events for the Year and welcomed their particular efforts in promoting peace. In August 1986, a special message was addressed to the mayors of cities around the world. The Secretary-General has referred to the International Year of Peace in several statements and presented a major address on conditions of peace at a seminar organized by the city of Rome on 4 July 1986. The Secretary-General also intends to request the personal support of distinguished scholars, artists and media personalities for the objectives of the Year.

8. On 9 December 1985 the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to all States requesting information on international and national events planned for the Year and, in particular, on the activities of national co-ordinating mechanisms established for the observance of the Year. As at 10 September, 55 States had provided such information, which is summarized in section IV of the present report.

9. On 16 May 1986 the Secretary-General informed all States of his intention to consult with the representatives of national co-ordinating mechanisms for the International Year of Peace. The consultative meeting took place on 4 and 5 July at headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome. Representatives of 44 national commissions registered for the meeting and 29 presented information and proposals. The report from the consultative meeting is available as document A/41/504.

10. As requested by resolution 40/10, the Secretary-General organized a second pledging conference on 14 February 1986. Fifty-five Member States participated in the Conference and 13 pledged contributions totalling \$US 29,400 in convertible currencies and the equivalent of \$US 36,413 in non-convertible currencies.

11. Organs and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations and all organizations within the United Nations system were invited to mark the Year in the most appropriate form. A summary of these activities is presented in Section III of the present report. It is particularly relevant that the members of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the executive heads of organizations within the United Nations system expressed unanimous support for the programme of the Year.

12. All non-governmental organizations expressing interest in the programme of the Year are receiving information on the programme of the Year on a regular basis. Many such organizations have provided the Secretariat with information on their activities. Several Member States requested that statements and materials submitted by non-governmental organizations be issued as documents of the General Assembly. In view of the importance of non-governmental action for the International Year of Peace, several proposals were made concerning the presentation of non-governmental organizations activities to the Member States. The question of such a presentation was discussed at the consultative meeting with representatives of national co-ordinating mechanisms and is reflected in the report (A/41/504). Taking this into account, the secretariat for the Year invited all organizations listed in the report to the fortieth session (A/40/669) to present brief written statements on the role of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in the promotion of peace. These statements will be summarized as an addendum to the present report at a later date. The Secretary-General believes it would be appropriate to invite the organizations that have made significant contributions to the Year to address a meeting of the Special Political Committee during the forty-first session under agenda item 21 (International Year of Peace).

13. Under the guidance of the Secretary-General, the secretariat for the International Year of Peace is co-ordinating the implementation of the programme of the Year and is maintaining liaison with the organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and individuals active in the promotion of peace. It is particularly important that, despite severe financial constraints, the co-operation established earlier with various departments of the Secretariat has continued, and proved effective. A regional conference of the World Disarmament Campaign was organized at Tbilisi, USSR, jointly by the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs and the Department of Disarmament Affairs. The annual NGO conference of the Department of Public Information, held this year at Vienna, was devoted to major themes of the Year. At Geneva, the annual internship programme for 1986 concentrated on issues related to the International Year of Peace. The United Nations Information Centres, offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are actively promoting the observance of the Year by offering information and facilitating special meetings, exhibits, contests and other events.

14. Various events commemorating the Year are taking place at United Nations Headquarters in New York and United Nations offices at Geneva and Vienna. Concerts, exhibits and meetings of non-governmental organizations have been organized. On numerous occasions the Secretary-General or his representatives have received groups and individuals submitting their contributions to the programme of the Year.

15. An official poster, a brochure "International Year of Peace - To Safeguard Peace and the Future of Humanity", a student leaflet, a series of six postage stamps and a commemorative silver medal have been issued by the United Nations for the International Year of Peace.

III. ACTION BY THE ORGANS, SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

16. The Security Council was convened on 17 January 1986 and the President of the Council issued a statement on behalf of its members (S/17745) in observance of the Year, and on the fortieth anniversary of its first meeting. By that statement, the members of the Security Council renewed their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, which conferred on the Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. They further stated that the inauguration of the International Year of Peace provided an impetus for the members of the Council to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council in discharging its principal role of maintaining international peace and security.

17. At its 18th plenary meeting, on 22 May 1986, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1986/15 on the International Year of Peace. By that resolution, the Council, while noting the resolutions and decisions on the Year adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, expressed its support for the proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace by the General Assembly and welcomed the efforts of Governments to achieve the objectives of the Year. It considered that those efforts, as well as the universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, would contribute to international peace and co-operation. It also welcomed the activities of the Secretary-General to encourage the efforts of Governments in this field.

18. In a separate resolution (1986/70) the Economic and Social Council called upon Member States "to take practical institutional, educational and organizational measures to facilitate women's participation on an equal footing with men in the decision-making process, including that related to peace, disarmament negotiations and the resolution of conflicts, and to inform the Secretary-General of their activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Declaration (on the Participation of Women in Promoting Peace and Co-operation) as a contribution to the International Year of Peace".

19. The Committee on Information adopted by consensus a statement on the observance of the International Year of Peace (A/AC.198/L.34), at its 1986 substantive session, held in New York from 23 June to 7 July. With that statement, the Committee expressed its intention to contribute, within its areas of competence, to the achievement of positive results in the international co-operation aimed at promoting peace during the Year and beyond. The important role of information and communication in international relations and international co-operation was emphasized.

20. The attention of subsidiary bodies of the United Nations has been drawn to the International Year of Peace. Chairmen of the following bodies have responded: Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Human Rights Committee, Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference, and International Law Commission.

21. In a joint statement (A/41/334), the heads of organizations within the United Nations system reaffirmed their commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter and reiterated their strong support for the objectives of the Year. They also expressed the hope that new steps would be taken during the Year towards realizing more fully the potential of the organizations of the United Nations system. They called for concerted and sustained efforts towards disarmament, as well as action to eliminate hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy, and to meet essential human needs such as food, shelter, education, health, employment, a safe environment, and the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

22. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and FAO, have linked the theme of peace to their observance of World Environment Day (5 June), World Maritime Day (25 September) and World Food Day (16 October) this year. The World Tourism Organization (WTO) selected "Tourism: a vital force in world peace" as the theme for 1986 World Tourism Day (27 September).

23. Resolutions and decisions on the Year have also been adopted by a number of organizations. These include resolution 24.4 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its twenty-third session in 1985 and decision IV adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 124th session in May 1986; resolution 9/13 adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its 9th plenary meeting, on 16 May 1986; a resolution on the Year adopted by the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on 1 October 1985; decision 28 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) at its 11th plenary meeting on 13 December 1985; resolution A.594/(14) adopted by the IMO Assembly on 20 November 1985; and resolution WHA 39.19 by the thirty-ninth World Health Assembly in May 1986. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopted resolution 151 (XIII) in April 1986 and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) also adopted resolution 251 (XLII) in May 1986.

24. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) encouraged postal administrations to issue stamps commemorating the International Year of Peace.

25. During 1986, organizations within the United Nations system have organized, or have planned, a variety of activities to promote the objectives of the Year within their particular areas of competence. These activities are included in the calendar of events for the Year. They range from the issuing of special publications, articles, bulletins, leaflets, posters and medals dedicated to the Year, to the organizing of seminars, meetings and conferences, and the organizing of essay, drawing or painting competitions for young people. In their statements at meetings or at other appropriate occasions, many organizations have referred to the Year.

IV. ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS

26. In total, 61 Governments have informed the Secretary-General about the establishment of national co-ordinating commissions or mechanisms for the International Year of Peace, in accordance with General Assembly guidelines for international years, and maintain contacts on the implementation of the programme: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Saint Lucia, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Ukrainian SSR, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Holy See and San Marino. In addition, seven States provided the Secretary-General with information related to the programme for the Year: Austria, Democratic Kampuchea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Republic of Korea, Romania and Sri Lanka. Several Member States requested that their communications be circulated as documents of the General Assembly under the agenda item of the International Year of Peace (A/41/62, A/41/77, A/41/110, A/41/129, A/41/163, A/41/230 and Corr.1, A/41/232, A/41/238, A/41/260, A/41/266, A/41/270, A/41/275, A/41/276, A/41/283, A/41/305, A/41/341, A/41/351, A/41/379, A/41/393, A/41/411, A/41/425, A/41/430, A/41/447, A/41/570, A/41/580, A/41/583, A/41/584).

27. The following 37 Member States have announced pledges to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the International Year of Peace: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Poland, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sweden, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

28. The International Year of Peace was inaugurated in many countries with messages and statements by Heads of State or Government and Foreign Ministers. The leaders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America referred to 1986 as a year of peace in their respective messages for the New Year. In Norway, the King and the Prime Minister referred to the International Year of Peace in their annual New Year broadcasts. The King of Spain sent a message to the Secretary-General. Inaugural statements were also made by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh (A/41/77) and the Government of Belize. His Holiness Pope John Paul II drew attention to the Year in his New Year's message.

29. Several national parliaments convened for special meetings during the International Year of Peace and adopted declarations supporting the United Nations and the objectives of the Year. Among them are the Bulgarian National Assembly, the Supreme People's Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Sejm of the Polish People's Republic and the Grand National Assembly of Romania. A statement welcoming the General Assembly's decision to declare 1986 as the International Year of Peace was issued by the Commissions on Foreign Affairs of the

Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Danish Parliament will hold a public meeting in the context of the International Year of Peace on 24 October 1986.

30. In several countries, political leaders have referred to the Year and messages on the objectives of the Year have been sent to the Secretary-General. The statements and messages of leaders from Bulgaria, China and the Soviet Union have been issued as General Assembly documents (A/41/425, A/41/230 and A/41/238). The initiative of General Secretary M. Gorbachev to eliminate nuclear weapons by the end of the century was made in the context of the Year. Speeches related to the International Year of Peace were given, inter alia, by the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Japan, Nepal and Poland. At the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 16 to 19 April 1986, the Ministers called for renewed thought and action for the promotion of peace during the Year (A/41/341).

31. Governments informed the Secretary-General about rallies and meetings in observance of the Year. Such information described activities which took place in Austria, Australia, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, China, the Congo, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Fiji, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Norway, New Zealand, Panama, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Ukrainian SSR, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

32. Peace education has received particular attention in several countries. Special lessons in schools, lectures and seminars about the United Nations and various peace issues were organized. Special seminars for teachers are also being held. Some Governments are supporting educational activities by providing funds for resource materials. Those Governments which emphasized educational programmes include Austria, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, the Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Nigeria, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Tunisia, Venezuela, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam and Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

33. Several Governments are organizing activities for children and young people, such as music, essay or drawing competitions. Summer camps and youth exchanges are also taking place. Among those Governments sponsoring youth events are Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Hungary, Jordan, Luxembourg, Nepal, Norway, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Venezuela.

34. In many countries, messages and statements in support of the Year have been broadcast by radio and television. In general, the mass media constitutes an important element in many national programmes for the Year (Australia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Congo, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, German Democratic Republic, India, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luxembourg, Nepal, Norway, Romania, Tunisia, Ukrainian SSR, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Viet Nam).

35. Information materials on the United Nations and the objectives of the International Year of Peace are being distributed. The following Governments have announced special publications related to the International Year of Peace: Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Romania, Sweden, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

36. Some national programmes include the production and showing of documentary films on peace and disarmament issues and some countries are organizing film festivals, concerts and theatre performances based on the International Year of Peace. The following Governments have informed the Secretariat of activities in this field: Australia, Bulgaria, China, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, India, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, Tunisia, Viet Nam, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

37. Commemorative stamps and coins for the International Year of Peace are being issued by the following postal administrations: Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, India, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Vanuatu, Holy See, Republic of Korea, Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands.

38. Some Governments have actively encouraged local committees and groups to promote the objectives of the Year and have provided financial assistance for grass-root activities. Australia, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand and Norway have informed the Secretary-General about their provision of financial support for projects and activities related to the Year.

V. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ACTION

39. Since 1981 when preparations for the Year began, over 300 non-governmental organizations and academic institutions have established contact with the secretariat for the Year. Many of these organizations have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or are affiliated with the Department of Public Information or participate in the World Disarmament Campaign. Additional organizations have established direct links with the United Nations for the first time, based on their interest in the programme of the Year and their desire to co-operate with the United Nations.

40. Non-governmental organizations around the world have shown a great capacity for translating the objectives of the Year into concrete projects and activities. They have proved an important channel for international, national and local co-operation and are a valuable source of ideas and experience. In addition, the community of non-governmental organizations provides an important link between the United Nations, Governments and people at the grass-roots level.

41. Non-governmental organization participation in the programme of the Year has taken various forms. Some organizations have been officially designated by their Governments as national co-ordinating mechanisms for the Year. In some countries,

the United Nations Association has been given this role. In other countries, non-governmental organizations have taken the initiative in forming umbrella groups to co-ordinate activities for the Year on a national and local basis. Other non-governmental organizations have formulated and implemented projects independently or together with other non-governmental organizations and in many cases are working closely with national commissions established for the Year.

42. Organizations and groups participating in the programme of the International Year of Peace represent a broad range of interests and concerns. Among these are women's organizations, youth groups, scientists, educators, religious groups, sports associations, the aging and elderly and groups active in the fine arts. Disarmament, social and economic development, human rights and environment organizations are also taking an active part.

43. The diversity apparent in contributions of non-governmental organizations to the Year complements the integrated approach of the United Nations system itself. At the same time, the diversity of non-governmental organization approaches reaffirms the need to define peace in broad terms. Non-governmental organization participation in the programme of the Year has highlighted that peace in the 1980s is not simply the alternative to war; a peaceful world must reflect a continuing commitment to justice, quality of life and the active and ongoing process of generating increased human understanding, dialogue and tolerance. The following selected examples of non-governmental action for the Year of Peace will illustrate more concretely the significance of such input.

44. From 20 to 24 January 1986, representatives from organizations around the world inaugurated the International Year of Peace by gathering at Geneva to participate in the conference "Together for Peace" organized under the auspices of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO). Over 300 representatives of national, regional and international non-governmental organizations attended the conference, representing a variety of philosophical, political and religious backgrounds. The conference as a whole adopted, by consensus, a common appeal for all people to join in the pursuit of peace.

45. Seven non-governmental organizations are using the occasion of the Year to discuss the United Nations, disarmament and security issues and to give special recognition to the United Nations and its ongoing work in the field of international peace and security. Public rallies with the participation of United Nations officials were organized in the Soviet Union by the Soviet Peace Committee and in Greece by the Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace. A presentation was made by the Gray Panthers to the United Nations for its efforts and by the High Commission for Peace of the International Association of University Presidents to the Secretary-General for his personal contributions to the cause of peace.

46. Cities and towns around the world have participated actively in the Year, organizing special festivals, meetings and lectures on peace issues. Mayors and town councils have issued proclamations for the Year and taken important initiatives toward greater inter-city co-operation and dialogue. Many have focused attention on the importance of peace in urban life. The United Towns Organisation

and the World Union of Martyr Cities - Cities of Peace have been instrumental in fostering local and grass-roots support for the United Nations and the objectives of the Year.

47. Special conferences held during the Year have stimulated discussion on various issues of peace, helping to generate greater public awareness of its interrelationship with other aspects of life. Such meetings have also encouraged consideration of how people active in particular fields might contribute to the promotion of peace. Seminars, conferences, meetings and symposia have been sponsored by organizations such as the Bangladesh National Youth Affairs Council, Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, International Committee of Children's and Adolescents' Movements, International Falcon Movement, International Federation of Associations of the Elderly, International Union of Students, Medical Association for Prevention of War, Socialist International, Soviet Women's Committee, Teachers for Peace, Universal Esperanto Association, World Federation of Scientific Workers and World Peace Council. Preparations are under way for a major NGO Conference on the International Year for Peace, to be held in Copenhagen in October.

48. Churches and religious organizations have sponsored special observances, seminars and meetings, many of an inter-faith nature, in marking the International Year of Peace. A day of prayer, with the participation of various religious leaders, will take place in Assisi, Italy, on 27 October on the initiative of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. The World Council of Churches has participated actively both in preparations for the Year and in its actual observance. The Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace adopted a special statement on the Year at its Seventh General Conference; the World Muslim Congress co-sponsored a seminar on International Peace, Islam and the Muslim World; and Soka Gakkai International is devoting the Seventh World Youth Peace Festival to the Year.

49. Many non-governmental organizations are sponsoring music, writing, chess and art competitions for children and young people in the context of the Year. Among them are a world-wide essay contest for students aged 13 to 16 sponsored by United Schools International, "Letters for Peace" - an international youth writing contest organized by Rotary International and the World Youth Chess Festival sponsored by the World Chess Federation. Such competitions, together with special youth programmes and events, have encouraged reflection among young people about the meaning of peace in their own lives and how they may contribute towards that goal.

50. Sports events have been an important element in the observance of the Year, with many groups and organizations focusing on the value of peaceful competition in bringing about greater international understanding. Among the special events organized within the context of the International Year of Peace are Bike for Peace and the First Earth Run. Some sports associations have issued statements on sports and peace and several organizers, such as those for the Soccer World Cup and the Good Will Games, linked their events to the Year.

51. In the near term, many non-governmental organizations have expressed interest in presenting their views on peace during the forty-first session of the General Assembly. Looking further ahead, members of the non-governmental organization

community have expressed a strong desire to continue their efforts and to build further on the framework created by the International Year of Peace. They have expressed the view that the International Year of Peace has provided a positive basis for continued and increasing interaction among Governments, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system.

52. During the year the non-governmental organization community has proved to be an important source of action and ideas, while at the same time offering valuable support and co-operation for the United Nations in the promotion of peace.

VI. ACTION IN THE SCIENCES, FINE ARTS AND THE MEDIA

53. The scientific community is providing a valuable dimension in promoting the objectives of the Year through research and discussion. Symposia, conferences and other meetings have been convened in order to address such issues as problems of peace and the averting of nuclear war, the origins of aggression, and the causes of international conflicts. Among the institutions which have sponsored such meetings are the Asian Peace Research Association, the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales, the Council on Peace and Disarmament of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the University for Peace, the University of Hawaii, the University of Liberia, the University of the South Pacific, and organizations such as the Committee on Space Research and the International Academy of Astronautics, International Philosophers for the Prevention of Nuclear Omnicide, the International Association of University Presidents, the International Society for Research on Aggression and the International Sociological Association.

54. Several academic organizations, such as the International Studies Association, the International Peace Research Association and the World Future Studies Federation, devoted their 1986 meetings to the International Year of Peace. Still other organizations, such as the International Social Science Council, have created special issue groups to study particular aspects of peace.

55. Various events and activities for the Year have been integrative in nature, bringing together various people and perspectives. Such efforts include organizing the Congress of Intellectuals for the Peaceful Future of the World, projects of the University for Peace and the preparation of the World Encyclopedia of Peace.

56. Art and music have proved primary means of promoting the ideals of peace on a broad basis. Arts festivals, special songs, poems and concerts have contributed toward bringing greater concern for peace to people at the local level. The music festival "Prague Spring" was devoted to the International Year of Peace and a special poster competition was organized within the framework of the International Poster Biennale in Poland. Festivals devoted to the Year were organized in Brighton, United Kingdom; Hospitalet, Spain; and Nantes and Plaine sur Mer, France. Among the groups contributing to the Year through the fine arts are the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, F.M. 86, Peace Child Foundation, International PEN, Radda Barnen and the Union of Artists of the USSR.

57. Based on the information that is being provided by United Nations Information Centres, press and media coverage of the Year differ in each country. In many countries, media coverage of the Year has been a major factor in increasing awareness of the objectives of the year and in encouraging groups and individuals to participate in the programme. Special features, interviews, coverage of events for the year, extra or specialized journals and television and film documentaries are focusing attention on the need for peace and the continuing role of the United Nations in its promotion. The following 13 newspapers issued a joint supplement "One World" devoted to the International Year of Peace: Asahi Shimbun (Tokyo), Chosun Ilbo (Seoul), Dawn (Karachi), El Día (Mexico), Development Forum (New York), Le Devoir (Montreal), Jingji Ribao (Beijing), Magyar Nemzet (Budapest), Le Monde (Paris), El País (Madrid), Politika (Belgrade), Le Soir (Brussels), Le Soleil (Dakar).

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ACTION

58. In proclaiming the International Year of Peace on 24 October 1985, the General Assembly called upon all people to join with the United Nations in resolute efforts to safeguard peace and the future of humanity. This call has received a positive response from many Governments, the United Nations system, organizations and groups around the world, and has provided new opportunities for harmonizing action.

59. The Secretary-General has taken note of the following positive trends that are emerging from the Year and which may facilitate and encourage further actions:

(a) The International Year of Peace is providing an important stimulus for increased international co-operation. Statements by the leaders of several States, the resolutions of parliamentary bodies, and the statements of various intergovernmental and non-governmental meetings have referred unanimously to the Year of Peace as an unprecedented opportunity for concrete and concerted action for peace.

(b) The ideas which have been presented within the framework of the Year confirm the principles of the Charter that peace in today's world must be defined in broad terms which include its political, economic, social, cultural and ethical aspects. At the same time, there is growing awareness that the preparation of societies for life in peace is a long-term process requiring continued and conscious effort.

(c) The principle of consensus which has governed the preparation and implementation of the programme of the Year so far represents an important commitment to the identification of what is at present universal in the approach to peace and of what the most important global aspects of that approach might be. Respect for consensus has been apparent at both the intergovernmental and non-governmental levels.

(d) The programme of the Year shows the potential of the United Nations for encouraging and co-ordinating continuing the interaction of governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions. Joint and harmonious action for peace could be an important means both of strengthening the Organization and of making it more effective.

60. To facilitate planning future work, the Secretary-General has established a Panel of Experts on Preparation for Life in Peace and has requested a group of staff members from various units of the Secretariat to identify activities relevant to the promotion of peace. Both groups will present their reports to the Secretary-General early in 1987. The International Day of Peace will provide a continuing occasion to focus attention on action for peace, including that of the United Nations.
