



General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/42/181  
19 March 1987  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Forty-second session  
Item 26 of the preliminary list\*

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

Letter dated 19 March 1987 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

In response to your note of 3 February 1987, I have the honour to transmit herewith information on the observance of the International Year of Peace in the Byelorussian SSR.

Kindly arrange for this information to be distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under item 26 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) L. I. MAKSIMOV  
Permanent Representative of the  
Byelorussian SSR to the United Nations

\* A/42/50.

ANNEX

Information on the observance of the International Year  
of Peace in the Byelorussian SSR

In connection with the questionnaire from the United Nations Secretariat of 3 February 1987 and further to the information contained in documents A/41/956 and A/41/628/Add.1 and Corr.1, we wish to state the following.

The year 1986 was marked by the active and consistent struggle of the Soviet Union, of other countries in the socialist community and of all peace-loving forces around the globe to achieve a decisive turn for the better in international relations. At the beginning of 1986 the Soviet Union put forward a historic programme to establish a non-nuclear world and to eliminate all types of weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000. The Twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union devised and formulated a political platform for a comprehensive system of international security embracing the military, political, economic and humanitarian fields.

The Congress conceived and proclaimed the need for a new way of thinking that would match the realities of the nuclear-missile age. During the year, a set of other initiatives was put forward, aimed at maintaining peace, achieving disarmament and strengthening international co-operation in various fields, and a number of the initiatives were accompanied by corresponding practical measures. These included, above all, the unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions, which was repeatedly extended and observed by the USSR over a period of more than 18 months.

While it was not possible during the International Year of Peace to achieve the cessation of the arms race and to proceed to genuine disarmament, the inhabitants of the globe now have a deeper awareness of the danger of a military holocaust looming over mankind and of the need to improve international relations, end nuclear tests, bring about disarmament and achieve peaceful accords. The lofty peak from which the world looked down and glimpsed the reality of a programme for a nuclear-free world was the Soviet-American Summit Meeting in Reykjavik, at which the USSR placed on the negotiating table concrete proposals concerning strategic weapons, medium-range missiles, questions of verification, the ending of nuclear tests and a ban on extending the arms race into outer space.

A major step that helped to crystallize the new political thinking was the Delhi Declaration on Principles for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World, signed on the occasion of the Indo-Soviet Summit Meeting in November 1986. The "six-nation, five-continent" appeal, which advocates an immediate end to the nuclear-arms race and a ban on weapons in space, testifies to the fact that the new political thinking is penetrating the consciousness of peoples and is being put into practice in international relations. This is the very subject of the Harare Appeal put forward by the Non-Aligned Movement. Precisely the same construction can be put on the concept of establishing a comprehensive system of international peace and security, put forward by the group of socialist countries, including the Byelorussian SSR, and adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

The Byelorussian SSR, in various international forums, has actively supported all major initiatives embodying the new political thinking and aimed at averting a nuclear catastrophe, preserving peace and protecting civilization, speedily eliminating existing sources of tension on the planet and preventing the emergence of new ones, and promoting the all-round development of international co-operation in various fields. At the forty-first session of the General Assembly, the Byelorussian SSR moved the adoption of the resolution on prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, and co-sponsored, inter alia, resolutions on the immediate cessation and prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, the prohibition of chemical and bacteriological weapons, and the drafting of a declaration on the enhancement of the effectiveness of the principle of non-use of force in international relations, on the right of peoples to life and the right of peoples to peace. The Byelorussian SSR has signed and ratified the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, adopted at a special session of the General Conference of IAEA.

The Byelorussian SSR took an active part in the consultative meeting of representatives of national co-ordinating commissions for the International Year of Peace, held in Rome on 4 and 5 July 1986, and in the United Nations international regional conference for non-governmental organizations, held in May 1986 in Tbilisi. At the first session of the Economic and Social Council for 1986, the Byelorussian SSR co-sponsored a resolution on the contribution of the economic organs of the United Nations to the International Year of Peace.

On 21 July 1986 the Permanent Commission on Foreign Affairs of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR adopted a declaration in which it supported the fundamental aims and purposes of the International Year of Peace and expressed the hope that the Year could and must be marked by significant agreements on cessation of the arms race on earth and its prevention in outer space.

In the Byelorussian SSR, the public at large took a most active part in events held to mark the International Year of Peace. Across the land, meetings and gatherings devoted to the Year were held, at which the working people of the Republic expressed unanimous support for the statement made on 15 January 1986 by M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, outlining a programme for establishing a nuclear-free world and preventing the arms race from being extended into outer space. They approved the programme of activities to maintain and consolidate peace which had been adopted at the Twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and supported the proposal for the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security.

In accordance with the plan of the commission for the observance of the International Year of Peace in the Byelorussian SSR, other large-scale activities took place. Thus, during the week of action to promote security and co-operation in Europe (May 1986), some 3,000 different anti-war events were held, and 1.7 million people took part in them. In Minsk alone, about 100,000 people took to the streets and held anti-war meetings under the slogans, "No to nuclear war!", "No to the militarization of outer space!" and "No to war!".

The participation of the working people of the Byelorussian SSR in activities to mark the forty-fifth anniversary of the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet people (1941 to 1945) and the forty-second anniversary of the liberation of the Republic from the Hitlerite invaders took on massive proportions. In the course of these activities, the people of the country unanimously supported the new initiatives of the USSR and other countries of the socialist community, including those put forward at the Budapest meeting of States parties to the Warsaw Treaty, and hailed the programme for transforming outer space into an arena for "star peace", as proposed in the United Nations by the Soviet Union.

Veterans of the Great Patriotic War in the hero city of Minsk sent an open letter to the United States veterans of the Second World War and urged them to campaign for cessation of the nuclear-arms race.

A week of action for the banning of nuclear weapons was held in the Byelorussian SSR from 6 to 13 August, during which 2.2 million people took part in about 1,000 mass events.

The International Day of Peace and a day of trade-union activities in behalf of peace were widely observed in the Byelorussian SSR. A "peace lesson" was given in all schools of general education. In the hero fortress of Brest, 40,000 people took part on 1 September 1986 in a single anti-war demonstration. They included peace supporters from the Polish People's Republic.

Some 5 million inhabitants of the Republic took part in massive anti-war activities to mark Disarmament Week.

All activities connected with the International Year of Peace were characterized by a high level of youth participation. Over 2.5 million young men and women participated in the Soviet youth peace march, in the campaign of world-wide youth activities in favour of peace and against the threat of nuclear war and in events that took place under the auspices of the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Students Union.

The participants in 18,000 mass anti-war activities carried out in 1986 in the Byelorussian SSR adopted resolutions endorsing the peace-loving foreign policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and of the Soviet State. They sent letters, messages and telegrams to the Congress and President of the United States, in which they expressed their indignation at the persistent unwillingness of the United States Administration to respond to the peace proposals of the USSR, condemned the bellicose policy pursued by Washington, and demanded an end to nuclear-weapon tests, cessation of the arms race on earth and the prevention of its erupting into outer space. They called on all people of good will, acting in the spirit of the noble goals of the International Year of Peace, to unite their efforts for the adoption of concrete, practical steps that would effectively save present and future generations from the threat of a nuclear disaster.

All the activities carried out in the Byelorussian SSR to mark the International Year of Peace were widely reported by the mass media of the Republic.