



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/267
27 May 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Note verbale dated 23 May 1980 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the Secretary-General's telegram dated 9 May 1980, has the honour to advise him of the following in connexion with the invitation to attend the Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance and Relief to the Kampuchean People, to be held at Geneva on 26 and 27 May 1980.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic fully endorses all genuine efforts to provide the most effective humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people through bilateral and multilateral channels, with a view to redressing the immense damage caused to the people and the economy of that country by the former anti-popular genocidal régime. For its part, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, together with other socialist countries, continues to provide considerable free assistance to the Kampuchean people. For the year 1980, the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic decided to provide assistance to the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the amount of 60 million crowns, which will be used for the purchase of grain, trucks, mobile cranes, medicaments, medical equipment, textiles, etc. This assistance is in addition to an earlier grant to the People's Republic of Kampuchea to the value of 55 million crowns extended towards the end of last year.

As was emphasized in the statement dated 5 May 1980 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (A/35/219), the reception and distribution of this humanitarian aid granted by socialist countries as well as that provided by the international community had been conducted normally and had recorded encouraging results. The experience so far has thus shown that the

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existing machinery is fully suitable for the granting of further necessary assistance to the Kampuchean people by all interested countries and, moreover, there is no objection to the holding of an international meeting which, in a truly humanitarian spirit, would have the aim of mobilizing additional assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people.

However, the meeting scheduled to take place at Geneva on 26 and 27 May 1980 pursues quite different goals, as is apparent from the statements made by some of its initiators. The convening of the meeting is motivated not by humanitarian but by political objectives. It is a clear attempt to discuss, under the pretext of humanitarian aid, questions that fall exclusively within the competence of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and to do so without the participation of its representatives. It is an obvious attempt at gross interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State, the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

For the above-stated reasons, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will not participate in the planned conference.

The Permanent Representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations has the honour to request the Secretary-General to have this note circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 12 of the preliminary list.
