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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

Note verbale dated 28 March 1987 from the Permanent
Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to forward herewith a communication of the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic on the observance of the International Year of Peace in the country in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/3 of 24 October 1985 (see annex).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic would be grateful if you would arrange for distribution of this communication as an official document of the General Assembly under item 26 of the preliminary list.

* A/42/50.

ANNEX

Communication transmitted by the Government of the Mongolian
People's Republic in accordance with General Assembly
resolution 40/3, "International Year of Peace"

In conformity with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 40/3, entitled "International Year of Peace", the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic hereby submits its views on the outcome of efforts by the international community to accomplish the ideals of the Year and information on activities in Mongolia related to that important international event.

1. Mongolia hailed and supported the idea of celebrating an international year of peace from the outset, and for its part made active efforts to further the Year's noble goals and aims of further mobilizing the efforts of the international community for the sake of more stable peace and security on earth. The extensive activities undertaken by the world public in connection with the year gave a powerful additional boost to the peoples' campaign for universal peace.
2. The International Year of Peace was marked by major events in the campaigns for peace and disarmament, and an active peaceful offensive by the socialist countries.

It began with a historic move by the Soviet Union which, in the statement by M. S. Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union of 15 January 1986 (see A/41/97), put forward a concrete, carefully weighed programme for gradual reductions in and the total eradication of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction before the year 2000. The Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions, which continued throughout 1986, served as a material expression of its determination to do everything possible to attain the goals of its initiative.

The Mongolian Government fully supported this truly far-reaching proposal by the Soviet Union. Its statement on the subject was distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under the symbol A/41/131.

Mongolia regards the provision of all-round support for the accomplishment of the goals of this bold but entirely realistic programme as a primary aim of its international efforts.

The June appeal by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty to the member countries of NATO and all European States, proposing major reductions in armed forces and conventional weapons from Atlantic to the Urals (see A/41/411-S/18147 and Corr.1 and 2) was an organic extension to the aforementioned programme and provided further confirmation of the eagerness of the socialist world to begin the process of ridding mankind of deadly weapons and the threat of war.

The wide-ranging Vladivostok proposal made by the Soviet Government on 28 July 1986, on the development of good-neighbourly relations and constructive

co-operation among the States of Asia and the Pacific Ocean (see A/41/505), laid down the parameters for the socio-economic component of a comprehensive system of international security not only for that region but for the entire world.

The texts adopted at the Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries in Harare (see A/41/697-S/18392) again demonstrated that the vast majority of Governments on this planet actively support the prevention of nuclear disaster and the creation of a just world without weapons or violence.

The discussions at the Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik showed the practical feasibility of ridding mankind of nuclear weapons during this century if both sides display the requisite political will and realism. The Soviet Union's proposal to abolish medium-range missiles in Europe could clear the way to such a prospect if others are prepared to meet it mid-way.

The Mongolian Government is of the view that, despite the foolhardy actions of the most reactionary and militaristic circles, 1986 witnessed a significant increase in the potential for reason, realism and peaceful efforts and the emergence of a new approach to the problems of war and peace based on a responsible appraisal of the qualitatively new realities of the nuclear and space era.

3. The nineteenth Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, held in May 1986, defined the aims of the country's economic and social development up to the year 2000 and developed the main guidelines for the Mongolian Government's foreign policy activities, in close association with those aims.

The Congress particularly stressed the need for active interchange with the socialist countries and other peace-loving States in efforts to avert the threat of nuclear war, prevent the militarization of space and build up an atmosphere of trust, mutual understanding and peaceful co-operation among States. It lent its full support to the idea of laying the foundations for an all-embracing system of international security and strengthening the fundamentals of peaceful coexistence as the only rational alternative.

The Congress laid down specific targets for the practical implementation of Mongolia's proposals to establish machinery to bar the use of force in relations between States in the Asian and Pacific Ocean region.

4. These foreign policy directives were given substance in Mongolia's bilateral and multilateral activities on the international stage. In particular, the meetings and talks that Mongolian leaders had with the top leadership of the German Democratic Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Poland, Romania, the USSR and Czechoslovakia and their participation in the Moscow summit meeting of CMEA member countries served not only to further strengthen and expand the friendship and co-operation between Mongolia and those fraternal countries but to stimulate interaction among the socialist countries for the sake of strengthening universal peace and security.

5. Mongolian representatives attending such major intergovernmental meetings as the forty-first session of the General Assembly and the two special sessions

devoted to Africa's economic problems and the question of Namibia, the meetings of the Conference on Disarmament, the Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries and the annual session of ESCAP called for steps to reduce the level of military confrontation in various parts of Europe and Asia, find political settlements to regional conflicts and build up an atmosphere of trust, mutual understanding and co-operation among countries and peoples. Among the important resolutions on questions of international security and disarmament adopted on the basis of a Mongolian initiative, mention may be made of General Assembly resolution 41/10 of 24 October 1986, which indicated the desirability of discussion in the General Assembly on the state of implementation of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace (see resolution 39/11 of 12 November 1984), adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session at Mongolia's suggestion.

One should not overlook the positive fact that the forty-first session of the General Assembly, despite the serious existing difficulties and attempts by certain Western circles to turn it into a scene of fruitless confrontation, generally reflected the desire of the overwhelming majority of States for dialogue and co-operation. Evidence of this may be found in the recommendations adopted by the General Assembly on such cardinal issues as the strengthening of international peace and security, the halting of the arms race and the advance of the cause of disarmament. The resolution on the question of establishing a comprehensive system of peace and security, a matter raised by the group of socialist countries, Mongolia among them, laid solid foundations for a broad-based dialogue on this vitally important problem.

6. Representatives of Mongolian society attended many international functions and meetings held in support of the goals of the International Year of Peace, such as the Congress of Intellectuals for the Peaceful Future of the World (Warsaw), the World Peace Congress (Copenhagen), the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations meeting "Together for Peace" (Geneva), a meeting of peace advocates from Mongolia and the USSR (Novosibirsk), and a meeting of representatives of peace organizations from the Asian socialist countries (Tynda, Yakutsk, Khabarovsk).

7. The aims of building up an atmosphere of greater trust and co-operation in Asia and the Pacific Ocean region were advanced by a meeting in Ulan Bator of representatives of parliamentary groups from the six socialist countries in Asia and the meeting of the Presidium of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), attended by representatives of 48 countries and a number of international organizations.

8. The Mongolian Government and public organizations worked hard to acquaint the general public with the goals and purposes of the International Year of Peace and encourage more active efforts in support of United Nations activities, the campaign for lasting peace and security on earth, a halt to the arms race, disarmament, broad-based international dialogue and co-operation among States.

At the commencement of the International Year of Peace, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Great People's Khural, the Mongolian Parliamentary Group and the Mongolian National Commission on the International Year of Peace issued a joint statement in support of the goals and purposes of the International Year.

The Executive Committee of the Federation of Mongolian Peace and Friendship Organizations, the Central Committee of Mongolian Trade Unions, the Central Committee of the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union, and the Committee of Mongolian Women also issued a joint statement appealing to the Mongolian public to work actively in support of the International Year of Peace and the activities of the United Nations aimed at maintaining and strengthening peace and international security.

9. To co-ordinate all the work connected with the International Year of Peace in Mongolia, a high-ranking national commission was set up under the chairmanship of the Deputy President of the Presidium of the Great People's Khural (the Vice-President of Mongolia). Eminent State and public figures were appointed to the Commission.

On the basis of proposals by State bodies and public organizations in Mongolia, the Commission drew up an extensive programme of activities devoted to the International Year of Peace.

A wide range of activities were conducted in accordance with that programme.

- On 1 September, declared Peace Day by the World Peace Council, signatures were collected under the slogan "For lasting peace! Against the nuclear threat!"; 995,000 people, almost all the adult population of the country, took part. On the same day a Peace Class was given in all the country's general schools and secondary and higher educational institutions.
- The Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union and the Organization of Mongolian Pioneers conducted a signature-gathering campaign among young people and schoolchildren under the slogans "Do not permit the militarization of space!" and "Free Nelson Mandela!". Over 100,000 signatures were collected. More than 1,000 children took part in a children's painting competition on the subject of peace and friendship between peoples.
- Mass meetings and gatherings of public representatives were held, on various problems of contemporary international life, chiefly matters of war and peace. A colloquium of scientists, doctors, teachers and other representatives of the Mongolian intelligentsia was held under the slogan "For the eradication of the weapons of mass destruction and aversion of the threat of nuclear war!", and a conceptual conference of teaching staff and students was held at the Ulan Bator Medical Institute to discuss questions relating to the possible consequences of nuclear war.
- A postage stamp and envelope were issued in honour of the International Year of Peace, and photographic displays on the themes of "Peace to the world", "Mongolia's campaign for peace", "Mongolia and the United Nations" etc. were displayed in every town and aimak centre in the country.

- A series of lectures and talks devoted to the questions of peace, disarmament and security was arranged through the Mongolian Society for the Dissemination of Knowledge.
- A round-table discussion and political meeting devoted to the International Year of Peace was held, and attended by foreign guests from 15 countries who were in Ulan Bator for the celebrations of May Day - the day of international workers' solidarity.
- Song, poster and painting competitions on the subjects of peace and friendship were held.
- Throughout the country, a variety of sporting activities were held to commemorate the International Year of Peace, including a mass cross-country event in which 239,400 people participated, and a ski week in which 445,000 people took part.
- The workers of many industrial enterprises and economic institutions arranged a collection for the Peace Fund.

10. The national mass media gave extensive coverage to activities organized in connection with the International Year of Peace in Mongolia and abroad. The central and local papers and other periodicals published extensive quantities of material, and the national television and radio services constantly relayed information on activities conducted in that connection.

11. To sum up, it will be noted that the activities staged in Mongolia in support of the International Year of Peace were a glowing reconfirmation of the Mongolian people's unswerving commitment to the goals of ensuring universal peace and security and strengthening good-neighbourly relations, and equal, mutually advantageous co-operation among States.

We believe that the high ideals and noble goals of the International Year of Peace will continue to serve as a stimulus to further efforts by the United Nations and the international community as a whole to defend our planet and human civilization from nuclear disaster and establish a world without weapons or wars.
