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COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
Thirty-ninth session
New York

REPRESENTATION BY THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

1. Reproduced below for the consideration of the Committee is a communication dated 6 June 1979 from the Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions:

"According to the Secretary-General's note FI 313/1 (I) dated 26 February 1979, the Committee on Contributions will meet in New York on 4 June to examine the contribution rate of the member States for the years 1980, 1981 and 1982.

"On this occasion, I would like to draw the attention of the Chairman and other members of the Committee to the following situations:

"1. When the Committee met to examine the contribution rate for the years 1977, 1978 and 1979, we made a presentation about the factors related to the economic situation of Viet Nam from 1969 to 1975 (note dated 12 August 1977, addressed to the Chairman and other members of the Committee) and suggested that the Committee would make consideration so that the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam would contribute at the minimum rate of 0.01 per cent. In your letter of reply dated 27 September 1977, you promised to pay appropriate attention to this problem in the Committee's meetings in the year of 1978.

"2. In the Committee's August 1977 meeting, thanks to your care and that of other members of the Committee, this question was put under consideration. One half of the Committee's members proposed that the contribution rate of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam should be 0.02 per cent and some members proposed 0.03. The Committee did not reach unanimous view and transferred to the General Assembly for decision. To facilitate the work of the Committee and of the General Assembly, the Government of Viet Nam in a co-operative spirit accepted the rate of 0.03 and did not request the General Assembly to reconsider the question.

"3. Data on GNP used as basis for the examination of the contribution assessment for the years 1980, 1981 and 1982 will be based on those of the years from 1969 to 1977. With regard to the Vietnamese people, the years from 1969 to 1975 were the most fierce years of war and the years 1976 and 1977 were the years of healing the wounds left behind by a thirty-year long war. Also, after the cessation of the war, the income resources coming from foreign military expenditures and assistance have been brought to a complete end, thus the GNP in the whole country has been reduced considerably. The factors of the Vietnamese economy presented in the 12 August 1977 note should still be taken into account by the Committee while examining the contribution rate for the years to come.

"4. Over the years following the end of the war, the Vietnamese people have concentrated all efforts to heal the wounds of war, restore and rebuild the war-torn economy, but natural calamities successively occurred in the years 1976, 1977 and 1978 causing great losses to the crops, houses, ways of communication, etc. ... and new unexpected obstacles were added to the difficulties in our work of reconstructing the economy.

"On the basis of the problems presented above, I hope I was able to provide additional factors for the Chairman and other members in the Committee to assess the contribution rate of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam correspondingly to the realities of our country and propose the Committee to maintain the same rate of 0.03 per cent for the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as it was in previous years.

"I request you to circulate this letter to all members of the Committee."
