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ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION BY POLAND

Following the issuance of document A/CN.2/R.450/Add. 1, which contains the text of a communication dated 15 June 1981 from the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations, the Secretariat, on 21 May 1982, received additional information from the Government of Poland in a note verbale to the Secretary General of the United Nations dated 17 May 1982. The supplementary information is reproduced below for the consideration of the Committee:

"For a number of years (see letters of the Permanent Representative of the Polish People's Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions dated 28 May 1976, 7 April 1977, 5 March 1978, 18 May and 18 June 1979, and 15 June 1981) the Polish Government, *inter alia*, has questioned the exchange rate co-efficient applied to convert data on Poland's national income from Polish zlotych to United States dollars for the purpose of the United Nations' scale of assessment. The matter has been well known both to the Committee on Contributions and to the General Assembly.

"During its review of the scale of assessments in 1979, the Committee on Contributions only in part accepted Poland's requests by having applied a co-efficient of 33.20 zlotych to \$US 1.00, as from 1976, and not 1972, as justifiably stipulated by Poland, for the calculation of its assessment. This arbitrary decision has proved to be inconsistent with the clearly expressed position of a Member State of the United Nations. Yet, the Government of Poland has shown maximum of goodwill and understanding for the particularly difficult and complicated situation relative to the establishment of rates of assessment in 1979. The Polish Government expressed before the General Assembly its qualified acceptance of the partial and unfair solution, on the understanding that during the successive review of the scale of assessments, the Committee on Contributions would fully comply with its requests and apply the correct rate of exchange of 33.20 zlotych to \$US 1.00 as from 1972, that is to say, from the time when it became operational. The Government of Poland wishes again to reaffirm with full determination the validity of its request. There exist all necessary conditions to meet them now.

"The above-mentioned exchange rate co-efficient has been in use since 1972 in Poland's international financial operations and is based on economically sound and justified criteria. This has been once more confirmed and substantiated by the decision of the Narodowy Bank Polski (The National Bank of Poland) of 1 January 1982, which has set the rate of exchange at the level of 80 zlotych for \$US 1.00.

"Furthermore, the Government of the Polish People's Republic wishes to draw the attention of the Committee on Contributions to Poland's critical economic and financial situation, indeed unprecedented in the country's entire post-war history. Its national income is falling. In 1979 the drop amounted to 2.3 per cent; in 1980 to 6 per cent; and in 1981 to 13.3 per cent. Despite the Government's considerable efforts, the economic indices for the first quarter of 1982 remain unfavourable, as compared to the same period of last year; particularly, the downward trend of industrial production has not yet been contained. Thus the level of the national income has fallen to that of the mid-1970s.

"Early this year, calamitous floods occurred in several regions of Poland, resulting in severe material damage for their inhabitants as well as in losses in industrial and agricultural production. An appropriate UNDR0 mission has been investigating the extent of this natural disaster and the possibilities of assistance to Poland.

"A very serious problem remains that of Poland's foreign debt in convertible currencies, totalling \$US 25.5 billion. Servicing the debt, the most severe implications of which are due this year and over the next few years, consumes the country's hard currency incomes. Poland is experiencing considerable difficulties in meeting its foreign financial obligation. The difficulties of its balance of payments are further aggravated by unfavourable terms of trade. The Government of the Polish People's Republic has undertaken and is now implementing far-reaching economic reforms, in particular, a price reform and one in the management of the national economy. Consequently, these may temporarily further aggravate Poland's capacity to pay.

"The economic and social difficulties of Poland have greatly reduced its capacity to pay. A situation like this is, unfortunately, likely to persist for the next few years to come. For all these reasons, the Government of the Polish People's Republic requests the Committee on Contributions to treat its case as a special one to be granted an extraordinary allowance and relief in determining Poland's contribution for the period 1983-1985.

"During the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Polish delegation has encountered much understanding for the difficulties in question and received support for its position on the part of numerous Member States from various regional groups. The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 106, entitled "Scale of assessments", of 16 December 1981 (document A/36/833, para. 30), reads, inter alia: "a number of delegations voiced their support for the arguments advanced by Poland and hoped that they would be fully taken into consideration by the Committee on Contributions".

"It is the firm conviction of the Government of Poland that in the light of the foregoing considerations, the Committee on Contributions will not fail to meet the legitimate requests concerning the assessment of Poland's contribution. The Committee's positive action in that respect can contribute to the implementation of its mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 34/6 B of 25 October 1979, requesting it to increase the fairness and equity of the scale of assessments."

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