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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 18 August 1980 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you, at the request of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the enclosed document, adopted at the thirty-fourth meeting of the Session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance: the communiqué of the thirty-fourth meeting of the Session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the communiqué as an official document of the General Assembly under item 61 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Ilja HULINSKY
Permanent Representative

* A/35/150.

ANNEX

COMMUNIQUÉ

on the thirty-fourth meeting of the Session of the Council for
Mutual Economic Assistance

The regular thirty-fourth meeting of the Session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance was held at Prague, the capital of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, from 17 to 19 June 1980.

Taking part in the Session's work were the delegations of the CMEA member countries, headed by S. Todorov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria; C. R. Rodríguez, Deputy Chairman of the State Council and of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; L. Štrougal, Chairman of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic; W. Stoph, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic; G. Lázár, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic; J. Batmönh, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic; E. Babiuch, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic; I. Verdet, Prime Minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania; A. N. Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Under the Agreement between CMEA and the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a delegation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, headed by B. Ikonić, Deputy Chairman of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, participated in the meeting of the Session.

Taking part in the Session's work by invitation in the capacity of observers were delegations of the People's Republic of Angola, headed by Lopo do Nascimento, Minister of Foreign Trade; of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, headed by Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning; of Socialist Ethiopia, headed by Tekolla Deghene, Deputy General Secretary of the Supreme Council of the National Revolutionary Campaign for Development and Central Planning; of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, headed by KhamBou Soumisay, Chairman of the State Labour Committee; of the People's Republic of Mozambique, headed by Marcelino Dos Santos, Secretary for Economic Policy of the Central Committee of the FRELIMO party; and of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, headed by Faraj Bin Ghanem, Minister of Planning.

Present at the meeting of the Session were the Chairman of the CMEA Committee on Co-operation in the Sphere of Planning, representatives of the Permanent Commissions and other organs of CMEA, and representatives of international economic organizations of the socialist countries.

The meeting was chaired by L. Štrougal, head of the delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and Chairman of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The meeting of the Session listened to reports by R. Rohlíček, Chairman of the Executive Committee of CMEA, on the work of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance between the thirty-third and thirty-fourth meetings of the Session and on the practical implementation of the main programmes for further improving the organization of comprehensive co-operation among CMEA member countries and the work of the Council; by N. K. Baibakov, Chairman of the CMEA Committee on Co-operation in the Sphere of Planning, on progress in the co-ordination of the national economic plans of CMEA member countries for the period 1981-1985, implementation of the long-term special-purpose programmes of co-operation, and further tasks in that field; and by N. V. Faddeev, Secretary of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, on matters relating to the convening of the regular thirty-fifth meeting of the Session of CMEA.

The Session was held at a time when the CMEA member countries were completing the implementation of their five-year national economic plans for the period 1976-1980. In a number of countries, congresses of communist and workers' parties have mapped out the main directions of socio-economic development for the next five-year period and for the longer term, while in other countries active preparations are under way for holding party congresses and the further tasks of socialist and communist construction are being defined.

The period since the thirty-third meeting of the Session of CMEA has been marked by important events. The 110th anniversary of the birth of V. I. Lenin, leader of the world proletariat and founder of the world's first socialist State, and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the great Victory over Fascism were widely observed in the CMEA member countries and by the organs of the Council.

The advances made by the CMEA member countries in socialist and communist construction and the experience gained in co-operation among them serve to confirm the vital force and undying significance of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, as creatively applied in the specific conditions of each country, and are exerting an increasing influence on the course of world development.

It was noted at the meeting of the Session that, in the 25 years which have passed since the signing of the Warsaw Treaty, the countries parties to that defensive alliance, in co-operation with other countries and with all peace-loving forces, have been confidently and effectively dealing with vitally important tasks - those of preventing the outbreak of war in Europe, taking all possible action to promote the strengthening of peace, reducing international tension, and developing peaceful co-operation between States on the basis of equal rights.

The Session reaffirmed the importance of the Declaration and Statement adopted by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty on 15 May 1980, which contain a broad programme of action for strengthening peace and co-operation between peoples, continuing the policy of détente and supplementing it by military détente, halting the arms race, bringing about disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament,

promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes, eliminating the policy of force from international relations, and strengthening the security and independence of peoples.

The delegations of the CMEA member countries emphasized once again their adherence to the principles and provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and the need for active, careful preparations to ensure that the forthcoming Madrid meeting of representatives of the States parties to the European Conference proceeds in a constructive manner so as to continue and strengthen the process of détente and ensure security on the European continent and the further development of co-operation in all fields among the peoples of European countries on the basis of equal rights.

The selfless labour of the working class, peasantry and intelligentsia of the CMEA member countries under the leadership of their communist and workers' parties and the development and intensification of all-round co-operation between them on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and international solidarity, equal rights, respect for national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual benefit and comradely mutual assistance ensured the further growth of those countries' economic, scientific and technological potential and the improvement of the material and cultural living standards of the people.

National income for 1979 in the CMEA member countries as a group showed an increase of 19 per cent over 1975, while the corresponding figure for industrial production was 23 per cent. In most of the CMEA member countries, the highest rates of growth were recorded by the sectors which determine technical progress and ensure efficient production. The average annual volume of agricultural production in the CMEA member countries for the period 1976-1979 showed an increase of 9 per cent over the period 1971-1975.

The Session noted the successful development of external economic relations of the CMEA member countries. In 1979 their external trade turnover showed an increase of 12.7 per cent over the figure for the previous year and amounted to 196 billion roubles, of which 111 billion roubles were accounted for by the trade turnover between CMEA countries. Deliveries between the member countries covered the bulk of the import needs of the majority of CMEA countries in essential fuels, raw and other materials and also machinery and equipment.

The Session approved the activities of the Executive Committee in directing the work of CMEA organs and was pleased to note that since the thirty-third meeting of the CMEA Session its activities had been aimed at the successful implementation of the agreements reached at meetings of the leaders of fraternal parties and States members of CMEA and of the Comprehensive Programme for the Further Extension and Improvement of Co-operation and the Development of Socialist Economic Integration, at the execution of long-term special-purpose co-operation programmes and at developing them into a system of concrete agreements. It was remarked that during the current year implementation of the major measures provided for in the Co-ordinated Plan of Multilateral Integration Measures of CMEA Member Countries for 1976-1980 will be effectively completed.

It was noted that work on the co-ordination of plans for the next five-year plan and on particular questions to be dealt with over a longer period had reached

the final stages. The initial results of the co-ordination showed that in the course of this work a number of complex problems involved in economic, scientific and technical co-operation had largely been solved. This will facilitate the preparation by CMEA countries of plans for their social and economic development over the next five-year period.

It was agreed at the Session that national planning organs and the CMEA Committee on Co-operation in the Sphere of Planning should intensify their efforts to accelerate the completion of work on the co-ordination of plans, to satisfy more fully the needs of the countries' economies in fuel, raw materials, energy, machinery and equipment and also to increase the volume of reciprocal trade and improve international transport conditions.

The Session discussed the work done in CMEA bodies to develop and further promote specialization and production co-operation in the main types of machinery and equipment necessary to ensure technological progress in the CMEA member countries and growth of production in the energy and fuel-raw material complex, in the engineering industry, the electrical engineering industry, the electronics and chemical industries, in transport and in agriculture. As of the present time, more than 120 multilateral and more than 660 bilateral agreements are being implemented in the field of specialization and production co-operation. In the engineering industry alone, specialized production covers more than 10,000 product lines. The volume of exports of specialized engineering products in trade between the CMEA member countries is growing approximately twice as fast as general exports of machinery and equipment.

The Session also emphasized that the tasks confronting CMEA member countries in such matters as the intensification of social production and accelerated application of the results of scientific and technological progress called for further improvements in the quality of work on international specialization and production co-operation. Bearing in mind that work on the balanced development of international specialization and production co-operation on a long-term basis is the main means of enhancing the effectiveness of further co-operation between CMEA member countries over the forthcoming decade, the Session noted the measures taken to raise the quality of this work to a new level. Attention was drawn to the need to concentrate collaboration in production specialization and co-operation on problems of particular economic importance and on efforts to promote its integration by means of co-ordinated research and technical evaluation and follow-up work, technological innovation and production, and the organization of technical services; attention was also drawn to the need to expand the scope of international specialization on the standardization of assemblies and parts so as to optimize production of the final product.

Emphasis was laid on the need for the further development of co-operation between CMEA member countries in the production of high-quality materials to satisfy the needs of these countries in the main branches of industry.

During the meeting of the Session, the heads of delegation of the CMEA member countries signed an Agreement on multilateral international specialization and co-operation in the development and production of new computer technology facilities.

The parties stated their firm intention of increasing, under this agreement and over the next five-year period, the volume of reciprocal deliveries of modern computer technology to approximately twice the level achieved during the period 1976-1980.

The Session noted the growing importance to the economic development of CMEA member countries of supplying their national economy with energy, fuel and raw materials and, in addition to the development of co-operation in exploiting new resources through joint efforts, stressed the importance of economizing by all possible means on fuel, raw materials, energy and other material resources. It was decided that greater attention should be paid to problems of co-operation in ensuring more rational utilization of those resources.

At the same time, decisions were adopted regarding the expansion of co-operation in organizing geological prospecting operations in mineral-rich areas of CMEA member countries and ensuring growth in proven reserves and in mutual deliveries of fuel and other important types of mineral raw materials, providing the fuel extraction and fuel consumption sectors with modern low-cost and high-productivity equipment, and also utilizing new and supplementary sources of energy. During the next few years, scientific and technical projections will be made with a view to solving fuel and energy problems up to the year 2000.

In the course of the Session, an Intergovernmental General Agreement was signed on co-operation among member countries of the Council with a view to bringing about a substantial increase in the degree of oil refining through the introduction of more advanced technology on the basis of specialization and co-operation in the production of installations and equipment for secondary oil refining processes.

The Session noted the extensive work that was being carried out, on the basis of the Comprehensive Programme and the long-term special-purpose co-operation programmes in the field of scientific and technical co-operation in developing new types of products, improving technology and enhancing the quality and technical perfection of the goods produced. During the period between the thirty-third and thirty-fourth meetings of the Council's Session, 27 multilateral agreements on scientific and technical co-operation were concluded. In the CMEA Committee on Scientific and Technical Co-operation, the basic directions were worked out for scientific and technical co-operation among the CMEA member countries up to 1990.

It was noted that the CMEA member countries were continuing to provide assistance to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Republic of Cuba and the Mongolian People's Republic in accelerating development, enhancing economic efficiency and hastening scientific and technical progress. In the course of the meeting of the Session, a General Agreement was signed concerning the co-operation of CMEA member countries in implementing the Plan for the accelerated development of science and technology in the Republic of Cuba.

The Session noted the successful development of the co-operation of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance with non-members of CMEA and international organizations.

Co-operation between CMEA and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been intensified and further enhanced. At present, Yugoslavia is participating in the work of CMEA organs in 22 areas of co-operation and is party to over 70 agreements and treaties on multilateral specialization and co-operation in production and scientific and technical co-operation.

The successful co-operation between the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Republic of Finland has continued. Co-operation has also taken place with the Republic of Iraq and with the United Mexican States.

Guided by the principles of internationalism, the CMEA member countries provide assistance on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis to young States embarking on a course of socialist development and also to other developing countries in order to accelerate their economic progress and strengthen their political and economic independence. At present, the CMEA member countries are providing economic, scientific and technical assistance to 90 developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. In 1979, interested CMEA member countries concluded over 100 long-term agreements on economic and technical co-operation with 39 developing countries.

The CMEA member countries reaffirmed their solidarity with the legitimate desire of developing States to achieve full economic independence and eliminate exploitation by imperialist monopolies, banish inequality and the oppression of some States by others, and ensure the exercise of the right of each people to dispose of its country's natural wealth in the interests of national prosperity.

The Session stressed the consistent desire of CMEA member countries to develop co-operation with other States in the interests of intensifying the international division of labour on a just, equal and mutually advantageous basis and also the willingness of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance to expand relations of co-operation with non-members of the Council and international economic organizations for the benefit of peace and progress.

In the light of a request from the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the Session adopted a decision regarding participation by Afghanistan in the work of CMEA in an observer capacity.

The thirty-fourth meeting of the Session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance took place in an atmosphere of unanimity, complete mutual understanding and comradely co-operation.
