



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/54
5 January 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Thirty-fourth session

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD, 1979: PLANS AND ACTION TO IMPROVE
THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN THE WORLD AND IN PARTICULAR IN THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Letter dated 4 January 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a speech given on
1 January 1979 over the Central Television Network of the USSR by L. I. Brezhnev,
General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet
Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

I should be grateful if you would publish the text of the speech as an official
General Assembly document under the item entitled "International Year of the Child,
1979: plans and action to improve the situation of children in the world and in
particular in the developing countries".

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

ANNEX

Speech given on 1 January 1979 over the Central Television Network of the USSR by L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR

Greetings, my dear young friends!

I wish you all a happy New Year. The United Nations, which embraces almost all the States of the world, has decided to proclaim this year the Year of the Child. This decision is well taken and proper, for children are our future, and it is they who will have to continue the work of their fathers and mothers. I am convinced that they will make life on earth better and happier. And our task is to strive to ensure that the children of all peoples will never know war and will have a peaceful and joyful childhood.

Unfortunately, in many parts of the world today, shots are still being fired, blood is being shed and not only adults but children too are dying. Many children still are dying of hunger and disease. We cannot accept this. We in the Soviet Union are doing everything in our power to make the years of childhood healthy and happy. We have set up and are continuing to build thousands and thousands of bright, comfortable day nurseries, kindergartens and schools. We are striving to teach children kindness and friendship, to teach them to live under good neighbourly relations with everyone regardless of nationality or skin colour, to teach them to have respect for labour and be able to work for the good of all mankind.

Dear children, boys and girls!

The time will come when you too will be adults, and the burden of caring for the future will then fall upon your shoulders. In the meantime, I wish all of you good health, happiness and a peaceful and joyful life.
