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INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS  
SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 11 December 1980 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
of the Permanent Mission of the German Democratic Republic to  
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you enclosed the statement issued by the German Democratic Republic Committee for Human Rights on Human Rights Day, and would like to kindly request you to have this statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 76 and 77.

(Signed) Siegfried ZACHMANN  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement issued by the German Democratic Republic Committee  
for Human Rights on Human Rights Day

1. The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide thirty-two years ago was a manifestation of the peoples of the Anti-Hitler Coalition to be committed to the anti-Fascist foundations of the United Nations. The conventions on human rights agreed upon under international law and other related documents of the United Nations show that the maintenance of peace and respect for political, social and cultural human rights are inseparately related to each other. On Human Rights Day, it is more topical than ever to recall this.
2. The superarmament and interference policy pursued by imperialist States provoke a real threat to world peace and détente. They constitute a serious obstacle to the implementation of fundamental social and economic rights. A fraction of the billions spent on armament would suffice to overcome in large parts of the world hunger and disease, illiteracy and unemployment - that terrible heritage of colonialism. What a benefit to all peoples it would be if they were able to make full use of their material and spiritual resources for social progress, for the well-being of mankind.
3. Peoples are called upon to take vigorous action to stop the maniacal arms build-up in leading NATO countries and to ensure the durable and dependable protection of the fundamental human right to a life in peace and security. This is what the constructive proposals submitted by the Warsaw Treaty States to the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session and at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe follow-up meeting in Madrid aim at. Together with all the forces of the world peace movement, we whole-heartedly support them. The persevering fight for political and military détente is a touchstone for the respect for human rights.
4. Numerous United Nations human rights documents ban propaganda for wars of aggression and for the arms race, and they outlaw incitement to racial hatred and hostility among peoples. However, imperialist Powers continue to collude with the criminal apartheid régime. Evil Fascist and neo-Nazi spirit is being freely spread in certain countries under the cloak of freedom of opinion. It is a scandal, indeed, that former Nazis who committed war crimes and crimes against humanity are spared just punishment in the Federal Republic of Germany. Being supplied with dollars and weapons by Washington, Fascist dictatorships in El Salvador, Bolivia and elsewhere are escalating their murderous campaigns against progressive democrats.
5. We condemn those occurrences with all due emphasis. They characterized the brutality of the imperialist system. We plead for effective steps to be taken by the United Nations against racism, fascism and neo-Nazism.

6. As members of the German Democratic Republic Committee for Human Rights, we are happy to live and work in a country whose government policies are in line with the anti-Fascist principles of the United Nations human rights declaration.

7. On this Human Rights Day we reiterate our firm solidarity with all forces of peace and progress. We shall not relent in our efforts to strengthen the unity of action of all anti-imperialist people fighting for peace and freedom, international friendship and human rights.

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