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ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. MANDATE AND FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION OF PEACE

1. The International Year of Peace was observed in 1986, based on an initiative taken by Costa Rica in 1981. The Secretary-General was requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/16 of 16 November 1982, to prepare a programme for the observance of the Year. A programme was prepared by the Secretary-General (see A/40/669, annex I, and A/40/669/Add.1, annex I) and unanimously approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/10 of 11 November 1985. A report on the observance of the Year (A/42/487 and Corr.2 and Add.1) was prepared by the Secretary-General and presented to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

2. Despite the formal conclusion of the Year on 31 December 1986, the programme and its guidelines were recognized as having continuing relevance and validity. As a consequence, the General Assembly, in its resolution 42/13 of 28 October 1987, urged Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the world community to persevere in their efforts to promote the programme of the Year.

3. The desire for peace, which is shared by people around the world, provides the common denominator for participation in the programme. The programme provides a set of general guidelines for thought and action related to peace with the following primary objectives:

(a) To stimulate action in the promotion of peace, international security and co-operation and the resolution of conflict by peaceful means;

(b) To strengthen the United Nations as an instrument for peace;

(c) To focus attention on the basic requirements of peace, in particular problems of development, disarmament, human rights, human needs and the preparation for life in peace.

The programme is based on the consensus of Member States and encourages participation at the international, national and grass-roots levels. Using the programme as a guideline, such activities can contribute to the promotion of peace from a variety of perspectives and, at the same time, foster greater knowledge of and support for the United Nations.

4. The Peace Studies Unit of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs is responsible for co-ordinating activities for the promotion of peace and serves as a clearing house for information on peace projects and programmes. The Proclamation of the Year, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 40/3 of 24 October 1985, and the programme of the Year provide the basis for its work. Among its primary functions is to encourage activities and the exchange of information related to the promotion of peace among over 400 non-governmental organizations and academic institutions around the world. Many of these organizations and institutions have been designated by the Secretary-General as "Peace Messengers" for their contributions to the objectives of the programme of the International Year of Peace. Over 60 cities have been designated as "Peace Messenger" cities. Rules for the Peace Messenger Award are contained in annex III

of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Peace (A/42/487). A list of the 1988 and 1989 recipients of the Peace Messenger Award is provided in the annex to the present report.

5. The Peace Studies Unit co-ordinates the annual observance of the International Day of Peace, undertakes research on specific aspects of peace and works together with various United Nations departments, agencies and programmes in highlighting the interrelationship of peace and issues, such as environment, global development, human rights and disarmament.

6. The financing of special activities for the promotion of peace is provided from the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of Peace. As at 31 August 1989, the Fund totalled \$US 22,000 in convertible currencies and \$US 790,000 in non-convertible currencies.

7. In evaluating the impact of a special observance such as the International Year of Peace, it is important to consider what developments occur not only during a specific 12-month period but in ensuing months. At the time the Year was proclaimed, it was clearly recognized that the achievement of peace requires long-term and continuing efforts. The Year provided an opportunity to generate a broad global base of support and action for the realization of that goal. In order to assess the lasting effects of the Year, the General Assembly, in its resolution 42/13, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report after a two-year interim. For the preparation of the report, the Secretary-General sought information and comments from States. As at 15 September, relevant information had been provided by Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Costa Rica, Dominica, Greece, Norway, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Holy See. Information was also provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

II. PARTICIPATION, CO-ORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION

8. The Peace Studies Unit has encouraged discussion and activity on diverse aspects of peace, emphasizing the need for practical steps, not only in international efforts, but in national activities and initiatives taken in local communities. Although efforts are being made at various levels, participation is greatest among non-governmental and grass-roots organizations. This trend was perceived during the observance of the International Year of Peace.

9. Peace relates to various aspects of life and is therefore integral to human endeavor in many areas. Its promotion may reflect the concerns of particular groups, such as youth, women and the aging and elderly, or it may focus on specific contexts such as mediation and negotiation, education, humanitarian programmes or academic research. There is considerable diversity in the peace-related projects and programmes of groups and organizations and they often reflect the specific concerns of a particular locality or region. No single formula for peace is recognized or encouraged. Emphasis is placed on practical action and exchange, bearing in mind the ultimate objective of the creation of a more peaceful world.

The following is a brief overview of the many activities and projects undertaken in the 1987-1989 period for the promotion of peace, including examples of activities undertaken by States, the United Nations, cities, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

10. The International Day of Peace provides an important annual focus for international thought and action for peace. A primary objective is to generate wider participation in the observance of the Day and to increase public awareness of the opening of the regular General Assembly session on that Day. In 1988, the Secretary-General dedicated the observance of the Day to children. The purpose was to encourage long-term efforts towards ensuring that children will reach the twenty-first century in the full enjoyment of a stable and lasting peace and, in particular, to highlight the work of the United Nations on the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child. In preparing for the Day, the Peace Studies Unit organized two consultative meetings on children and peace for Peace Messenger organizations and others involved with children's programmes and activities. The first meeting was held at the Vienna International Centre in May 1987; the second took place at United Nations Headquarters in June 1987. An informal report or catalogue of ideas on children and peace was prepared on the basis of the two meetings.

11. In 1989, the International Day of Peace was dedicated to peace and the environment with the theme "Peace for the Future of the Earth". This theme was highlighted in a television programme produced by the United Nations and the International Peace Child Foundation on the occasion of the Day. The programme originated in the General Assembly Hall and featured live satellite connections with Costa Rica and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The programme was both educational and entertaining and featured an international group of young people who hosted a discussion of current trends on major global issues. President Oscar Arias Sánchez participated in the programme live via satellite from Costa Rica. Special messages were received from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of Japan and Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNESCO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) contributed to the planning of the programme.

12. Peace Messenger awards are presented on the International Day of Peace each year. Presentation ceremonies organized at United Nations offices and information centres provide an occasion for special events to mark the Day, including seminars and conferences, concerts and festivals. Such events also help to increase public awareness of the opening of the General Assembly session at United Nations Headquarters on that Day.

13. According to information received by the United Nations Secretariat for 1988, events for the Day took place in Argentina, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Denmark, Greece, Portugal, Senegal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. United Nations offices in New York and at Geneva organized major conferences of Peace Messenger organizations for the observance of the Day. Non-governmental organizations sponsored observances and special events in China, Canada, and the United States of America. United Nations information centres and non-governmental organizations reported that the selection of a special theme for

the Day encourages local and national attention to the theme and greater community participation in the observance of the Day. Information is not yet available regarding the 1989 observance of the Day.

14. Many Peace Messengers continue the activities that they initiated in 1986 for the promotion of peace. However, several have undertaken new projects that are global in scope and expressly oriented towards fulfilling United Nations objectives for the promotion of peace. To date, three such projects have been designated "Peace Messenger Initiatives Dedicated to the United Nations".

15. The "Global co-operation for a better world" project, sponsored by the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, was launched in April 1988 and includes participants from over 60 countries around the world. The project encourages participants to discuss positive changes that could help improve life upon this planet and to consider how they might contribute to such improvement. An international conference at Mt. Abu, India, in February 1989, resulted in the Mt. Abu Declaration of Principles for Co-operation (see A/44/549, annex).

16. The Polish Peace Committee is the organizer of the biennial Festival of Peace Toys and Games, an international exhibition open to anyone wishing to design or create a toy or game that promotes co-operation, global awareness and international understanding.

17. The Conflict Resolution Network, based in Australia, offers courses in conflict resolution for schools, businesses, government offices, media representatives and various social agencies. In autumn 1988, the co-directors of the Network taught a course in conflict resolution for staff at United Nations Headquarters in New York as part of the United Nations staff training programme.

18. A consultative meeting of Peace Messenger organizations was organized by the Peace Studies Unit in 1988, in conjunction with the observance of the International Day of Peace at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Preparations are now under way for the first Conference of all Peace Messengers to take place in April 1990 at Moscow. The Conference will be hosted by the Soviet Peace Committee and organized by the Peace Studies Unit. The Conference will be financed by a contribution from the Soviet Peace Fund to the Trust Fund for the Promotion of Peace. The purpose of the Conference is to identify priorities for the promotion of peace to the year 2000 and to encourage co-operative projects among Peace Messengers toward those aims.

19. Peace Messenger cities met for the first time in September 1988 at Verdun, France, at the invitation of the mayor. The Secretary-General addressed the mayors and special guests and participated in the inauguration of a permanent Centre for Peace, Human Rights and Justice. The cities held their second meeting in Warsaw, Poland, in September 1989, at the invitation of the mayor. Meetings of the Peace Messenger cities provide an opportunity for an exchange of experiences relating to the promotion of peace and help to foster greater global awareness, contact with and support for the United Nations. Plans are currently being made by the city of New Haven, Connecticut, United States of America, to host the 1990 meeting of Peace Messenger Cities.

20. A variety of international conferences have addressed various aspects of peace. Some have continued on an annual basis since the International Year of Peace; others are new initiatives. Among them are: a 1988 conference on peace and the environment, hosted by the Bulgarian-based Ecoforum; "The First Global Conference: Tourism - A Vital Force for Peace", sponsored by Tourism Canada, among others, and endorsed by the World Tourism Organization, held in October 1988 at Vancouver; the Yokohama Student Peace Festival, organized each year by the city of Yokohama, Japan; the World Youth Chess Festival for Peace, sponsored each year by the World Chess Federation; two seminars on international peace and children of the world and international peace and world literature, organized by the World Muslim Congress; the Conference on Visions of a Peaceful World, organized by the Polish Peace Committee in April 1989 and two international conferences focusing on the role of women in the world and, in particular, in the promotion of peace and preservation of the environment, hosted by the Soviet Women's Peace Committee.

21. In June 1989, the University for Peace of Costa Rica organized the "Conference in Search of the True Meaning of Peace", which was attended by several hundred participants of various nationalities, creeds, political persuasions and professional backgrounds. The participants adopted a Declaration of Human Responsibilities for Peace and Sustainable Development, asserting the need for individuals and Governments to commit themselves to protecting the environment and to settling conflicts by peaceful means.

22. UNESCO sponsored the International Congress on Peace in the Minds of Men, at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, from 26 June to 1 July 1989, in the framework of the achievements of the International Year of Peace. The Congress, organized in collaboration with the International Foundation Houphouët-Boigny for Peace, addressed two main themes: (a) peace among men and (b) peace in the relations between man and the environment.

23. Peace education, particularly at the primary and secondary school level, is being introduced or integrated into many educational programmes. In Norway, a new official syllabus was prepared in 1987 that includes increased reference to issues related to peace and human rights. A teacher-training programme on these issues was initiated with largely positive evaluations. The Peruvian Permanent National Commission on Peace Education, established during the International Year of Peace, undertakes research on peace-related issues and sponsored teacher-training courses to focus on "peace culture" and "education for peace". Particular emphasis is placed on the role of teachers as agents for peace. In Poland, an annual prize has been established for a scholar in peace studies and for the best book on peace issues. In the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the annual peace lesson on 1 September continues as part of the curriculum.

24. Several new institutions have been established in order to address specific aspects of peace through research and discussion. Among these are the Costa Rican Foundation for Peace and Human Progress and the European Institute for Rapprochement between East and West, a Greek initiative to be placed under the aegis of the Council of Europe. The Norwegian Kornhaug Fredssenter was created to serve as a national centre for peace. Plans are being made for the creation of a

European University Centre for Peace Research and for an International Centre for Peace Initiatives in Bombay, India. The Australian Government provides financial support for a Peace Research Centre at the Australian National University.

25. A variety of special events such as exhibits, rallies, festivals, and concerts continue to be organized on themes related to peace. Within the framework of the "Six Countries Initiative for Peace and Disarmament", Greece organized the first "International Peace Olympiad" in March 1989, with governmental and non-governmental participants from around the world. In the Byelorussian SSR, Ukrainian SSR and the USSR, a relay race among Peace Messenger cities was organized with the theme "Peace to your home". The relay passed through Volgograd, Tbilisi, Kiev, Sochi, Minsk and Leningrad, beginning in February 1988 and concluding in Moscow on 24 October. WIPO prepared a special exhibition on the theme "Intellectual property and peace" and other peace-related exhibits were organized by non-governmental organizations in Poland, the United States and, in particular, at various peace museums around the world. Many organizations and individuals participated in the International Peace Wave in August 1988.

26. A variety of information materials has been prepared and disseminated by the Peace Studies Unit, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. A periodic newsletter entitled Peace Notes is distributed by the Peace Studies Unit to all Peace Messengers, United Nations information centres and other interested organizations. With the generous assistance of the Hungarian Peace Committee and the Polish Peace Committee, the Unit produced a poster/calendar entitled "To Safeguard Peace and the Future of Humanity". A brochure about the observance of the International Day of Peace is being prepared with the assistance of the Peace Council of the German Democratic Republic.

27. Special books and other publications have been prepared, among them a publication of the Holy See entitled The Holy See at the Service of Peace. WIPO plans the possible issuance of special postage stamps on the theme "Intellectual property and peace". Several Peace Messenger organizations, such as the International Social Science Council, the Department for Peace and Conflict Research of Uppsala University and the Union of Peace Cities have published or plan forthcoming books on peace issues.

III. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PROMOTION OF PEACE

28. The previous section of the present report provided a sampling of the wide variety of activities that have taken place or are planned for the promotion of peace. Despite their diversity, several specific areas of activity can be discerned. These reflect increased awareness at the local or grassroots level of global issues and a new readiness to take concrete action towards the achievement of peace.

29. At the United Nations the effects of increased co-operation among Member States are discernible on a variety of issues and in many regions of the world. Concerted multilateral action has opened new opportunities for the solution of often long-standing disputes and conflicts. As peace-making processes continue,

they are being increasingly complemented by peace-building efforts at various levels. These trends in the promotion of peace, and particularly the increased reliance of the international community on the United Nations, are positive steps towards the objectives of the programme of the International Year of Peace.

30. The study and practice of conflict resolution and mediation is a growing subject of interest among individuals and groups of diverse backgrounds, offering practical means for resolving disputes without violence. Based on information received by the United Nations Secretariat, an unprecedented variety of conferences, courses and seminars on conflict resolution and mediation techniques have taken place. Interest in conflict resolution reflects in part the increase in conflict resolution activity at the international level. At the same time, conflict resolution techniques are being more widely perceived as applicable not only to inter-State relations but to person-to-person and group relationships as well.

31. Increased emphasis on peace education in primary and secondary schools suggests a growing concern and awareness of the impact and urgency of global issues and the need for long-term commitment and concerted efforts in addressing them. Peace education also encourages dialogue, understanding and co-operation. In this context, the increase in teacher training courses and workshops, as well as formal changes in educational programmes and curricula, are significant. These efforts in a formal educational setting are complemented by a growing variety of cultural exchange programmes and international summer camps.

32. New initiatives are being taken in the field of science and technology for peace. In the context of the International Year of Peace, there has been an informal convocation of international scientists to discuss various aspects of science and peace. Their meetings led to a determination to continue such discussions on an annual basis. At the initiative of Costa Rica, the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/61 of 6 December 1988, proclaimed the "International Week of Science and Peace", to take place each year during the week in which 11 November falls. The purpose of the Week is to encourage study and dissemination of information on the links between progress in science and technology and the maintenance of peace and security. A separate report will be prepared by the Secretary-General on activities during the Week to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

33. Increased interest in academic research is focusing on aspects of peace-keeping, peace-making and peace-building. Attention is also being directed toward cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary analyses of concepts and conditions of peace. The Seville statement on violence, elaborated during the International Year of Peace, has provided a basis for further research relating to the origins of violence and the role of human nature in creating conditions for peace.

34. The observance of the International Year of Peace provided a unique impetus for projects and initiatives related to the promotion of peace. The period since the formal observance of the Year provided an opportunity for review and assessment of contributions to its objectives. Some activities were undertaken specifically to mark the Year; others have been continued or new initiatives launched. The

1987-1989 period has been a valuable time for assessment and consolidation of efforts for the promotion of peace. Based on information made available to the Secretariat, a significant international constituency for peace exists and several trends in relevant and meaningful action can be discerned.

35. The United Nations is clearly perceived as an important centre and catalyst for efforts in the promotion of peace, providing information, advice and opportunities for exchange and co-operation. The Secretary-General suggests that Member States and interested organizations should be invited to keep the Secretariat informed of relevant initiatives as they are undertaken. He further suggests that Member States should be periodically informed through reports to the General Assembly concerning such developments throughout the world.

ANNEX

List of 1988 and 1989 Recipients of the Peace Messenger Award

A. Organizations and institutions

Acropolis Appeal Committee
African Society
Alva and Gunnar Myrdal Foundation
Argentine Council for International Relations
Archivio Disarmo
Association Fès-Saiss
Association sénégalaise pour les Nations Unies
Australian Council for Overseas Aid
Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (Trinidad and Tobago)
Burkinabe Federation of UNESCO Associations and Clubs
Centre for Peace Research (Spain)
Centre for Strategic and International Studies (Indonesia)
Children as the Peacemakers Foundation (United States of America)
China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped
Chulalongkorn University
Coalition for Peace and Development (Thailand)
Concertation paix et développement (Belgium)
Czechoslovak United Nations Association
Ecoles associées de l'UNESCO de la partie francophone de Belgique
Ecole instrument de la paix
Egyptian United Nations Association
Escuela No. 117 "Naciones Unidas"
Experiment in International Living (United States of America)
Finnish Women for Peace
Fundación de Educación Para la Paz (FEDEPAZ)
Geneva International Peace Research Institute
Global Education Motivators, Inc.
Greek Women's Anti-Nuclear Movement
Hellenic Committee of Artists and Intellectuals for Peace

House of Peace (Chile)
IKIP Muhammadiyah Jakarta
International Centre for Peace Among People - Assisi
International People's College (Denmark)
Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union
Karana Foundation
Kenitra Association of UNESCO and Friends of the United Nations
Kilburn Park Junior School (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Lounsberry Hollow Middle School (United States of America)
National Commission of UNESCO (Egypt)
National Council for Women's Rights (Mexico)
National Federation of Clubs UNESCO and the United Nations
Olof Palme Peace Foundation (Ghana)
Pakistan Federation of Business and Professional Women
Pax Christi (Buffalo, New York chapter) (United States of America)
Peace Centre (Trinidad and Tobago)
Peace Education Institute (Finland)
Polish Peace Research Council
Quaker International Affairs Programme in South Asia
Romanian National Women's Council
Russian Orthodox Church
Section sénégalaise du Mouvement international des jeunes et des étudiants pour les Nations Unies
Soviet Peace Fund
Spanish Red Cross Institute for Studies and Training
Swedish Red Cross
Swedish Save the Children
Trinidad and Tobago Institute of International Affairs
United Nations Association of China
United Nations Association of Finland
United Nations Association - Kanagawa Prefectural Chapter
United Nations Association of Spain
United Nations Association of Sweden
United Nations Association of the United Republic of Tanzania

University Centre for Development and Peace (UCOV) of the Free University of
Brussels

Weimar Branch of the United Nations Association

Women for Peace (Netherlands)

World Association of Women Journalists and Writers

World Young Women's Christian Association - Caribbean Area Office

Zaragoza Seminar for Peace Research

B. Cities

Bogotá, Colombia

Kosice, Czechoslovakia

Liège, Belgium

Lisbon, Portugal

Slovenj Gradec, Yugoslavia

Sochi, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Tashkent, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Wroclaw, Poland
