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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 20 February 1981 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Poland to the Secretary-General

In December 1978 the General Assembly requested you to follow the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace (resolution 33/73) and to submit periodic reports thereon to the Assembly, the first such report to be submitted not later than at its thirty-sixth session.

As Your Excellency is aware, the initiative to adopt the Declaration was taken by Poland. The time since its adoption has allowed for the accumulation of a wealth of interesting experience, both on national and international planes. Also the Government of the Polish People's Republic spared no efforts at implementing the important document and is determined to continue them with unchanged consistence.

Pursuant to the General Assembly's recommendation, I have the honour to bring to the attention of Your Excellency and States Members of the United Nations information of the Government of the Polish People's Republic on the implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace.

I shall be grateful if you would have this letter and the enclosed information circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 58 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) J. CZYREK

* A/36/50.

ANNEX

INFORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DECLARATION ON THE PREPARATION OF SOCIETIES FOR LIFE IN PEACE

In conjunction with the request contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace ^{1/} that on the basis of the comments of Member-States, the Secretary-General would submit to the General Assembly, not later than at its thirty-sixth session, the first report concerning its implementation, the Government of the Polish People's Republic has the honour to present the following:

I

On 15 December 1978 the General Assembly adopted, without a dissenting vote, the important Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace. The initiative to adopt it, subsequently co-sponsored by 27 States, had been taken by Poland.

The passage of time has made it clear that this document has taken a lasting and prominent place among **comparable** acts of the United Nations, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and the Declaration on the Deepening and Consolidation of International Détente. It has come to

represent the most comprehensive synthesis of efforts to impart a new quality to international relations based on joint action by the international community towards attainment of the supreme goal of ensuring a just and lasting peace in the world, "mankind's paramount value, held in the highest esteem by all the principal political, social and religious movements".

For the first time in history such an august and universal forum has recognized the right to life in peace as a fundamental and inherent right of every nation and every human being. For the first time the integral nexus between progress in the political, economic and social sphere and accomplishment of this basic human right has been demonstrated in the clearest and most explicit of terms and in all-embracing fashion. For the first time too, and here lies the pioneering significance of the Declaration, acknowledgement has been given to the importance of a positive moulding of the human consciousness, in the interests of removing artificial barriers between nations and promoting a climate in which they can cultivate friendly relations, for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles served by the United Nations.

The President of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly called the Declaration "a milestone in the history of our Organization" and the Secretary-General stressed that "the objectives of the Declaration clearly enjoyed unanimous support. It is these objectives which must guide our quest for peace and international co-operation".

The principles and methods of implementation laid down in the Declaration stem from an objective assessment of the realities of the contemporary world. They do not amount to

an idealistic profession of faith based on a philosophy of universal pacifism. They are based though on the premise that the world of today is facing numerous and formidable problems which can and must be tackled with a view to reducing^{and}/thus eliminating the threat of nuclear destruction; that the whole infamous legacy of ignorance, prejudice and suspicion, nourishing this threat, can and must be overcome; that there needs to be created a suitable climate of negotiation and dialogue favouring peaceful settlement of disputes and development of international co-operation, which would make it possible to deal with the dangerous gap between the immense advances in technological civilization and the all too static human consciousness and to base the system of international relations on effective recognition of the supreme importance and necessity of establishing, maintaining and strengthening peace for present and future generations; that peace is a function of a multi-dimensional and dynamic process which can and must be given direction by means of a broad front of positive endeavour by the whole of humanity.

The Polish People's Republic has been and always will be true to the principles which spring from the age-old tradition and historical experience of the people of Poland and the fundamental axioms of its socialist system. Consequently, the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace forms an integral part of the foreign policy of Poland which, together with its allies, has for years been unsparing in its efforts as regards active and constructive steps on behalf of a just and lasting peace in the world. One reflection of this can be found in the Declaration ^{2/} of the Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, adopted on the twenty-

fifth anniversary of the Treaty /Warsaw, 15 May 1980/:

"The most important success achieved in recent decades consists in the fact that it has been possible to break the tragic cycle in which peace has been no more than a pause between world wars and to develop a broad effort to eliminate war forever from the life of human society/.../ The States represented at the meeting are determined, together with all peace-loving countries and social forces, to protect détente and to devote their efforts to making it a continuing and universal process of all-encompassing scope."

II

The Government of the Polish People's Republic notes with satisfaction that, in accordance with the spirit of the Declaration, the Governments concerned, and governmental and non-governmental national and international organizations, have set about putting its goals into practice and introducing its principles as underlying guidelines for the proper shaping of international relations.

Aside from the long-standing and consistent actions of the socialist community, an indisputable contribution to promoting the ideal of preparation for peace has been made by the non-aligned movement. The principles of the Declaration enjoy particularly authentic support in Latin America. These efforts by the international community are echoed by the active stance of churches and other religious quarters, including the committed voice of Pope John Paul II.

On the multilateral plane, shortly after its adoption, the Declaration was given full endorsement in a special resolution ^{3/} of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America /OPANAL/ at Quito, the capital

of Ecuador. In it the Governments of the Latin American continent recognized the right of man to life in peace and education in its spirit as a basic principle of their policies and one of the prerequisites of the success of disarmament efforts.

The Government of the Polish People's Republic notes with particular satisfaction the positive and active attitude to the Declaration of organs of the United Nations system. Its provisions are directly referred to in the reports of the United Nations Disarmament Commission ^{4/}, the Committee on Information ^{5/}, the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization ^{6/}, the Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security ^{7/}, the Commission for Social Development ^{8/}, resolutions of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security ^{9/}, on information ^{10/}, protection and further development of cultural values ^{11/}, and the Final Document of the World Congress on Disarmament Education ^{12/}.

Significant progress towards strengthening the principles of the Declaration was made at the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women ^{13/} at Copenhagen, last July.

A resolution adopted on the initiative of 25 co-sponsors welcomed the Declaration "as consonant with the guiding theme of the Conference: Equality, Development and Peace" and called on the women of the world to play an active part in the process of preparation for peace. The Conference also invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take due account in his report under resolution 33/73 of women's contribution to the implementation of this crucial document. The Programme of Action for the Second Half

of the United Nations Decade for Women, adopted at the Conference, like-wise stated: "In accordance with their obligations under the Charter to maintain peace and security and to achieve international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, bearing in mind, in this respect, the right to live in peace, States should help women to participate in promoting international co-operation for the sake of the preparation of societies for a life in peace".

There is a very important role to be played in the implementation of the Declaration by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization /Unesco/. The creative attitude of both its Director-General and Executive Council, whose recommendations ^{14/} have embraced the provisions of the Declaration, have been noted by the Government of the Polish People's Republic with real satisfaction. The twenty-first session of the General Conference of Unesco /Belgrade, October 1980/ adopted a comprehensive, long-term programme for the contribution of the Organization to the preparation of societies for life in peace. Laying down a specific programme of action in education, science, culture and information, the relevant resolution ^{15/} asked the Member-States to extend far-reaching assistance to their educational, research and cultural institutions and intellectual communities in the implementation of the purposes specified in the Declaration and requested the Director-General to present a detailed account of Unesco's experience regarding education for peace in the framework of the report which the Secretary-General of the United Nations will submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of the Declaration. The Third Conference of Ministers of Education of Unesco Member-States of

the European Region, which met in Sofia, in June 1980, also adopted a recommendation ^{16/} "to initiate and develop various forms of bilateral and multilateral co-operation, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Declaration, and in particular, exchanging experiences on projects pursued with that end in view and studying and improving school curricula and textbooks".

In the spirit of the recommendation concerned and the encouraging experiences of its co-operation with a number of States, at the CSCE Madrid Meeting 1980, Poland presented a proposal ^{17/} envisaging, among other things, promotion of the establishment of long-range programmes in education, science and culture and encouragement of mutual reviews of school text-books.

There has been a wide response to the Declaration in the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Nor is it possible to overlook the lively interest in its purpose shown by numerous non-governmental organizations, in particular the World Peace Council, the World Federation of United Nations Associations and the International Students Movement for the United Nations. It has also been referred to at the annual conferences of non-governmental organizations affiliated with United Nations Department of Public Information and its regional Fellowship Programmes for Educators /eg. in Mexico, 22 November - 12 December 1979 and New Delhi, 3-21 November 1980/.

III

As soon as the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace had been passed by the General Assembly, Poland embarked on steps for its fullest possible implementation, its

recommendations being in accord with the bearings of its foreign policy and the Constitution whose Article VI states that People's Poland shall be guided by the will for peace and co-operation among nations and shall base its relations with States of different social systems on the principles of peaceful co-existence and co-operation. They are consonant with the Defence of Peace Act of 29 December 1950 which prohibits the practice of war propaganda and Article 272 of the Penal Code which makes it an offence to incite strife on grounds of national, ethnic, racial or religious differences.

The implementation of the Declaration by Poland was inaugurated by a special resolution of the Sejm /Parliament/ ^{18/} on 21 December 1978 which approved its purposes and principles and urged all parliaments to further their translation into practice on a world scale. The Sejm's appeal was specifically acted upon by the Council of Ministers in its decision of 18 October 1979 which contained a comprehensive, long-range programme of concrete measures in all the practical fields envisaged by the Declaration. A detailed account of the salient points of the Sejm resolution was presented to the Secretary-General in a letter of Poland's Minister for Foreign Affairs ^{19/} of 23 November 1979. Like other important United Nations documents, the Declaration was widely disseminated among Polish public opinion.

The measures taken by Poland spring from all the eight fundamental principles formulated in the Declaration. Proceeding from the inherent right to life in peace /principle one/, respect for which, as well as for other human rights, is in the common interest of all mankind, they embrace the whole sphere of the psychological conditions of preparation for peace and are in

particular, guided by principles two, three and eight under which a war of aggression, its planning, preparation, or initiation are crimes against peace; States have the duty to refrain from propaganda for wars of aggression; every State has the duty to discourage advocacy of hatred and prejudice against other peoples as contrary to the principles of peaceful co-existence and friendly co-operation among nations. The practice of contemporary international relations indicates that there is still much to be done in this direction.

The Government of the Polish People's Republic believes that construction of a "mentality of peace" on the basis of these four principles has to begin with the very youngest generation. This idea has therefore been given full expression in the Education Department's planning of the subject of "Education for Peace in the Polish School System"; it covers the long-standing achievements and new tasks of Poland's educational system in this field. The principal role in the programme is being played inter alia by 80 Unesco-associated schools. No less important is the contribution of the family and youth organizations as well as the mass media. The preparation of societies for life in peace is discussed in education trade papers and in a regular radio programme, Nurt. Polish educational institutions not only concern themselves with the contents and style of textbooks but also try to see that toys are of a suitable nature. For instance, an Education Department official advises on the production of the toy industry. Toys of a military type are not used in nursery schools. In accordance with Unesco recommendations, teachers have been instructed to discourage children from playing soldiers. A sense of community and brotherhood among nations is being fostered by

broad participation of Polish children in international childrens art competitions. This kind of positive action among children was given extra impetus in the course of the observances of the International Year of the Child.

Specific Declaration programmes in the field of teaching and research, extra-curricular activities for students and international contacts are also being carried out by institutions of higher learning and research centres; they include conferences, seminars, masters' theses and publications.

Declaration topics have been included in the programme of the Academic Youth Summer Project, the POLITICUS Political Knowledge Competition for students, the work of chapters of the United Nations Association and student scientific clubs, and are widely embraced in the international contacts of Polish youth. Education of the younger generation in a spirit of peace and cultivation of feelings of friendship among nations are a theme of the Summer Projects of the Polish Pathfinders' Union: the main event in 1980 was a Central International Peace and Friendship Camp organized in Chorzów with the motto "For a Happy Childhood in a Peaceful World". Translation of the Declaration into practice was the principal topic of the IX International Forum of Exchange of Instructors' Experience, organized at the Polish Pathfinders' Union Central School in Oleśnica, near Wrocław and of many schoolchildrens' holiday camps attended by participants from abroad.

An indisputable contribution to preparation for peace is being made by Polish journalists through objective and responsible reporting on various aspects of the life of other nations and the international situation and a constructive search for the

most appropriate formula of the New International Information Order. Since 1978 the daily Życie Warszawy has been participating in the successful UN-sponsored programme involving 17 newspapers from various parts of the world for publication of the joint international supplement One World. Discussion of practical means of implementing the Declaration was the object of a round-table conference of Polish and Soviet journalists on "Preparation for Peace", held in Warsaw, in December 1979.

Direct reference to the aims of the Declaration can be found in the bilateral Agreements on cultural and scientific co-operation and the Programmes for their implementation concluded by Poland in the past two years with Belgium, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Turkey. The same ideas are reflected in fact in the whole sphere of Poland's cultural and scientific co-operation with other countries and are a theme of various Polish events abroad and of international events organized in Poland.

Recognition of the right to life and work in peace as a fundamental and inherent human right was the subject of the Third Armand Hammer Conference on "Peace and Human Rights = Human Rights and Peace", organized in Warsaw in July 1980 by the Foundation for the Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg and the Institute of State and Law of the Polish Academy of Sciences. It was attended by leading political figures, community activists, academics and representatives of various other milieus from 32 countries. The Final Document of the Conference stated: "A lasting, just and universal peace is not a utopia nor mere wishful thinking. It is a realistic, attainable objective which is in the

interest of all peoples and of mankind as a whole and which can be attained when States, peoples and social groups are determined to harmonize their interests in just and peaceful relations based on equality and freedom".

It is precisely in these terms that the Government of the Polish People's Republic understands and unswervingly pursues the other four cardinal principles of the Declaration which set out the most urgent tasks of States in the sphere of the practical modelling of contemporary international relations. In a spirit of friendship and respect it is promoting all-round, mutually advantageous and equitable political, economic, social and cultural co-operation with other States regardless of their socio-economic systems; respecting the right of all peoples to self-determination independence, equality and sovereignty, the territorial integrity of States and the inviolability of their frontiers, and the right to determine the road of their development without interference in their internal affairs; undertaking continuous efforts for the elimination of the threat inherent in the arms race; and participating actively in the struggle of the international community against all manifestations of colonialism and racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

The Government of the Polish People's Republic is equally actively committed on the European continent, the immediate province of its interest. A vital consummation of the long-standing efforts of Poland and the other countries of the socialist community was the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Final Act of which represents on a regional scale an inspiring

catalogue of principles relating to the cornerstone of preparation for peace: political détente. Realization of the latest Polish initiative, the convening in Warsaw of a Conference on Military Détente and Disarmament as proposed by the socialist States, would mark a great new step towards implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace also on a world scale. For, given the present state of international relations and the level of military technology, there is no task more urgent, than the reduction of armaments and disarmament, if we genuinely wish to save the world from the scourge of war.

IV

Aware of the complexities of the international situation, the Government of the Polish People's Republic realizes that the full implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace is no easy matter. But the stronger harmful factors and forces hostile to détente assert themselves in international relations, the greater the urgency of the historical need of shaping them on the basis of the principles of the Declaration. The positive achievements of the seventies are evidence that if the processes of détente launched at the beginning of the past decade had been continued with consistent intensity by all, the picture of the world on the threshold of the eighties would have been altogether different. The Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, adopted at the very time that attempts to increase tensions were surfacing,

synthetizes the cause-and-effect relationship: détente - disarmament - development. Treated separately, none of these three elements can in the longer run function on its own; taken together they form the foundation of an infrastructure of peace, of which preparation for peace is an indispensable part. For this reason, the natural consequence of the processes of political détente must be progress to the stage of military détente and disarmament which are the basic condition of socio-economic advance and genuine development.

In carrying on and continually enriching the long-term process of implementation of the Declaration, the Government of the Polish People's Republic is acting in the conviction that the international community can count on the active co-operation of all States in this field. What is needed is to make it not an expediency, but a lasting habit which is a positive outcome of the political good will of States, on the one hand, and their proper perception of national interest, on the other. There is no society on earth which does not regard preparation for peace as a goal in accord with its best-conceived national interest. All the greater, therefore, is the responsibility of Governments as regards demonstrating their political will to bring nations closer together. This means, instead of seeking conflict-charged confrontation, undertaking bona fide dialogue and negotiations for the settlement of conflicts and arriving at the essential compromises; instead of a race in destructive armaments, peaceful co-operation in the development of economies, science and culture; instead of fomenting mutual suspicion and prejudice, the building of confidence on effective foundations and

searching for negotiated solutions on behalf of the supreme goal of peace. In short, every area of international relations without exception forms part of the broad process of preparation for peace.

Unchangeably guided by these principles, the Government of the Polish People's Republic considers it necessary to increase still further efforts for the consistent implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace:

On the internal plane of the activity of States, particular responsibility rests on institutions and persons involved in education, culture and the media. Without infringement of their statutory independence, it is possible and indeed necessary to see that their presentation of the image of other countries is based on a sense of full objectivity and responsibility for the information and assessments communicated to their respective public opinions. A similar attitude can be expected on a still wider scale of the leaders of States, politicians, diplomats and leaders at all levels.

On the bilateral plane, without glossing over the epoch-making ideological and political transformations, greater attention should be paid to accentuating what joins and draws States together rather than what divides and sets them apart. Provoking and highlighting harmful manifestations of these relations and their subsequent exploitation in the shaping of the international atmosphere serve a bad cause, breed suspicion, entrench intolerance and increase tension. The reinforcement of understanding, fostering of détente and consolidation of peace can

only be advanced by constructive, all-round co-operation between States with different social systems, based on mutual respect, equal rights and full partnership. Through preparation for peace such co-operation creates a broad infrastructure of rapprochement.

On the regional plane, there is a large role to be played by the chief organizations and institutional forms of peaceful co-operation on all continents: in Europe, by the historic accords of the Conference on Security and Co-operation and the subsequent meetings of representatives of participating States, reviewing their implementation; in Africa, by the Organization of African Unity; in Latin America, by the Organization of American States; in Asia, by the translation into practice of important initiatives relating to the establishment of a system of collective security, including the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

A proper atmosphere of relations and co-operation between States on the regional scale is bound to exert a powerful influence upon the general political climate in the world. Equally important are the activities pursued by appropriate UN agencies, among them the regional Economic Commissions. Rapprochement is also served by such important regional negotiations as the Vienna talks on the reduction of armaments and armed forces in Europe. Their, long-overdue, progress would constitute a major contribution to preparation for peace.

On the multilateral plane, the basic range of tasks is set by the Declaration itself which recommends that governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned should initiate appropria-

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te action towards its implementation and ensure a concerted effort on the part of Governments, the United Nations, the specialized agencies, in particular Unesco. The United Nations system is the most natural environment for the ideas of preparation for peace to permeate from throughout the world. To this end, however, further improvements must be made in its instruments of functioning from continuous efforts^{to}/reinforce the effectiveness of actions in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations to spreading knowledge of the text of the Declaration, both among the broad public and also the staffs of the secretariats of international organizations concerned, at times still inadequately aware of its existence.

The Government of the Polish People's Republic stands ready to participate actively on all possible planes in the implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace and to exchange experiences regarding measures taken towards this end.

Warsaw, February 1981.

Footnotes:

- 1/ Res. 33/73
- 2/ A/35/237
- 3/ OPANAL CG/Res.128/VI/
- 4/ A/34/42
- 5/ A/34/21; A/35/21
- 6/ A/35/33
- 7/ A/35/505
- 8/ E/979/24
- 9/ Res.34/100; 35/158
- 10/ Res.34/182; 35/201
- 11/ Res.35/121
- 12/ SS-80/Conf./401 Rev./COL.51
- 13/ A/Conf./94/35
- 14/ 107 EX/PX/DR.1 Rev.,5.1.7
- 15/ Res.10.2.
- 16/ Final Report of Conference, Part IV, Recommendation V
- 17/ CSCE/RM/H.14
- 18/ A/34/52
- 19/ A/C.1/34/11
