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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Fifty-first session  
Agenda item 16  
APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 10 December 1996 from the Permanent Representative of  
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter dated 10 December 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the regional rotation of the post of the Secretary-General (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anatoli M. ZLENKO  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of  
Ukraine to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 10 December 1996 from the Permanent Representative  
of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of  
the Security Council

Recently, in connection with the issue of the appointment of the Secretary-General, which is currently under consideration, the problem of the regional rotation of the highest political and administrative post in the United Nations has become a matter of principle.

In this context, your statement of 4 December 1996 on behalf of the Security Council is of special importance. In it, you pointed out the priority right of the African group and individual African countries to recommend their candidatures for the post of the Secretary-General. Thus the Security Council has confirmed the existence de facto of the rotation principle which has already become an inalienable constituting part and normal practice of the organization and conduct of activities in the framework of the United Nations, including the elections of its chief executive officer.

In this regard, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that for more than half a century of the United Nations history, it is only the Eastern European regional group that has never had its representative elected to this post of high responsibility. Therefore, in its position Ukraine proceeds from the understanding that at the next elections of the Secretary-General, to be held in 2001, the Security Council will show its consistency and reconfirm the priority right of the above-mentioned group of countries, which has substantially increased in number, to submit their candidatures.

I would be very grateful if you could circulate this letter among the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anatoli M. ZLENKO  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of  
Ukraine to the United Nations

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