



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/402
14 June 1988
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

Forty-third session
Items 39 and 86 of the preliminary list*

CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA; UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF
ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Letter dated 10 June 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the document entitled "Economic assistance provided by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the African countries in 1987".

I would appreciate if you could have this letter and the attached document circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 39 and 86 of the preliminary list. I would also welcome if the attached document could be made available for the September meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to Review and Appraise the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

(Signed) Evžen ZÁPOTOCKÝ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Economic assistance provided by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
to the African countries in 1987

True to the principles of its foreign policy and within its possibilities, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has provided and continues to provide to the developing countries all-round assistance in the creation of conditions for economic and social progress and in the solution of the problems of decolonization and underdevelopment.

In the context of the complicated world economic situation, a significant proportion of Czechoslovak economic assistance is channelled to the developing countries of the African continent, which is home to the overwhelming majority of States whose basic economic indicators of social and economic development place them among the least developed countries.

During the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the problem of the critical economic situation in Africa, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic communicated data documenting the volume of aid provided to the countries of the African continent in 1985, which was a particularly difficult one for the countries of Africa. The total volume of Czechoslovak economic assistance at the time amounted to 1.226 billion Czechoslovak koruny, i.e., 0.22 per cent of national income created in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in that year. Throughout 1986, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic continued to provide economic assistance to the African countries at the same level as in the previous year.

The bulk of our assistance is through bilateral relations, but we also provide assistance under the auspices of the United Nations system, particularly by sending specialists to the countries of Africa, executing subcontracts and delivering supplies. An important part of the aid consists of: credits granted on extremely favourable terms; construction of units under capital investment programmes; preparation and training of national cadres from the developing countries in our territory and assistance in other forms, including donations.

The total volume of Czechoslovak assistance to these countries in 1987 amounted to 1.380 billion Czechoslovak koruny, which represents 0.24 per cent of the national income created in that same year in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The national scheme of preferences was further expanded in 1986 and now applies to 124 developing countries, including all the least developed ones.

In terms of volume and importance, among the most significant forms of assistance are the training and vocational preparation of national cadres from the countries of the African region without charge. On 31 December 1987, Czechoslovak higher and secondary educational establishments were providing training of all types to a total of 1,775 students from Africa, including 1,735 at the day departments of higher and secondary educational establishments. In addition, 47 trainees from Africa were learning vocations at our expense.

A major type of economic co-operation is the provision of Czechoslovak specialists: in 1987 there was a total of 1,401 specialists working in 20 countries of Africa.

Czechoslovakia, like the other socialist countries, understands the problems and difficulties encountered especially by the developing African countries in their efforts to secure appropriate growth of their economies, which is one of the basic prerequisites for achieving economic independence. Therefore, in accordance with its economic possibilities, it will continue to provide economic assistance to the African countries and national liberation movements.

Assistance is one of the contributions of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the solution of the urgent problems facing the international community, which must result in a restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis in conditions of peace and social progress.
