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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Letter dated 26 October 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 Czechoslovakia to developing countries and national liberation movements in 1987". I would be most grateful if you could have this document circulated as an official document of the forty-third session of the General Assembly under agenda items 82 (Development and international economic co-operation) and 86 (Special economic and disaster relief assistance).

(Signed) Evžen ZÁPOTOCKÝ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Economic assistance provided by Czechoslovakia to developing countries and national liberation movements in 1987

Czechoslovakia, true to the principles of its foreign policy, regards the provision of economic assistance to developing countries and national liberation movements as an inseparable component of its efforts to promote the all-round development of such countries and movements and to strengthen peace and stability on a global scale.

Czechoslovakia conducts its economic relations with developing countries both bilaterally and multilaterally, although bilateral co-operation is still preponderant.

Czechoslovakia's relations with countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America rest in the main on long-term treaties and agreements (treaties on friendship and co-operation, on industrial, commercial, scientific and technological co-operation, and on collaboration in other areas such as culture, education and health care).

The main principles that guide Czechoslovakia in its multilateral relations with and provision of assistance to developing countries are respect for State sovereignty, independence, equality of rights, and non-interference in internal affairs.

Information on the economic aid which Czechoslovakia gives to developing countries and national liberation movements has been published through the United Nations since 1983. Since 1986, this aid has amounted to more than 1 per cent of its earned national income yearly. Aid is provided in accordance with the requirements of the recipient countries and is directed towards sectors of key importance for strengthening the self-sufficiency and balance of their economies and their position in the international division of labour.

The total volume of Czechoslovak assistance to developing countries and national liberation movements in 1987 was Kčs 5,976 million, or 1.03 per cent of the national income earned in that year.

A major form of aid in 1987, as in previous years, was loans to finance a range of investment projects in mechanical engineering and sectors such as the food industry. The terms, especially for government loans (low percentages, long repayment periods and conditions) mean that in many instances this kind of loan aid is tantamount to a grant and makes no contribution to Czechoslovakia's balance of payments.

In terms of aid volume and significance, training for nationals of developing countries and personnel from national liberation movements at higher educational institutions in Czechoslovakia plays a major role. On 31 December 1987, 6,146 students from these parts were enrolled in Czechoslovak institutions, including 555 attending post-graduate degree courses in science and 115 graduates improving their qualifications using higher educational institutions as a base.

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Under the heading of training in trades or advanced skills for ordinary workers, 34,246 citizens of developing countries were offered training in Czechoslovakia in 1987.

A traditional form of aid to developing countries is the detailing of Czechoslovak specialists to work in individual sectors of the economy, ranging from geological surveying, mining, agriculture and forestry and expert assistance in various branches of manufacturing industry up to the assignment of doctors, teachers and other experts. In 1987, 272 experts were assigned at Czechoslovakia's expense, and a further 1,497 were sent on assignments unrelated to export deliveries, to more than 60 developing countries. Short-term specialized courses and seminars were held in Czechoslovakia for more than 820 specialists from developing countries.

In Czechoslovakia's view, economic and humanitarian aid is a major factor helping developing countries to overcome the ill-effects of their low levels of development and their unequal position in the international division of labour.

In order to deal with these problems on a solid, principled basis, efforts by the developing countries themselves and economic aid must be supplemented by international co-operation, leading to the reorganization of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis and the attainment of a new international economic order that guarantees security and stability for all.
