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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD: PLANS AND ACTION TO IMPROVE
THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Letter dated 5 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith the letter of appeal by the children who took part in the International Children's Assembly "Banner of Peace", held last August at Sofia, to the children from all over the world and, through the United Nations, to the whole of mankind.

I should be obliged if you would circulate the text of this letter and the appeal as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 26.

(Signed) Alexander YANKOV
Deputy Foreign Minister
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Letter of appeal by the children taking part in the
International Children's Assembly "Banner of Peace"
to the children from all over the world and, through
the United Nations, to the whole of mankind

*MOTHERS AND FATHERS,
SISTERS AND BROTHERS,*

Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, has joined our hearts in a flame and its sparks have set out for the World at large to assert Unity, Creativity and Beauty. Bulgaria's children have opened their hearts and homes for our songs and poems, they have added the rhythm of their endeavours to the inspired flight of our flaming spirit. The sparks from our hearts will carry to you our letter, mirroring our joy and faith in the future, yet, gathering as in a focus the suffering and the painful childhood of thousands and millions of children all over the Planet.

There are only one thousand of us, young envoys, but we remember that we have been sent by two thousand million children, growing up on the planet Earth in tropical heat and Arctic cold, in brightly lit rooms or on bare stones. We would like to tell them, our brothers and sisters, what we saw and learnt during those ten festive days. The radio, the newspapers and the television are in your hands, mothers and fathers, and we ask you to convey these words to the two thousand million children on the Earth.

We heard the chime of the bells, sent for our festival from so many parts of the world –

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bells cast of iron, silver, copper and gold; black, white, red and yellow bells. Then we looked at our skins and our hair and we saw that like the bells we are iron - black, silver-white, copper-red and golden-yellow. The ringing of the bells blended in a single sound and the joy of our common song filled the air, the fiery call opened our hearts and the trill of our voices fused in the monolithic choir of togetherness.

We understood, we know that although we are coming from 80 countries, children of all races, of various peoples and cultures — we are people gathered on the Earth in order to live and advance to the future together. And we declare: beauty lies in unity, joy lies in the aspirations and the possibilities of the future, the Earth belongs to all, the cosmic rays illumine the vast expanse of the universe and everyone can reflect them, the Sun is ours, it belongs to all.

Mothers and fathers, protect the joy of the community of people, let the symbol of the Child, interlocking the past, the present and the future and invariably connecting like a bridge children and parents, be always radiant and pure. For ten days we painted pictures, sang songs and wrote poems, and we saw that the world which lives in our paintings, songs and poems is more beautiful, pure and humane, full of love and kindness, illumined by the light of discovery and daring. Our world of reality has reflected the radiance of faraway worlds, for we arranged the colours, melodies and words according to the laws of beauty. We learn about beauty and harmony from the strarry ways, the trees in the forest rustling in the breeze, the free flight and dance of the butterflies and bees, the smiling flowers, the feat of the heroes, the self-sacrifice of the Teach-

ers. We have learnt that beauty unites not only us, children, but also the stars, the trees and the butterflies, the valour of the heroes, the daring of the discoverers, the love of the Mother and the Teacher. Beauty is unique and its name is Unity and Harmony. Let us all together clear the way for Beauty and Truth. For ten days we painted, wrote and drew staves on white sheets of paper. A part of the world, a new world was being born on the blank sheet. Remember, we children are born like these white sheets. The first words to be written on two thousand million blank sheets, on the children's souls will be written by you, our mothers and fathers. Two thousand million blank sheets wait for the new history of the Earth to be put down on them. Just think how many blank sheets have been torn and blown by the wind up to now, how many horrible images have been imprinted on them, how many inspired wings have been broken before the free spirit could carry the fiery thoughts to the distant worlds. We do not want to believe it, but you know that each day 80,000 children die on Earth from hunger. Each day! Eighty thousand of us – the future of Mankind and the Planet! Can this be possible? We ask you – how can you, our parents, bear to see beauty crucified and the lawful right of our brothers and sisters to rejoice at the sun be taken away from them? We – the future of the Planet have the right to ask and insist – give all children of the world enough bread, smiles and crayons, encourage the endeavours and work of the creators and we, all children of the Planet, will turn our hands to the 'full fiery chalice', reflecting and holding the beauty of the countless cosmic rays, rising like the symbol of the future.

Brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers,

When this letter reaches you, we -- the envoys of two thousand million children, will be no longer in Sofia. But when you look at the globe you will see that it is encircled by thousands of fiery ruby-coloured rays -- lines more dense than the parallels and meridians. A fiery net holding the apple of the Earth, throbbing in tune with the breath of the Cosmos, headed towards the beauty of the future. If there be a hand capable of catching all these threads and raising the Earth in this net of friendship, it is the hands of Unity, Beauty and Harmony -- that eternal Fiery Motive Power of Life which consolidates Creativity, Unity and Fraternity.

Each thread charts the way of a spark and each one of us lives where a ray ends. Sofia -- this primordial symbol of Wisdom, gathered in its hearts the rays and hopes of youth. It was there, at the Assembly of friendship that the Banner of Peace, on which Unity, Creativity and Beauty are inscribed, began to glow triumphantly.

Mothers and Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

We, the children of the Planet, address you:

**FRIENDS FROM ALL OVER THE
WORLD, HOLD OUT YOUR HANDS IN THE
NAME OF UNITY, BEAUTY AND HARMONY --
BE DARING CREATORS LOOKING FORWARD
TO THE FUTURE, KNOW THAT THE SUN IS
OURS!**
