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LETTER DATED 10 MARCH 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF BULGARIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have duly noted your letter of 2 March 1966 concerning the application of the German Democratic Republic for membership in the United Nations.

We have carefully studied the documents submitted by the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic and consider that they are in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The application for membership contains a formal declaration, as required by rule 58 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, whereby Mr. Walter Ulbricht, the Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, solemnly declares on behalf of the Council of State "that the German Democratic Republic is prepared to accept and conscientiously to fulfil the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations".

Since the application by the German Democratic Republic, an independent and sovereign State pursuing a policy of peace and international co-operation, meets all relevant requirements of the Charter, the normal course to take would be to apply the usual procedure. In this connexion it is necessary, in accordance with rule 136 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to notify all States Members of the United Nations concerning the German Democratic Republic's application. In addition, in order that the Security Council may examine the German Democratic Republic's application in accordance with rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure, the application should be circulated as an official Security Council document.

For all these reasons, and in order that the procedure already begun in connexion with the German Democratic Republic's application may be continued, the

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Mission of the People's Republic of Bulgaria would be obliged if you would make the necessary arrangements to issue the German Democratic Republic's application, together with the declaration and memorandum annexed thereto, as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Milko TARABANOV
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of Bulgaria

[Original: German]

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE
OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Berlin, 28 February 1966

Sir,

The Council of State of the German Democratic Republic hereby applies for the admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership in the United Nations.

I would be grateful to you if this application could be submitted to the Security Council at its next meeting.

In accordance with rule 58 of the rules of procedure of the Security Council, I transmit to you herewith the declaration required in connexion with the application for admission.

I also enclose a memorandum on the German Democratic Republic's application for admission.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) W. ULBRICHT

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
New York

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[Original: German]

DECLARATION

Berlin, 28 February 1966

On behalf of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, I solemnly declare that the German Democratic Republic is prepared to accept and conscientiously to fulfil the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

(Signed) W. ULBRICHT
Chairman of the Council
of State of the German
Democratic Republic

[Translation from German]

Memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German
Democratic Republic on the Application for Membership in
the United Nations Organization

Twenty years after the end of the Second World War and sixteen years after the foundation of the German Democratic Republic, the Government of the German Democratic Republic considers that the time has come to assert its right to membership in the United Nations Organization.

The German Democratic Republic is a peace-loving, sovereign State which meets all requirements for membership in the United Nations Organization and is willing and able to fulfil all obligations arising therefrom. Its membership in the United Nations Organization will have a beneficial effect on the implementation of its policy which is aimed at preserving and safeguarding peace in Europe and will, at the same time, contribute to achieving the universality of the United Nations Organization.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic asserts its right to membership in the United Nations Organization in complete awareness of the role and responsibility of the United Nations Organization towards the peoples for preserving and safeguarding peace in the world.

Twenty years ago the United Nations Organization emerged from the anti-Hitler coalition in order to protect future generations from the scourge of war. In the struggle against Hitler fascism the peoples realized that peace is indivisible and that to safeguard it is a universal task. Therefore, the principle of universality, the uniting of all peace-loving States in the Organization, has become a basic principle of the Charter of the United Nations. Since then the number of the Organization's Member States has more than doubled and its responsibility for the guaranteeing of peace in the world is now greater and the need for its universality more pressing than ever.

Membership in the United Nations Organization is open to all peace-loving States which accept the obligations contained in its Charter and are able and willing to carry out these obligations. This also applies - as has been proved by the Organization's past practice - to the former enemies of the anti-Hitler coalition or their successor States. As far as Germany is concerned, the Potsdam Agreement contains both the assurance that the German people will be given the

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opportunity "in due course, to take their place among the free and peaceful peoples of the world," and specified demands to be made on a peace-loving German State.

The German Democratic Republic is submitting its application for admission to the United Nations Organization fully aware of the fact that for the last sixteen years two sovereign German States have been in existence and have developed on German territory.

The forming of two German States is the consequence and result of the division of Germany carried out against the will of the German people and in gross violation of the basic post-war agreements on Germany.

As early as 1947 and 1948, through the establishing of the so-called "Bi-zone" and "Tri-zone", the setting up of a unified central German administration, as envisaged in the Potsdam Agreement, was prevented and separate administrative bodies for West Germany were created. With the introduction of a separate currency in West Germany in June 1948, the relations between East and West Germany, which had continued until then, were disrupted. The step-by-step implementation of the so-called London Recommendations led to the setting up of the West German Federal Republic on 7 September 1949, finally completing the division of Germany.

The anti-fascist and democratic forces of the German people resolutely resisted this policy of division. They launched the People's Congress Movement for Unity and a Just Peace, their goal being to ensure democratic unity and an anti-fascist development all over Germany. As a result of a democratic decision of the people and applying its right to self-determination, the German Democratic Republic was founded on 7 October 1949. In its first Government statement of 12 October 1949 it expressed its determination not to reconcile itself to the division of Germany and to conduct a persistent struggle for the restoration of unity.

In the sixteen years that have passed since then, the two German States, the German Democratic Republic and the West German Federal Republic, have consolidated themselves and developed independently. Each of the two German States has its own Constitution, its own State apparatus, its own economic system and its independent army. In spite of this, these two German States form one nation. While the development in the German Democratic Republic proceeded in

conformity with the principles of the Potsdam Agreement on the one hand, in the other part of Germany the forces defeated in the Second World War were restored, whose policy led to the progressive widening and cementing of the division of Germany. Currently, the West German Federal Republic is the only State in Europe which openly makes territorial claims on the German Democratic Republic and other European States and which resolutely seeks to obtain control over nuclear weapons.

Under these conditions the reunification of Germany is possible only as a result of a prolonged process by way of the relaxation of tension and the guaranteeing of European security. For, only such a national reunification which serves the safeguarding of peace in Europe can be in the interests of the German nation and of all peoples of Europe. Peaceful understanding between the two German States is a prerequisite for reunification. It is for this very reason that the admission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations Organization would be of great importance for the purpose of realizing the principles of peaceful coexistence as laid down in the Charter also in the relations between the two German States. The Government of the German Democratic Republic is convinced that its admission to the United Nations would be an essential contribution to the attainment of this goal and would thus promote the peaceful reunification of Germany.

Since the normalization of the relations between the two German States is an indispensable precondition for their peaceful reunification, the Government of the German Democratic Republic, in spite of all reservations it has about the lack of conformity of the policies pursued by the West German Government with the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter, is of the opinion that the admission of the West German Federal Republic to the world Organization would also serve this aim. It could contribute towards understanding between the two German States and thus promote their gradual rapprochement and via a confederation the national reunification of the German people. At the same time, effective preconditions could be created in this way to remove the tensions existing in Central Europe and to guarantee European security.

The German Democratic Republic, one of the successor States to the former German Reich, has conscientiously and consistently fulfilled all obligations arising from the Potsdam Agreement, eliminated the influences of fascist and militaristic forces on public life, transformed the entire political and cultural life on a democratic basis, eliminated the excessive concentration of the economy,

of the monopolies and trusts, recognized the existing frontiers and guaranteed them in friendship agreements with the neighbouring States as well as conscientiously fulfilled its reparation commitments. Since its foundation its entire policy has been in conformity with the principles and goals of the United Nations Charter and has been aimed at preserving and safeguarding peace. As a result of this policy close and friendly relations could be established above all with the neighbouring countries which suffered heavily from the fascist aggression, such as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the People's Republic of Poland.

As a consequence of this development of the German Democratic Republic and its policy, the occupation law of the Potsdam Agreement could be cancelled in the German Democratic Republic and the Government of the German Democratic Republic enabled to fully exercise all sovereign rights. This was first expressed in the Statement of the Government of the Soviet Union of 25 March 1954 on the establishing of the full sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic, following negotiations with the Government of the German Democratic Republic. The Statement states: "The USSR will establish similar relations with the German Democratic Republic as with other sovereign States. The GDR will be free to decide in accordance with its own judgement on matters of its internal and foreign affairs, including questions of relations with West Germany." Accordingly, article 1 of the Treaty on the Relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 20 September 1955 states: "The treaty partners give the solemn assurance that the relations between them are based on complete equality, mutual respect for sovereignty and non-intervention in domestic affairs."

On 6 August 1954, following a decision of the Soviet Government, all orders and decrees were cancelled "which had been issued by the Soviet Military Administration and the Soviet Control Commission in Germany from 1945 to 1953 on questions relating to the political, economic and cultural life in the GDR". On 20 September 1955, the High Commission of the USSR in Germany was dissolved and "in view of the fact that in the GDR the decisions of the Control Council for Germany regarding the transformation of social life on a peaceful and democratic basis have been realized and under consideration of the existing laws

in the GDR which make it superfluous for the decisions mentioned to continue to remain in force, the Council of Ministers of the USSR has resolved that the laws, directives, orders, and other decrees issued by the Control Council for Germany from 1945 to 1948 in the exercise of the occupation law of the four Powers shall be abolished on the territory of the GDR".

Since then the Government of the German Democratic Republic has unreservedly exercised all sovereign rights in accordance with the principles and aims of the Charter of the United Nations. It maintains diplomatic, consular and other official relations with numerous States, and enjoys an important position in international trade. Not only a multitude of bilateral and multilateral treaties, including the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, Outer Space and Under Water, to which the GDR is a signatory, testify to the peaceful foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic, but also the fact that it has succeeded in protecting its State frontier by peaceful means and thus in warding off border conflicts which would endanger peace.

Membership of the German Democratic Republic in the United Nations Organization would doubtlessly also help facilitate the still outstanding conclusion of a peace treaty settling the questions arising from the war. This is all the more important since all essential conditions regarded by the Potsdam Agreement as the prerequisites for a peace-loving German State have been fulfilled or guaranteed in agreements by the German Democratic Republic, and since almost all States concerned have expressly declared the state of war ended. In accordance with this, the Soviet Union and other socialist States have already expressed their support for the admission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations Organization on earlier occasions.

The co-operation of the German Democratic Republic on an equal basis in the United Nations Organization can only serve the peaceful settlement of still outstanding questions, like the establishing of normal relations between the German Democratic Republic and other States. In any case, this is borne out by the facts relating to the admission of new Members to the Organization. Numerous States were admitted which at the time of their admission were not recognized by all Member States of the United Nations Organization or the Security Council or which maintained diplomatic relations with only some Member States. Therefore,

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as early as 1950, the Secretary-General of the United Nations stated, with reference to this practice:

- "1. that a Member could properly vote to accept the representative of a Government which it did not recognize, or with which it had no diplomatic relations;
- "2. that such a vote does not imply recognition or a readiness to assume diplomatic relations."

The admission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations Organization would undoubtedly constitute an important step towards realizing the universality of the Organization.

When the Government of the German Democratic Republic declares that it is prepared to accept the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter, it can point to the fact that it has already furnished proof of this preparedness in its foreign policy. Its policy was and is aimed at safeguarding world peace and, above all, at preventing a war from ever starting again from German territory. Therefore, it consistently champions general and complete disarmament and the peaceful settlement of international disputes, and endeavours to establish friendly relations with all States on a basis of equality. It resolutely condemns any form of colonialism and racial discrimination and actively applies itself to implementing the "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples". Its policy serves the development of international co-operation in the economic, cultural and social fields.

The German Democratic Republic has recognized the binding force of the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter not only in unilateral declarations but also in international treaties, such as the Treaty of Warsaw of 14 May 1955 and the Treaty on Friendship, Mutual Assistance and Co-operation between the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 12 June 1964. The Government of the German Democratic Republic has declared its readiness to accede to numerous multilateral treaties sponsored by the United Nations, and has guaranteed their realization on its sovereign territory by way of its laws. Suffice it to mention the Genocide Convention, the Convention on the Rights of Women, the Maritime Law Conventions and the criminal prosecution of race and national hatred.

For years the Government of the German Democratic Republic has attentively followed the work of the United Nations Organization and has stated its position with regard to important international problems. Thus, it submitted to the fifteenth session of the General Assembly in 1960 a plan for general and complete disarmament in both German States, underlining its urgency in a detailed memorandum to the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. In its statement to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly on problems of the economic and social consequences of disarmament, the Government of the German Democratic Republic stressed its complete agreement with the experts' report, pointing out that in addition to the plan for general and complete disarmament in both German States it also proposed immediate measures for relaxation and disarmament, such as the renunciation by both German States of any use of force in the relations between them and with third States, agreement on a halt to armaments, renunciation of nuclear arms and accession to an atom-free zone in Central Europe.

In its statement on disarmament to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly, the Government of the German Democratic Republic expressed its preparedness for a comprehensive renunciation of nuclear weapons, possibly under strict international control (also with participation of the United Nations), provided that the West German Federal Republic also assumes a corresponding commitment.

The German Democratic Republic further declared its readiness to join an atom-free zone in Central Europe which would include the two German States. Moreover, the Government of the German Democratic Republic took these questions up again in its statement on disarmament addressed to the eighteenth session of the General Assembly, proposing, as a first step, a minimal programme to comprise the renunciation of nuclear weapons by both German States, the endeavouring to bring about a non-aggression pact between the States of the Warsaw Pact and NATO as well as a reduction of military expenditure in both German States. A statement to this effect was also presented to the nineteenth session of the General Assembly in which reference was made to the statements issued until then and the proposals submitted to the Eighteen-Nation Committee and in which our willingness to accede to an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons was expressed.

Lastly, in its statement to the twentieth session of the General Assembly on questions of disarmament, the Government of the German Democratic Republic underlined the extreme urgency of concluding a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, which would exclude any possibilities of States which do not possess nuclear weapons acquiring them in any way. It therefore welcomes the resolution: "Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" (A/RES/2028 (XX)) adopted by the General Assembly during its twentieth session on 19 November 1965. The Government of the German Democratic Republic is prepared, as was expressed in earlier statements, to support the conclusion of such a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In its statement of 8 January 1966, the Government of the German Democratic Republic identified itself with the "Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty" (A/RES/2131 (XX)) adopted by the General Assembly during its twentieth session and, proceeding from this Declaration of the twentieth session of the General Assembly, corroborated its view that it is the inalienable right of each and every people, including the German people, to decide, in accordance with its national interests, on its domestic affairs without any intervention by other Powers.

Also the proposal regarding the guaranteeing of European security sent by the Government of the German Democratic Republic to the Governments of all European States in January 1966 is in complete accordance with the basic demands of the United Nations Charter and constitutes a contribution to the implementation of the resolution: "Actions on the regional level with a view to improving good-neighbourly relations among European States having different social and political systems" (A/RES/2129 (XX)) adopted by the General Assembly during its twentieth session on 21 December 1965.

Other statements of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to the General Assembly referred to the implementation of the "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" (A/RES/1514 (XV)), the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, the codification of the principles on friendly relations and co-operation between States as well as the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. As an important

industrial and transit State, the German Democratic Republic is ready to make its contribution to the efforts of the United Nations Organization to promote the economic advance of the developing countries.

The German Democratic Republic actively participates, within the scope of its possibilities, in the work of numerous bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, and the World Health Organization. It should also be mentioned that the German Democratic Republic, proceeding from the resolutions of the General Assembly and the decisions of the Security Council on the apartheid policy of the Republic of South Africa, broke off all trade and shipping relations with the Republic of South Africa as early as June 1963 and has most resolutely condemned the policy of apartheid. Similarly, on 12 November 1965, the Government of the German Democratic Republic most sharply denounced the illegal seizing of power of the racist régime in Rhodesia, backing the decisions of the United Nations Organization in this matter.

These examples are clear proof of the fact that the German Democratic Republic is in a position and willing to carry out the obligations arising from the United Nations Charter and that it is capable of making an important contribution towards the attainment of the aims of the United Nations.

Therefore, the Government of the German Democratic Republic expresses the wish and expectation that its application for membership will be sympathetically considered and that its justified claim to membership will be fulfilled through the admission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations Organization.
