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preliminary list\*  
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION  
EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT  
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
Second regular session of 1989  
Agenda items 2, 8 and 13  
GENERAL DISCUSSION OF  
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL POLICY, INCLUDING  
REGIONAL AND SECTORAL  
DEVELOPMENTS  
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR  
DEVELOPMENT  
SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Letter dated 6 July 1989 from the Head of the Observer Delegation of the German Democratic Republic to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1989 addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic entitled "Assistance rendered by the German Democratic Republic to developing countries and national liberation movements in 1988" (see annex).

I kindly request you to have this communication circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 12, 83, 85 and 87 of the preliminary list, and of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda items 2, 8 and 13 of its second regular session of 1989.

(Signed) Willi SCHLEGEL  
Head of Delegation  
Head of Division

\* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic entitled "Assistance rendered by the German Democratic Republic to developing countries and national liberation movements in 1988"

1. The German Democratic Republic regards international economic co-operation to mutual advantage, based on the principles of equal rights, respect for sovereignty, non-discrimination and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, as a major contribution to healthy international economic relations, the resolution of the global issues facing mankind and to ensuring a steady and growth-oriented development of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Therefore, the rendering of material assistance to those States is a major element of the foreign policy strategy of the German Democratic Republic. There are by now many effective ways of providing such assistance to developing countries in the economic, scientific, technological and humanitarian fields, which take account of mutual interests. Efforts to co-operate with developing countries and give material assistance to them have primarily focused on the development of their own human resources and the strengthening of their domestic economic potentials, notably the establishment of an industrial base and an efficient agriculture.

True to its foreign policy objectives and principles, the German Democratic Republic will continue to work for the implementation of the peoples' right to national sovereignty and self-determination, for peace and disarmament, and will keep supporting the developing countries in their efforts to overcome economic difficulties and speed up their economic growth, as well as help normalize international economic relations.

2. The German Democratic Republic, even though international economic conditions in 1988 put strains on its own economic development, has continued its assistance to African, Asian and Latin American countries and to national liberation movements.

The assistance provided in 1988 was worth 2,207.4 million marks or 0.64 per cent of the gross national product of the German Democratic Republic.

3. Once again, the training and further training in the German Democratic Republic of national personnel from developing countries was a major element of that assistance.

In 1988, 6,889 nationals from such countries were undergoing vocational training or further training (excluding higher and technical education) at enterprises or institutions of the German Democratic Republic. In the same year, 2,958 persons from developing countries were newly admitted to training or upgrading courses in the German Democratic Republic, while 3,883 persons completed such courses.

On 1 January 1989, 2,643 individuals from those countries were undergoing vocational training or upgrading in the German Democratic Republic.

Altogether, in 1988, the German Democratic Republic provided free vocational training and upgrading at a rate of 47,394 men/months.

In addition, in that year more than 78,000 people from Viet Nam, Mozambique, Angola and Cuba, under manpower agreements, worked in companies and institutions of the German Democratic Republic, acquiring vocational qualifications in the process.

In 1988, 9,407 persons from developing countries and national liberation movements were studying at an institute of higher learning or a technical college in the German Democratic Republic. In the same year, 1,927 such foreigners were newly enrolled, while 1,816 completed their courses.

On 1 January 1989, 7,575 people from developing countries were university or college students in the German Democratic Republic. Altogether, its services of free education at those levels amounted to 85,553 men/months in 1988.

In the same year, the German Democratic Republic sent 1,503 experts to developing countries. On 1 January 1989, the number of experts and advisers of the German Democratic Republic on assignment there was 881. In terms of men/months, the figure for last year's secondment of such experts and advisers was 11,469.

4. Another major area of assistance is medical care for people from developing countries. In 1988, 1,174 persons from those States and from national liberation movements received free out-patient or in-patient care. Total treatment time was 2,063 men/months.

5. In particular, the German Democratic Republic provided varied assistance to least-developed countries. In 1988, 1,115 individuals from such countries received vocational training or further training in the German Democratic Republic. In the same year, another 2,901 persons from such countries were enrolled at an institute of higher or specialized education of the German Democratic Republic. A total of 433 experts were on assignment in the least developed countries last year under assistance arrangements; 348 nationals of such countries received free medical care.

6. Foreign trade turnover with developing countries was 12,494.5 million foreign exchange marks or 7 per cent of the overall foreign trade turnover in 1988 of the German Democratic Republic.

Semi-finished and finished products from developing countries accounted for 34.4 per cent of total imports of the German Democratic Republic.

Its foreign trade turnover with least developed countries was worth 297.3 million foreign exchange marks, or 2.4 per cent of the total trade figure of the German Democratic Republic with developing countries.

On 31 December 1988, the German Democratic Republic had 63 trade agreements, 6 agreements on payments, 33 on scientific-technological co-operation and 59 on economic, scientific and industrial co-operation with developing countries.

Moreover, there are at present 15 joint economic commissions and 30 mixed commissions with Asian, African and Latin American countries.

On 1 January 1989, 66 German Democratic Republic-supplied industrial plants were being assembled in 27 developing countries. The implementation of another 30 projects in 15 developing countries was contracted in the course of 1988 and 26 projects were commissioned during that period.

In the same year, 50 license agreements were concluded with 18 developing countries.

As regards ocean shipping agreements, 25 such accords are currently in force with developing countries and the People's Republic of China. For the handling of the goods exchange, there are 17 shipping lines to these countries.

7. The German Democratic Republic will continue, within the scope of its possibilities, to pursue its policy of assisting the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America in their economic and social development. It believes that measures of support from the outside are most effective if they are accompanied by extensive efforts of the developing countries themselves and by endeavours of the international community of States to create favourable overall conditions for the participation, on an equal footing and free from discrimination, of the States of Asia, Africa and Latin America in international economic relations and co-operation.

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