



General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/273
E/1984/103
25 May 1984
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-ninth session
Item 80 (a) of the preliminary list*
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION: INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1984
Item 5 of the provisional
agenda**
REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT
DECADE

Letter dated 23 May 1984 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request you to distribute the attached communication from the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, entitled "Contribution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade", as an official document of the General Assembly under item 80 (a) of the preliminary list, and of the Economic and Social Council, under item 5 of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1984, and to bring it to the attention of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

* A/39/50.

** See Economic and Social Council decision 1984/101.

ANNEX

Contribution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the
implementation of the International Development Strategy for
the Third United Nations Development Decade

1. The Soviet Union's position of principle on the whole range of questions concerning the restructuring of international economic relations and the Soviet Union's economic relations with the developing countries is set forth in documents A/C.2/31/2, A/S-11/AC.1/4, A/C.2/37/4, A/38/479 and A/C.2/38/6.
2. The Soviet Union attaches great political importance to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex), which it considers, in conjunction with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (resolution 3281 (XXIX)) and the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (resolution 3201 (S-VI)), an integral part of the international community's efforts to restructure international economic relations on a just and equitable basis and to establish the new international economic order. The Soviet Union, together with other member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), took an active part in the formulation and adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. It is also making a substantial contribution to promoting the implementation of its progressive provisions.
3. Peace is a major prerequisite for economic development. However, at the end of the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s the most reactionary imperialist circles adopted a policy aimed at accelerating the arms race, achieving military supremacy, whipping up a war psychosis, aggravating political confrontation, resorting to blackmail and diktat vis-à-vis the socialist countries and progressive developing countries, and cutting back the mutually advantageous trade, economic, scientific and technological links with those countries. This has led to a sharp increase in international tension, aggravated the threat to peace, and imposed on the peoples of the world the additional burden of the arms race.
4. In these circumstances, even more importance is attached to the policy of the Soviet Union and the other CMEA member countries which seeks to avert a nuclear conflict and lead the world back to a relaxation of international tension and normal co-operation among peoples. To attain that objective, the Soviet Union has put forward in recent years a number of specific proposals.
5. In March 1984, the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty once again proposed to the States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) that negotiations be started on the mutual limitation and subsequent reduction of military expenditure. The reaching of agreement on those questions could enable a start to be made on limiting the arms race and proceeding with genuine disarmament, thereby releasing resources which could be utilized for speeding up the world's socio-economic development, including that of the developing countries. This would be fully in keeping with the purposes and objectives of the International

Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade by taking into account the close relationship between disarmament and development recognized therein.

6. At the beginning of the 1980s, the Soviet Union continued its policy of developing trade and economic co-operation with the developing countries with a view to expanding the mutually advantageous and equitable division of labour and strengthening the economic and political independence of those countries. This policy also reflects the efforts of the USSR to assist in implementing the progressive purposes and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

7. In its content and its objectives, the trade and economic co-operation of the USSR with the developing countries represents a new form of international economic relations. It is based on such principles as recognition of the right of each people to decide its own internal affairs; strict respect for territorial integrity and the inviolability of frontiers; mutual advantage; recognition of the right of each State in the developing world to play an equal part in international life and to develop relations with any countries; and full and unconditional recognition of the sovereignty of new States over their natural resources.

8. For the period 1976-1980 the Soviet Union's trade with developing countries increased to 2.1 times its value for the years 1971-1975. During the years of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, that trade grew still further. In 1983 it amounted to 27 billion roubles, 1.5 times the 1980 level. The number of developing countries trading with the USSR increased from 97 in 1980 to 102 in 1983.

9. The development and greater stability of trade is facilitated by the conclusion of intergovernmental trade agreements, including long-term agreements, which enable the parties to make the fullest possible use of available opportunities for expanding their co-operation. In the past few years alone, the Soviet Union has concluded long-term trade agreements with 31 developing countries, among them 14 countries with which such agreements were signed for the first time, including Cape Verde, Jamaica, Liberia, Mauritius, Panama, Sao Tome and Principe and Zaire.

10. The Soviet Union imports from developing countries the goods necessary for its economy. At the same time, it endeavours to promote a solution of the developing countries' export problems by expanding its purchases both of their traditional export goods - industrial and agricultural raw materials and foodstuffs - and of their semi-finished and finished products. Beginning on 1 January 1965 the Soviet Union granted unilateral, non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory preferences to developing countries, exempting all their goods from import duties. It introduced rules for the determination of the origin of goods which were favourable to the developing countries, thus facilitating their ability to utilize those preferences.

11. In return, the Soviet Union supplies developing countries with the goods they need to accelerate the development of their productive forces and to build up their national economies. The bulk of the goods delivered by the USSR consists of

machinery and equipment, and almost 50 per cent is intended for the construction of important economic installations. The Soviet Union has also been supplying energy sources, raw materials and other substances for industry, foodstuffs, some consumer goods and the like.

12. There has been further development of the practice of signing intergovernmental agreements and protocols for the delivery of machinery and equipment from the USSR and furnishing technical services on a deferred payment basis (up to 10 years), at preferential annual rates and with payment through the export by those States of their own national products, including those produced by the manufacturing industry. Such agreements have been signed in recent years with Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guyana and Peru and agreements with Brazil, Colombia and Mexico have been extended.

13. In addition to the development of mutually advantageous trade, the Soviet Union is providing the developing countries with increasing economic and technical assistance.

14. The Soviet Union, for reasons of principle, rejects the demands that it should allocate to assistance to the developing countries a fixed proportion of its gross national product (GNP), in the same way as the imperialist States. Such demands are rightfully and justly addressed by the developing countries to developed capitalist States, which bear the full responsibility for the grievous consequences of the plundering of their former colonies, the increased neo-colonial exploitation of liberated peoples, and the whipping up of the arms race which diverts enormous amounts of resources from development purposes, as well as responsibility for the consequences of the crises that have plagued the world-wide capitalist economic system. The Soviet Union, however, acting on the basis of its principled policy of support for the developing countries in their struggle to overcome their economic backwardness and strengthen their political and economic independence, and giving due regard to its own capabilities, has been systematically assigning to assistance to developing countries a portion of its resources produced by the labour of the Soviet people. The Soviet Union's assistance is given in forms appropriate to its social structure, which have proved their effectiveness in practice and won its recognition from the developing countries themselves.

15. The total amount of the Soviet Union's purely economic assistance to the countries of the developing world during the years 1976-1980 was 30 billion roubles, or an average of 1 per cent of the Soviet Union's GNP. In 1981 it amounted to 8.1 billion roubles. In 1982 the amount of the assistance increased by 5 per cent to 8.5 billion roubles, or 1.27 per cent of the Soviet GNP. The Soviet Union is giving the developing countries assistance in the form of grants, credits on preferential terms, preferences in the payment for technical assistance provided by Soviet specialists working in developing countries, and assistance in the training of those countries' national personnel, in the transfer of the latest technology, and also in the sphere of foreign trade. In 1983, technical assistance was furnished to 70 developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America (as against 44 in 1970). In the early 1980s agreements in this field were signed with Afghanistan, Algeria, Gabon, India, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic and other countries. As at 1 January 1983, 1,762 important economic installations had been built in the developing countries with Soviet assistance. Another 1,328 were in the process of construction or scheduled for construction.

16. A distinguishing feature of the Soviet Union's economic relations with developing countries is that in accordance with the requests made by their Governments, co-operation is concentrated in the State sector, the expansion of which increases the State's ability to carry out social and economic reforms, strengthens its position in the struggle against the harmful consequences of the activities of transnational corporations, and increases its opportunities for pursuing an independent policy in the sphere of global economic relations. Such an orientation of economic co-operation is fully consistent with the provision in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, that "due account should be taken of the positive role of the public sector in mobilizing internal resources, formulating and implementing overall national development plans and establishing national priorities" (para. 31).
17. The assistance provided by the Soviet Union is designed primarily to accelerate the industrialization of the young States, a process which, as emphasized in the Strategy, "constitutes an indispensable element and a dynamic instrument of the sustained self-reliant growth of their economies and of their social transformation" (para. 72).
18. Specifically, as at 1 January 1983, 771 industrial enterprises had been constructed in the developing countries with the economic and technical assistance of the USSR, including 144 electrical power plants, 54 underground and open-pit coal mines, 32 metallurgical plants and 133 engineering plants.
19. A total of 289 installations - model farms, canals, dams, irrigation systems and the like - had been constructed in agriculture. In many cases these undertakings constitute the foundation for the newly created national economy of the developing States.
20. The economic and technical assistance provided by the Soviet Union does not create any payment problems for the developing States, since the USSR accepts in payment for its services the traditional export goods of the developing countries and also the products of the enterprise constructed with its assistance.
21. Of great importance is the Soviet Union's assistance to the developing countries in solving the problem of training skilled national personnel, which is of great importance to them.
22. During the post-war years, with the Soviet Union's assistance, the developing countries have constructed 267 educational centres and 49 institutes and technical schools; 1.5 million people have been trained and became specialists in their occupations as workers, engineers, technicians, physicians, teachers and the like. In the years 1981-1983 alone, educational centres with space for 47,000 students were built, including centres in Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Madagascar, Mozambique and other countries.
23. In 1982, 70,000 students from developing countries studied in the higher and secondary educational establishments of the USSR.

24. In its economic and technical assistance to the developing countries, the Soviet Union takes account of the special needs of the least developed countries. The amount of pure assistance furnished to that group of countries in 1981 was more than 1.1 billion roubles, or 0.18 per cent of the Soviet GNP.

25. The Soviet Union will continue to develop its commercial and economic co-operation with developing countries and provide them with the necessary assistance and support in their struggle for economic independence and for restructuring international economic relations on a truly equitable and democratic basis, for the establishment of a new international economic order and for the implementation of the progressive principles of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.
