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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND
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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 18 July 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations at Geneva addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information on economic assistance given by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the developing countries and national liberation movements in 1988, which is related to the respective items under discussion at the second regular session of 1989 of the Economic and Social Council.

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) Pavel CHLUMSKY
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Economic assistance given by Czechoslovakia to developing countries and national liberation movements in 1988

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has been paying great attention to the situation in developing countries and to their efforts to speed up their economic and social development and to improve their position in international economic relations, and has been continuously intensifying and expanding all-round relations with these countries on the basis of the principles of equality of rights and mutual benefit, respect for sovereignty and independence of States and non-interference in internal affairs.

It is on that very basis that Czechoslovakia has concluded with many developing countries treaties on friendship and co-operation and a number of other contractual arrangements in the political, economic and cultural spheres, in trade, science and technology, education and health care, through channels of public organization and other institutions. Furthermore, it has been developing relations with these countries in the economic, scientific and technological fields through multilateral channels.

Czechoslovakia welcomes the positive changes occurring in the world lately in the political and military spheres, being convinced that these changes will help, inter alia, towards creating ever more favourable conditions for efforts at finding solutions to the difficult economic situation of the developing countries. Czechoslovakia also welcomes and is paying great attention to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, particularly the revitalization of economic growth and development of developing countries, and is taking an active part in the preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

The gap between the economic position of the developed market economies and that of developing countries is continuing to widen. Equality is still lacking in the arrangement of international economic relations, which has a negative impact particularly on developing countries. The progressive ideas enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the Declaration and Programme of Action on the New International Economic Order and other United Nations documents have not yet been fully implemented vis-à-vis the developing countries.

Being aware of this situation, Czechoslovakia, in keeping with the principles of its foreign policy, has always given and, to the extent of its possibilities, shall continue to give developing countries all-round assistance with a view to creating conditions for their socio-economic development and resolving the problems stemming from their disadvantageous position in the world economy.

This assistance, which exceeded in 1988 1 per cent of Czechoslovakia's national income, is channelled to areas of crucial importance for future economic

development of developing countries, improvement of their position in the international division of labour and in world trade and enhancement of their independent economic and social development.

The total of the assistance provided by Czechoslovakia to developing countries and national liberation movements in 1988 was worth Czechoslovak crowns (korunas) 6,313,000,000, which is 1.06 per cent of the Czechoslovak national income of that year.

Czechoslovak development assistance is provided in various forms. One of the most important types of such assistance consisted in 1988, as in previous years, in granting, on terms favourable for the debtors, governmental and business credits; a substantial portion thereof was destined for construction of large plants and facilities in the fields of power engineering, mining, building, textile and food industries, metallurgy etc.

The credits granted by way of assistance were long-term credits at low interest rates and their recipients have been given the possibility of repaying them by supplies of goods produced by the respective countries. In a number of cases, the terms of the credits were such that the credits might be regarded as virtual gifts.

Czechoslovakia also continued in 1988 to provide assistance to developing countries by means of training free of charge personnel from these countries in Czechoslovak educational establishments. As at 31 December 1988, 5,599 students from developing countries studied at Czechoslovak universities, colleges and secondary schools; 1,805 of them were from African countries. The total given above includes 607 research students, 104 students taking post-graduate courses and 23 students in practical post-graduate training.

Almost 35,000 citizens of developing countries were upgrading their skills in Czechoslovakia in 1988 in training for worker's jobs; the practice of organizing specialized short-term courses for citizens of these countries has also been maintained.

As in the past years, Czechoslovakia sent to developing countries its experts with a view to helping these countries to improve especially their economic situation. As at 31 December 1988, 1,193 Czechoslovak experts worked in developing countries, 904 of them serving in African countries and 93 in least developed countries. Many of these experts were sent to developing countries at Czechoslovakia's expense.

Now as before, Czechoslovakia believes that the current problems of developing countries are so wide-ranging that the countries concerned are incapable of resolving them all by themselves and that contributions towards finding adequate solutions should be made by the entire international community. Problems proceeding from underdevelopment of developing countries should be tackled in close connection with the efforts at resolving global questions relating to disarmament,

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lessening of international tension, changeover from confrontation to dialogue and international co-operation, enhancement of overall political stability and strengthening of peace in the world, establishment of a new international economic order and steps towards providing for economic security of all countries.
