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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Note verbale dated 2 June 1972 from the Permanent
Representative of Hungary to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to ask that the attached statement be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

The Permanent Representative of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

In the near future the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment is to convene on the basis of relevant resolutions of the United Nations. According to news reports there is discrimination applied against the German Democratic Republic and its delegation is not to be granted the same rights accorded to the Federal Republic of Germany.

In connexion with this Dr. Károly Csatorday, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, made the following statement for the Hungarian News Agency MTI:

"First of all I would like to draw attention to the fact that our country has attached great importance to questions relating to the protection of the human environment, and bearing this in mind our Government has recently taken measures to reduce pollution of the air and water resources, and to eliminate other environmental hazards harmful to human life. Preservation and improvement of the human environment is a question that concerns the future and well-being of all mankind, the effective solution

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of which needs global international co-operation. This co-operation will only lead to genuine results if all States, regardless of their political and economic system, can participate with equal rights in it.

The Conference on the Human Environment to open in Stockholm is a world conference, the main purpose of which is, as contained in the United Nations resolutions, to promote international co-operation in the interest of protecting and improving the human environment. How can one speak of international co-operation if all States cannot participate with equal rights in the formation of such co-operation?

It is regrettable that certain Western forces, by ignoring the principle of universality and the international realities, have so far rigidly prevented some countries, among them especially the German Democratic Republic, from participating in the work of the Conference with the same rights accorded to other States. It is all the more regrettable since the German Democratic Republic is one of the most important industrial Powers in the world with extensive international political and economic relations and with wide experience in aiding the development of many countries.

This policy of discrimination is extremely harmful and hurts not so much the German Democratic Republic, but the Conference itself, since it prevents genuine international collaboration against common perils of mankind. We do not want, even with our tacit presence, to take note of this discrimination; therefore the delegation of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic will not take part in the Conference to be opened on 5 June, if the participation of the German Democratic Republic is not ensured with equal rights.

We would like to hope that the organizers of the Conference will get to a better understanding and, taking into account finally the interests of all mankind, will remove the obstacles to the full participation of the German Democratic Republic and other States that have been so far excluded from it."
