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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

COMMEMORATION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS IN 1985

Letter dated 5 April 1985 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 transmit herewith the text of a letter from
A. A. Gromyko, Chairman of the Commission for the Observance in the USSR of the
Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace, concerning the
commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the observance
of the International Year of Peace.

Please circulate this letter as an official document of the General Assembly
under items 27 and 39 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

* A/40/50 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Letter from the Chairman of the Commission for the Observance
in the USSR of the Year of the United Nations and the
International Year of Peace addressed to the Secretary-General

In connection with General Assembly decision 39/425 of 17 December 1984 regarding the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and resolution 39/10 of 8 November 1984 concerning the observance of the International Year of Peace, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

The Soviet Union, on the basis of its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, believes that the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the observance of the International Year of Peace can and should serve as an additional incentive in mobilizing the efforts of the peoples and States Members of the Organization for the elimination of the threat of nuclear war and the consolidation of international peace and security. As has been noted by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, M. S. Gorbachev, the Soviet Union, which is firmly opposed to the settling of contentious international issues by force, has always attached and continues to attach great importance to the United Nations as an effective instrument of peace and is prepared to take further steps to ensure that the just and democratic principles upon which the United Nations was founded 40 years ago are firmly secured in the practice of international relations.

The decision to observe 1985 as the Year of the United Nations and 1986 as the International Year of Peace takes on particular importance in connection with the celebration by peoples throughout the world of the fortieth anniversary of the historic victory over nazism and fascism, which established the conditions for the founding of the United Nations as an organization designed to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

An important role in commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and in observing the International Year of Peace obviously belongs to national organizations.

Following the recommendation of the General Assembly, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR established in February 1985 a Commission for the Observance in the USSR of the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace. The Commission is comprised of the chairmen of both chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, members of the USSR Government and ministers of the Union Republics. The Commission also includes the leaders of major Soviet public organizations, including the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the All-Union Leninist Communist Union of Youth, the Soviet Peace Committee, the United Nations Association of the USSR, the Committee of Soviet Women, the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR and the Soviet Committee of War Veterans. Many members of the Commission are deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR or Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics.

In late March 1985, the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union considered and approved a plan of activities for the observance in the USSR of the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace. The general thrust of these activities is for the consistent promotion of efforts aimed at easing international tension and halting the arms race.

The approved plan takes account of the General Assembly's recommendations for the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace.

I. With regard to the Year of the United Nations, the plan calls in particular for the holding of a number of activities on 26 June 1985 to coincide with the fortieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations. Activities will be held for the diplomatic corps in Moscow and for the Soviet public, as well as for Soviet and foreign journalists, there will be a "round table" discussion of scientists and public figures, and special programmes will be broadcast on television and radio.

A number of activities will be carried out in August 1985 by Soviet public organizations within the framework of international action for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Numerous activities are proposed for October 1985. A solemn meeting is planned in Moscow for 24 October, the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. A regular United Nations Disarmament Week will be held (24-31 October 1985) as part of the Year of the United Nations. Institutions of higher education will hold lectures devoted to the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the contribution of the Soviet Union to its work. Culture centres, libraries and clubs in towns and villages of the USSR will organize discussions about the United Nations and arrange exhibitions of books and photographic documents.

During 1985 there will be a number of scientific forums on the subject of the United Nations, and books will be published about the Organization and the struggle of the USSR for peace, disarmament and co-operation over the period 1945-1985. Radio and television programmes and a special documentary film about the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations will be prepared, and jubilee postage stamps and a commemorative medal will be issued. Soviet organizations will take part in the international competition sponsored by the United Nations for the best poster devoted to the fortieth anniversary of the Organization, and an art competition will be held in this connection.

Taking into account the recommendation of the General Assembly, the Commission proposes to hold a number of activities, including a conference of Soviet and foreign scientists, related to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Representatives of Soviet State institutions and public organizations will take part in activities for the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations arranged by the Secretariat and by foreign organizations.

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II. A broad range of activities are planned by the Commission within the framework of the International Year of Peace. In this connection, a special joint meeting of the Commissions for Foreign Affairs of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR is proposed for early 1986. In spring 1986, a number of cities in the Soviet Union will hold mass activities for the Soviet public devoted to the International Year of Peace and invitations for these are to be issued to representatives of peace organizations of other countries and to representatives of the United Nations Secretariat.

During the same period, Soviet public organizations plan to hold in the USSR, in conjunction with the United Nations Secretariat, an international conference of non-governmental organizations devoted to the contribution of the United Nations in preventing war and safeguarding international security.

As part of the International Year of Peace, the USSR will hold activities within the framework of a week of action for European security and co-operation (May 1986), and also for the United Nations Disarmament Week (October 1986). The annual "peace lesson" held in all secondary schools of the USSR on 1 September will be devoted to the International Year of Peace.

In the summer of 1986, the Committee of Soviet Women plans to hold a "peace school" devoted to the International Year of Peace, involving the participation of representatives of foreign women's organizations.

A number of scientific forums will be held with regard to the purposes of the International Year of Peace, including a conference of Soviet scientists for peace, a theoretical scientific conference involving the participation of Soviet and foreign scientists on the theme "Questions of consolidating peace and the United Nations", and an international conference of jurists on the theme "Law - an important means of settling international disputes".

A number of activities are planned by artistic organizations of the Soviet Union. In particular, it is planned to hold an international art exhibition for the Year in Moscow under the slogan "Masters of culture for peace", and an all-Union children's drawing contest on the theme of peace.

There are plans to publish a number of books and brochures devoted to the struggle for peace and disarmament, as well as to prepare films and radio and television programmes, and to issue posters and postage stamps devoted to the International Year of Peace.

Representatives of Soviet State and public organizations will take part in relevant international activities within the framework of the Year.

In its work, the Commission for the Observance in the USSR of the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace intends to maintain contacts with the United Nations Secretariat and with similar national commissions in other States Members of the United Nations.

The Soviet Union is confident that the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the observance of the International Year of Peace will help to intensify the concerted actions of States to eliminate the danger of war and to enhance the authority and role of the United Nations as an important instrument of peace and international co-operation.

A. GROMYKO
Chairman of the Commission
for the Observance in the
USSR of the Year of the
United Nations and the
International Year of Peace
