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Items 27 and 39 of the preliminary list*

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

COMMEMORATION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ~~(#N-1985)~~

Letter dated 3 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter from A. E. Gurinovich, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Byelorussian SSR and Deputy Chairman of the Commission for the celebration in the Byelorussian SSR of the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace, in connection with the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and to proclaim the International Year of Peace.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 27 and 39 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) A. N. SHELDON
Permanent Representative of
the Byelorussian SSR
to the United Nations

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 30 April 1985 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Deputy Chairman
of the Commission for the celebration in the Byelorussian Soviet
Socialist Republic of the Year of the United Nations and the
International Year of Peace

I hereby have the honour to announce that, following the decision taken at the thirty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1985 and to celebrate the International Year of Peace in 1986, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR adopted a resolution on 19 April 1985 establishing the Commission for the celebration in the Byelorussian SSR of the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace, under the chairmanship of Vladimir Andreyevich Mikulich, member of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Byelorussian Communist Party and Deputy President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR. The Commission will have a total of 31 members, consisting of Byelorussian Party leaders and statesmen and heads of a number of Byelorussian ministries and departments and of the major public organizations.

The Byelorussian SSR, which was one of the founders of the United Nations, reaffirms its steadfast devotion to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and trusts that the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the observance of the International Year of Peace will provide yet another opportunity for mobilizing the efforts of all States Members of the United Nations to strengthen the foundations of universal peace, to search constructively for mutually acceptable agreements that would halt the process of material preparations for nuclear war and to develop co-operation among peoples in the interests of economic and social progress. The just and democratic principles on which the United Nations was founded should become even more firmly secured in the practice of international relations.

In 1985, peoples throughout the world are celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the historic victory over fascism, to which the peoples of the Soviet Union made a decisive contribution. The victory of the anti-Hitler coalition established the conditions for the founding of the United Nations, with the aim of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war. In this connection, the decision to observe 1985 as the Year of the United Nations and 1986 as the International Year of Peace has special significance, because there is an acute need for international co-operation in search of effective solutions designed to curb aggressors, to reduce tension in the world, to help to halt the arms race, to remove the obstacles in the way of the complete elimination of the remnants of colonialism and to promote wide-ranging co-operation among peoples on a basis of equality.

The Commission has formulated and adopted a plan of measures for the observance in the Byelorussian SSR of the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace, which also take into account the relevant

recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly. The plan envisages, in particular, the organization this year and next year of a number of solemn public meetings and assemblies in the Byelorussian SSR; exhibitions of books and photographic documents; publication of books and pamphlets; competitions for posters, children's drawings and songs, quizzes in a number of newspapers on topics connected with the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace. In connection with the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace, the mass media in the Byelorussian SSR will engage in the preparation of articles, programmes and television and radio broadcasts. An art exhibition will be held in Minsk under the slogan "Masters of culture of the Byelorussian SSR - for peace, against war". At a number of large labour collectives, at institutions of higher and secondary education and in schools there will be several series of lectures highlighting the work of the United Nations and the struggle for peace, for the prevention of nuclear war and for the achievement of disarmament. Representatives of the Byelorussian SSR will take part in events arranged by the Secretariat of the United Nations to celebrate the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace.

The celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the observance of the International Year of Peace should help to improve the international situation and to transform the principles of peaceful coexistence into an immutable and universal norm of inter-State relations. The Byelorussian SSR will make every effort to enhance the prestige and significance of the United Nations as an important instrument in the struggle for peace, security and co-operation among peoples.

A. E. GURINOVICH
