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Items 12, 41 and 84 of the
preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL
LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS
ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1985
Item 3 of the provisional agenda**
GENERAL DISCUSSION OF
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL POLICY INCLUDING
REGIONAL AND SECTORAL
DEVELOPMENTS

Letter dated 9 May 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 request you to take the necessary steps to have the attached material on the economic assistance of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to developing countries distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under items 12, 41 and 84 of the preliminary list and of the Economic and Social Council under item 3 of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1985, and also to distribute this document at the renewed session of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Decade (New York, 6-17 May 1985).

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

** See Economic and Social Council decision 1985/101.

ANNEX

Economic assistance by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
to developing countries

The provision of effective assistance to the newly liberated countries in their efforts to achieve economic decolonization and overcome economic backwardness has been elevated in the USSR to the rank of State policy. In pursuing this policy, the USSR does not seek unilateral advantages, make its assistance dependent on any political conditions, or violate its partners' sovereignty.

The Soviet State unflinchingly supports the right of all peoples to determine themselves, by their own choice, their socio-economic present and to build their future without any interference from outside. This policy was reaffirmed at the April 1985 Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

In consistent support of the efforts of developing countries to put an end to their inequitable position in the capitalist world economic system, the Soviet Union renders them great assistance, within the limits of its capabilities, in ways which correspond to its social structure, have proved their effectiveness in practice and have won the recognition of these countries themselves.

The overall volume of the Soviet Union's assistance to developing countries, calculated by the United Nations methodology, amounted in 1983 to 9 billion roubles or 1.2 per cent of the gross national product of the USSR. Of this total, assistance to the least developed countries amounted to 1 billion roubles or 0.14 per cent of the Soviet Union's GNP.

In all, over the period 1976-1983, the Soviet Union provided the developing countries with assistance amounting to 55.6 billion roubles.

As of 1 January 1984, 1,843 installations in industry, agriculture, education, culture and health care had been put into operation in developing countries with the assistance of the USSR, including 85 in 1983, of which 14 were in least developed countries.

In 1983, the Soviet Union trained 58,000 national staff, 6,000 of them in least developed countries. In 1983-1984, 82,000 foreign students from Asian, African and Latin American States (including 24,000 from least developed countries) were studying at institutions of higher and specialized education in the USSR. In all, more than 1.5 million experts and qualified workers have been trained for developing countries, in various ways, with Soviet assistance.

Trade between the USSR and developing countries is being actively developed. In 1984, USSR trade with this group of countries amounted to 28.8 billion roubles, 8 per cent above the level for the previous year.

In terms of its content, principles and purposes, the Soviet Union's co-operation, both in trade and economic matters and in science and technology, with developing countries represents a new type of international economic relations, devoid of exploitation and based on the principles of equality, full respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage. These principles, proclaimed in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and other United Nations documents on the problems of restructuring international economic relations, have found legislative embodiment in treaties and agreements concerning co-operation in trade and economic matters and in science and technology between the USSR and developing countries.
