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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

COMMEMORATION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 15 May 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Stefan Olszowski, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 39/161 A and decision 39/425 of 17 December 1984, on the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

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

(Signed) Dr. Jerzy M. NOWAK
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 9 May 1985 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Poland to the Secretary-General

With reference to General Assembly resolution 39/161 A and decision 39/425 of 17 December 1984, on the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, I have the honour to communicate the following:

Proceeding from the invariable principles of its foreign policy, including its faithful adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Poland - a founding Member of the United Nations - has welcomed with satisfaction the decision on the observance of 1985 as the Year of the United Nations and designating the fortieth session of the General Assembly a commemorative session.

Poland's readiness to take active part in the observances of the anniversary of the United Nations is a logical consequence of the contribution by the Polish people to the defeat of fascism, on the ruins of which a universal Organization has been founded and of the four decades of Poland's constructive involvement in efforts with a view to erecting a broadly-conceived infrastructure of international peace, security and co-operation.

The people of Poland was the first to fall victim to armed aggression in the Second World War. Proportionately, Poland suffered the heaviest material and human losses in the struggle against fascism, from the first to the last day of the war, and as a result of the genocidal policies of the Hitlerite occupant.

From the earliest days of the founding of the United Nations, Poland did its utmost - as the Charter stipulates - to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. From the dawn of its existence, United Nations forums saw a number of Poland's initiatives designed to transform the Organization into an effective instrument of peace and harmonious co-operation of States. That was the case at the time of overcoming the legacies of "cold war", when the historic Rapacki Plan was in the focus of attention of forces of peace and progress. That was also the case in the 1970s when, on Poland's initiative, the General Assembly, without a dissenting vote, adopted our draft Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, with mankind's secure future in mind. The same objectives are guiding the current Polish initiatives at the United Nations concerning the special role and great historic responsibility of heads of State or Government as well as other statesmen, politicians and diplomats and civic leaders for the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of a just and durable peace for present and future generations; confidence-building measures in international economic relations; or the elaboration of an international Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A practical illustration of Poland's dedication to the cause of international peace is its contribution to United Nations peace-keeping operations.

The consistency of the peaceful foreign policy of Poland and its allies, based as it is on the lofty purposes and principles of the Charter, paves also the way towards European security, among other things, through the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which we were one of the initiators.

In view of the state of international relations remaining tense and, consequently, the growing responsibility of States, their Governments and leaders, for the maintenance of peace and consolidation of international security, we are more than ever determined, together with our allies, with all peace-loving nations and realistically-minded forces, to do our utmost to contain and reverse the present dangerous trends.

It is a deeply-rooted awareness among the Polish people that there would be neither Poland nor Poles had the criminal Third Reich not collapsed under the blows of the anti-Hitler coalition. Were it not for that victory, neither would there be a United Nations and its momentous accomplishments, including the historic process of decolonization. That is why on the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations we are mindful above all of the anti-war and anti-fascist origins of the Organization. It is with rare eloquence that the origins of the United Nations bear out the need for enhancing the effectiveness of actions relating to the consolidation of peace and international security. It remains our desire that the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, including the anticipated attendance, in this connection, of heads of State or Government at commemorative session of the General Assembly, bring new momentum to render the world Organization a platform of a creative dialogue on the prevention of nuclear war, disarmament, the restoration of international confidence, détente and on peaceful settlement of conflicts.

I am profoundly convinced that the observances of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations offer a chance to outline to the Organization new perspectives, most strongly embedded in what has lost nothing of its topicality, and what has been and is the cornerstone of the United Nations - the unanimity of the victorious Powers which, having jointly defeated their enemy, were called upon jointly to establish enduring, just and democratic peace. There should be no doubt whatever that a deep reflection on and the reassessment of the attitude of the international community - the United Nations - to the purposes and principles of the Charter, are indispensable conditions of the practical implementation of the commemorative motto, "United Nations for a better world".

Even perfect decisions of the Organization cannot yield expected practical results unless and until they have the response and support in the political will of Member States. I trust that mankind will succeed in halting and reversing the course towards the precipice and that the international community as represented in the United Nations will turn back towards all-round, peaceful co-operation, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. Poland's active contribution to this task shall never be missing.

The great importance which Poland attaches to the jubilee of the United Nations is confirmed by the establishment of the National Committee for the Observance of its fortieth anniversary. The composition of the Committee, which I have the privilege to chair, has been based on a wide political and social representation. A concrete programme of Polish observances of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations is now being finalized.

Such a comprehensive programme of observances of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations in Poland, which will continue throughout the year, will particularly highlight 26 June and 24 October 1985, the dates marking respectively the anniversaries of the signature and the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations.

The observances of the Year of the United Nations in Poland will link up with the inauguration of the International Year of Peace. Its main event will be the International Congress of the Intellectuals in Defense of the Peaceful Future of the World, to be held in Warsaw in January 1986. The Polish Committee of the International Year of Peace will be established shortly. I shall take the liberty of informing you of its programme of work at a later date.

You may rest assured, Mr. Secretary-General, that the United Nations can always count on Poland's unfailing commitment to the implementation of its lofty purposes and principles.

(Signed) Sg. S. OLSZOWSKI
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Polish People's Republic
