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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: REVIEW
OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND
DUTIES OF STATES

Letter dated 21 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

On behalf of the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Polish People's Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the joint statement of the above-mentioned delegations at the concluding meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the joint statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 84 (b) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jaroslav ČESAR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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aggravation of political and economic instability in the world, heightens the danger of nuclear war, threatens the very survival of mankind and places an increasing burden on the peoples of the world, absorbing enormous material and financial resources and retarding economic and social progress. Today, the most urgent task is to implement real measures to curb the arms race and achieve disarmament.

Particular importance for the fulfilment of the provisions embodied in the Charter concerning the need to maintain international peace and security could reside in the implementation of the concrete proposals set forth in the decisions of the high-level Economic Conference of the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Moscow, 12-14 June 1984), the proposal made on 5 January 1985 by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty, the communiqué of the thirty-ninth session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance issued on 31 October 1984 and other documents of the socialist States concerning the cessation of the arms race, the freezing and reduction of military budgets and progress towards disarmament which could enable the funds thus released to be used for social and economic development, including the development of the developing countries.

4. An important step towards the implementation of the Charter could be made by global negotiations on the most urgent world economic problems in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/138. The impasse on the question of starting global negotiations can be explained by the unwillingness of the capitalist countries and their transnational corporations to relinquish their privileged positions in the world capitalist economy. Their policies, in gross violation of the principles of the Charter, are aimed not only at preserving but also at increasing neo-colonial exploitation of the developing countries and at continuing to extract enormous financial and material resources from them.

The socialist countries firmly advocate the earliest commencement, within the framework of the United Nations, of global negotiations in accordance with the decisions of that Organization, with the participation of all States and taking into consideration their legitimate interests, since that would also make it possible to proceed towards the practical implementation of a number of the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

As emphasized in the Declaration entitled "Maintenance of peace and international economic co-operation" adopted by the members of CMEA at their high-level Economic Conference, the CMEA countries consistently champion the adoption of effective decisions and courses of action designed to exclude all exploitation from international economic relations, to ensure unhindered international scientific and technical co-operation, to eliminate discrimination, artificial obstacles and unequal exchange from commercial relations, to establish just, economically sound relationships in the prices of raw materials, foodstuffs and manufactured goods, and for that purpose, to exert greater control over the activities of transnational monopolies. They favour the regulation of currency and financial relations and oppose the policy of high interest rates; and they favour normalization of conditions under which credits are granted and paid back so that those conditions, particularly as they relate to the indebtedness of developing countries, should not be used as means of political pressure and interference in internal affairs.

5. The deterioration in the economic situation of the developing countries is linked with the attempts of certain Western States to transfer to the developing countries the burden of the crisis in the world capitalist economy, and with the resort to protectionism, discrimination and sanctions, which are incompatible with the principles of the Charter.

The imperialist States recently stepped up their pressure on the developing countries in order to make them abandon the adoption of progressive socio-economic reforms, reduce the State sector of the economy, reconsider national development plans and programmes and rescind legislative measures designed to protect national industries, and thus open the door to unrestrained control by foreign private capital.

Such pressure is a clear manifestation of neo-colonialism in a contemporary form, which blatantly violates the provisions of the Charter, particularly articles 1, 7, 10, 16 and 24.

6. The socialist countries, which strictly conform to the progressive principles of the Charter, are making a tangible contribution to the implementation of those principles.

This shows itself in political support for the just demands of the developing countries in their struggle to achieve economic decolonization, to eliminate diktat, blackmail and threats from the sphere of international economic relations, and to develop broad, mutually advantageous and equitable international economic co-operation.

The socialist countries, within the bounds of their capabilities, are furnishing the developing countries with all-round economic assistance in forms which correspond to their social system and which have proved their effectiveness in practice and have received recognition from the developing countries themselves. Convincing evidence of this can be found in the data furnished by a number of socialist countries in the United Nations with regard to such assistance.

In the light of its content, principles and aims, the economic, trade, scientific and technical co-operation between the socialist and the developing countries represents a new type of international economic relations which is opposed to the system of exploitation of the natural and human resources of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America imposed by imperialism. The nature and forms of the co-operation between the socialist countries and the newly independent States are in full accordance with the provisions of the Charter, in particular articles 4, 14, 18 and 19, and represent the contribution of the socialist countries to the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and to the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and equitable basis.

7. The co-operation among the socialist countries within the framework of CMEA makes an important contribution to the implementation of the Charter.

The socialist countries have created a new type of international economic integration which affords an example of truly equitable and mutually advantageous co-operation among countries. The unity of their political and socio-economic objectives enables the CMEA member countries to move forward successfully in the search for a fundamental solution to a whole range of socio-economic problems.

A new phase in economic socialist integration was ushered in at the high-level Economic Conference of CMEA member countries, at which they determined the basic features of their long-term mutual economic co-operation.

As emphasized in the Statement on basic lines for further developing and intensifying economic, scientific and technical co-operation among the member countries of CMEA, which was adopted at the Conference, the consistent implementation of the decisions adopted "will give a new and important impetus to the further progressive development of their economies and to mutual co-operation, enhance their prestige and appeal of socialism in the world, and further expand and strengthen the unity of the CMEA member countries, joined in a community of fundamental class interests and linked by the ideology of Marxism-Leninism".

8. In connection with the review of the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, carried out in accordance with article 34 of the Charter and on the basis of General Assembly resolution 39/163, the socialist countries

- Solemnly reaffirm that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States is the fundamental document in the restructuring of international economic relations and the establishment of a new international economic order, and appeal to those countries which are not yet doing so strictly to observe the provisions of that document;

- Condemn the gross violations of such key provisions of the Charter as the sovereign equality of all States, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful coexistence, mutual benefit, equal rights and self-determination of peoples; the promotion of general and complete disarmament; the sincere fulfilment of international obligations; the right of States to exercise full sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activities, including regulation of the activities of transnational corporations; the right of each State to participate in international trade and other forms of economic co-operation, without regard to any differences between socio-economic systems;

- Call upon all countries which have not yet done so to show political will with a view to removing obstacles to the implementation of the provisions of the Charter and other United Nations resolutions on specific aspects of the new international economic order, especially obstacles created by the policies of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism, exploitation, the use or threat of use of force, foreign domination, and so forth;

- Call upon United Nations bodies and organizations within the United Nations system regularly to consider at their sessions the goals and measures relating to the implementation of the provisions of the Charter in accordance with the nature of their activities;

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- Reaffirm the need for the implementation by all States of United Nations General Assembly resolutions 38/197 and 39/210 on economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries, and resolutions 38/196 and 39/226 on confidence-building in international economic relations, which would contribute to the practical implementation of the Charter and the creation of a climate conducive to the resumption of normal multilateral economic negotiations and co-operation;

- Call upon the States Members of the United Nations to take urgent measures to stem the flow of funds from the developing countries, which undermines the provisions of the Charter concerning the need to accelerate the socio-economic development of those countries;

- Further call upon all countries to assist, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, the efforts of the developing countries to institute progressive socio-economic reforms, in keeping with their national development plans, in the interests of the working people as a whole and on the basis of the full mobilization of internal resources;

- Reaffirm the principle of the inalienable sovereignty of States over their natural resources on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council;

- Consider it essential that the United Nations General Assembly reaffirm at its fortieth session the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and that it appeal to all countries and to bodies and organizations within the United Nations system to be guided in their policies and activities by the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

Our delegations will determine at a later stage the way in which to bring the said document to the attention of the United Nations General Assembly at its fortieth session in accordance with United Nations practice.
