

"UNITED NATIONS CHARTER DAY"AND"UNITED NATIONS PEACE DAY"

(Item 42 of the Provisional Agenda of the Second Regular Session)

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

The commemoration, on 26 June 1947, of the second anniversary of the signing of the Charter proved very valuable in promoting understanding of the aims and activities of the United Nations. The Secretary-General feels justified, therefore, in suggesting that 26 June should be known in future as "United Nations Charter Day" and be devoted by Member Governments and the United Nations to reminding the peoples of the world of the purposes of the United Nations and to giving them a report on the progress made towards carrying out these purposes as defined in the United Nations Charter.

Numerous non-governmental organizations and educational leaders have also suggested that, in addition to "Charter Day", the date of the coming into force of the Charter, namely 24 October, should in future be known as "United Nations Peace Day" and be devoted to commemorations of a more general character, the aim of which would be, in particular, to build up a better understanding of international relations on the part of students and non-governmental organizations, and of the contribution which each nation can make thereto. They suggest that the date of 24 October is more suitable than 26 June for this particular purpose, because on the latter date the schools in the northern hemisphere are on vacation, and the hope is that this effort toward international understanding would be world-wide.

The Organization clearly should avail itself of all possible opportunities to instil in the minds of peoples everywhere a thorough understanding of the United Nations, so that it may profit from their support in facing the complex problems of the world. The Secretary-General feels justified, therefore, in putting this proposal also before the General Assembly.

The following draft resolution for the consideration of the General Assembly covers both the above proposals:

"The GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

"1. DECLARES that the anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, namely 26 June, shall henceforth be officially

known as "United Nations Charter Day", and shall be devoted to bringing before the peoples of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations;

"2. DECLARES that the anniversary of the coming into force of the Charter of the United Nations, namely 24 October, shall henceforth be officially recognized as "United Nations Peace Day", and shall be devoted to mobilizing, through educational institutions and non-governmental organizations in the territories of Member States, the support of the peoples of the world in the maintenance of international peace and security;

"3. INVITES Member Governments to co-operate with the Organization in the observance of these two anniversaries."

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