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QUESTION OF THE PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMINALS AND OF PERSONS
WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

MEMORANDUM OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS CONCERNING URGENT MEASURES TO STOP THE ARMS RACE AND
ACHIEVE DISARMAMENT

Note verbale dated 16 January 1969 from the Permanent Mission of
Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Polish People's Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the letter dated 21 December 1968 of the Permanent Representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America contained in document A/7481, has the honour to state the following.

In their letter, the representatives of the three Powers once again refer to the status of the two German States, namely, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. In total disregard of the actual state of affairs, the representatives of the three Powers state that only the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is "authorized to speak in the name of Germany as representative of the German people in international affairs".

In reply to similar assertions in the past, the Government of the Polish People's Republic has repeatedly pointed out that the existence of the German Democratic Republic is an undeniable fact and cannot be affected by any statements of non-recognition.

Since its establishment, the German Democratic Republic has successfully developed its statehood and international personality. In exercising its sovereign rights and pursuing a peace-loving policy, it maintains diplomatic, consular, as well as official trade and cultural relations with most of the States represented in the United Nations.

The non-recognition of the German Democratic Republic by certain States therefore does not and cannot affect its very existence as a sovereign and independent State.

The Permanent Mission of the Polish People's Republic to the United Nations would be grateful if this note could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.
