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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

Letter dated 24 February 1969 addressed to the President of the
General Assembly from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria
to the United Nations

On 20 February 1969 you notified me of the designation of the Federal Republic of Germany - together with certain other countries which are States Members of the United Nations - to membership in the enlarged Economic Committee of the Economic and Social Council, established by General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII) to "prepare... a draft of an international development strategy", without undertaking any real consultations as mentioned in your letter of 11 January 1969 (A/7269).

At the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria voted against the inclusion, in the membership of the enlarged Economic Committee of the Economic and Social Council, of States not Members of the United Nations.

The inclusion of non-Member States in main bodies of the United Nations is a flagrant violation of the Charter and of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (rules 75 and 76). The spirit, principles and provisions of the Charter preclude the inclusion of States not Members of the United Nations in one of its institutional bodies. While Article 69 of the United Nations Charter and rules 75 and 76 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council stipulate that any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Economic and Social Council may be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter which the Council considers is of particular concern to that Member, there is no provision for the participation of

States not Members of the United Nations. Hence there is not the slightest doubt that operative paragraph 1 of resolution 2411 (XXIII), on which your decision is based, flagrantly infringes these provisions.

The provision in question, which appears in operative paragraph 1 of the said resolution, was included with the obvious idea - advocated by a specific group of States - of ensuring the illegal participation of the Federal Republic of Germany in one of the main bodies of the United Nations, of presenting the Government of that State as the only German Government authorized to speak on behalf of the German people in international forums, and thus of aggravating the inconsistencies and tensions in the heart of Europe. The policy of discrimination against the German Democratic Republic, to which the developing countries consistently express their opposition, would thus be strengthened in the United Nations organs. The course of events following the adoption of the resolution offers incontrovertible evidence of the fact that certain Western countries are trying to take advantage of the preparation of the second United Nations Development Decade in order to further their political aims.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria refuses to be a party to this flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter through such political manoeuvres or to be an accessory to the policy of discrimination against the German Democratic Republic. In these circumstances, the Bulgarian Government considers it impossible to allow its representatives to participate in the so-called enlarged Economic Committee of the Council.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Milko TARABANOV
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of Bulgaria
to the United Nations
