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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT*

Letter dated 2 February 1965 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, with a view to the further expansion of trade with the developing countries, the Council of Ministers of the USSR has adopted a decree providing for the abolition, as from 1 January 1965, of Soviet customs duties on goods imported from the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

In this connexion, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the Soviet Union's trade with the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America is developing at a rapid rate. During the ten-year period 1953-1963, Soviet trade with these countries increased at an annual rate of more than 20 per cent, which was twice the rate of increase of Soviet foreign trade as a whole. The outlook is excellent for further development of Soviet trade with these countries, especially for the importation by the Soviet Union of agricultural raw materials such as cotton, jute and wool and of food products such as cocoa, beans, coffee, tea, citrus fruits, vegetable and seed oils, bananas, pineapples and spices.

Soviet imports from the developing countries are expected to increase more than eightfold by 1980, when they will total more than \$11,000 million. These imports, which in 1963 represented 15 per cent of Soviet imports from all countries except those of the socialist community, will increase to 31 per cent of the total.

The Soviet Union's action in voluntarily abolishing customs duties on goods imported from the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America will

* Item 32 of the provisional agenda.

unquestionably promote the development of direct trade between those countries and the USSR, without the need for foreign middlemen, and will thus have a salutary effect in strengthening the national industry and the national economy of the developing countries.

The Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations requests that this letter should be issued as an official General Assembly document in connexion with the consideration at the present session of the decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO
