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### COMMEMORATION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 26 June 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the  
Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement of 26 June 1985 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, on the fortieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and the text of the statement to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 39 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Hans Werner LAUTENSCHLAGER  
Ambassador

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\* A/40/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement of 26 June 1985 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of  
the Federal Republic of Germany on the fortieth anniversary of  
the signing of the Charter of the United Nations

The 26th of June marks the fortieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations. By establishing the world organization the Member States showed that they had learned their lessons from the bitter experience of the two world wars and from the drawbacks of the League of Nations, which had been too narrow in concept. The Charter makes the preservation of world peace the common responsibility of all nations, requiring them to refrain from the threat or use of force and to resort solely to peaceful means in the settlement of disputes. It bans all armed conflict and urges all nations to pursue an active peace policy embracing extensive international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Federal Republic of Germany has always identified itself with the purposes and principles of the Charter. It has been a member of the specialized agencies of the United Nations since the early 1950s and became a full member of the United Nations in 1973.

In an age of considerable international turmoil, the United Nations is playing its part in the pursuit of a more peaceful, a more just and a more stable world. In the four decades since its inception it has proved to be an indispensable factor in the life of the community of nations.

The United Nations has played an outstanding role in codifying human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Civil and Political and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights embody authoritative definitions of basic rights and fundamental freedoms and establish obligations for the Contracting States intended to serve all mankind.

The Federal Republic of Germany has played an active part in this process. Its proposals for preventing new flows of refugees, for the abolition of capital punishment and for the establishment of an international court of human rights have initiated debates that, we are confident, will bring further progress towards a solution of these problems that are of such vital importance for the promotion of international understanding and the protection of human dignity. Our initiative with a view to preventing the taking of hostages was a contribution to the work of the United Nations in the codification and further development of international law. The United Nations has played a crucial role in the process of decolonization. The Security Council and the Secretary-General, through public debate and quiet diplomacy, have helped considerably to contain and resolve disputes. With our proposals for the prevention of armed conflicts we have endeavoured to render their work even more effective. Through their courage and operational readiness the United Nations peace-keeping forces have helped to keep disputes under control, and the General Assembly, proceeding on the basis of the absolute ban on the use of force imposed by the United Nations, has to a large extent become the conscience of the international community.

A great deal still has to be done before the longing of all nations for the strict observance of the ban on the threat or use of force and for the peaceful settlement of disputes becomes standard practice in all countries. By initiating a process of rapprochement and co-operation with its Eastern neighbours, the Federal Republic of Germany has shown that a policy of co-operation to the exclusion of the threat or use of force is possible on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations, thus setting a positive example which is acknowledged in the United Nations.

The United Nations is today also the forum for the North-South dialogue on economic and social issues. In the course of this dialogue it has become clear that economic problems cannot be solved by majority decisions. The many urgent matters requiring attention in the field of economic and technical co-operation, such as the environment and the development and application of modern technology, presuppose a consensus between North and South to which all have to contribute their share and that must be fair to both sides.

There have been outstanding achievements in the field of multilateral development assistance through the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children's Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Infant mortality, for instance, has been systematically reduced and international humanitarian solidarity mobilized on an unprecedented scale for the benefit of millions of refugees.

It is also apparent on this fortieth anniversary that the tasks and challenges facing the world organization have increased. The famine in Africa is still far from being eradicated. Drug manufacture and trafficking can only be effectively controlled by means of a comprehensive strategy. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is seeking to secure concerted action by the seven nations who participate in world economic summits to achieve progress in these important fields.

The ban on the threat or use of force in international relations and the call for the settlement of disputes by negotiation or judicial decision have proved in many instances to be a dead letter. The efforts of the Federal Republic of Germany to introduce a concept for confidence-building measures on a global scale are also intended to encourage nations to abide by their undertaking not to use force.

The much lamented weakness of the United Nations is principally due to the lack of political determination on the part of Member States to act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is convinced that measures to strengthen the United Nations and its fundamental principles would be in the true interests of every nation, whether rich or poor, big or small. Only by being aware of our global interdependence shall we be able to bring about the rational and necessary accommodation of national and international interests. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany therefore supports the appeal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to all nations to meet their obligations under the Charter and to make full use of the institutions established on its basis. It will continue to join actively in the pursuit of world-wide peace.

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