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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate to the Members of the General Assembly the attached letter, dated 10 February 1969, from the President of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly concerning the designation of the remaining four Members to constitute the Preparatory Committee for the ~~S~~ Second United Nations Development Decade, established in accordance with operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII) of 17 December 1968 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1388 (XLV) of 19 December 1968.
2. The organizational meeting of the Preparatory Committee will now take place on Tuesday, 25 February 1969, at 10.30 a.m. The provisional agenda for the meeting was issued on 3 February 1969 (E/AC.56/1).

On 11 January 1969, I wrote to you (A/7269) concerning the steps which I was taking to complete the composition of the Preparatory Committee for the ~~Second~~ United Nations Development Decade as envisaged in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII) of 17 December 1968. At that time, I designated twenty-three States with respect to which there was no disagreement and fixed 10 February 1969 as the deadline for designating the remaining four Members. I did this in the hope that, as a result of further consultations between the various groups at the United Nations, a generally acceptable solution would be found.

Unfortunately, the further extensive consultations which have been held over the past month have not satisfied this hope. I have, however, had a request from one of the groups for more time in order that consultations might continue with respect to some of the ideas and proposals which had arisen. Another group, while expressing its grave concern at the delay in the full composition and meeting of the Preparatory Committee, had no objection to the suggestion for the postponement of my decision, subject to the understanding that it should be for the shortest possible duration. A third group did not favour a further postponement for it saw no indication from the proposals and suggestions being advanced that the principles which they held to be of great importance would be respected. However, some Members indicated that their position might be different if there were reason for hope of reaching a solution which would safeguard such principles.

Without considering different suggestions as adequate precedents in a situation in which the General Assembly has left the President free to decide as far as time is concerned and within the terms of paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII), but considering that every effort should be made to observe a constructive attitude towards the problems, I have decided to postpone once more my final decision until 20 February 1969 in order to give further time for consultations and in the sincere hope that these consultations will result in a solution satisfactory to the entire membership. I do not consider, however, that it is possible to delay my decision beyond that date.

I would be grateful if you would bring the contents of this letter to the attention of the Members of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Emilio ARENALES