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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

STATUS OF THE COUNCIL FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 4 October 1974 from the Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from the Governments of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Ukrainian SSR and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, we have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, as an important and urgent question, of a new item entitled "Status of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is attached to this letter in support of the above request.

G. GROZEV
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of Bulgaria
G. TCHERNOUCHTCHENKO
Permanent Representative of the
Byelorussian SSR
R. ALARCON QUESADA
Permanent Representative of Cuba
L. SMID
Permanent Representative of the
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
P. FLORIN
Permanent Representative of the
German Democratic Republic
I. HOLLAI
Permanent Representative of the
Hungarian People's Republic

T. PUNTSAGNOROV
Permanent Representative of the
Mongolian People's Republic
E. KULAGA
Permanent Representative of the
Polish People's Republic
I. DATCU
Permanent Representative of the
Socialist Republic of Romania
V. MARTYNENKO
Permanent Representative of
the Ukrainian SSR
Y. MALIK
Permanent Representative of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The relaxation of international tension and the general improvement in the international political climate are creating favourable conditions for peaceful and mutually beneficial economic co-operation on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence and equality and constitute an essential condition for the solution of the problems of development and the acceleration of the social and economic progress of all countries. The broadening of the scope of equal economic co-operation should, in turn, serve as an important instrument for the strengthening of international security.

The current process of détente is not a temporary phenomenon but the beginning of a fundamental restructuring of international relations, including those in the economic field.

2. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance - the world's first economic organization of socialist States - is making a major contribution to the development of the process of normalization of international economic relations and to the establishment of mutually beneficial co-operation on a footing of equality in the fields of economy, trade and science and technology among all countries, irrespective of their social systems and their level of development.

Experience has shown that the successfully developing co-operation among the countries members of CMEA is becoming an increasingly important factor in the growth of their economies, in the improvement of the well-being of their peoples and in the equalization of their levels of economic development.

3. The strengthening of the community of countries members of CMEA is not leading to the establishment of a closed economic grouping. At the present time CMEA maintains relations of various kinds with more than 20 international intergovernmental and non-governmental economic and scientific and technical organizations, in particular the Economic and Social Council, the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and others. The countries members of CMEA attach great importance to enhancing the role of the United Nations, to increasing the effectiveness of its activities on the basis of the United Nations Charter in solving international problems, and to strengthening peace and the development of co-operation among all peoples. They are in favour of the further development of equal international co-operation based on respect for the sovereign right of each State freely to dispose of its natural resources, observance of the most-favoured-nation principle in international trade, the rapid progress of the countries whose development has lagged behind and the elimination of inequitable economic relations imposed by the policy of neo-colonialism. CMEA pays continuous attention to economic relations with the developing countries. The States members of CMEA are granting them economic and technical assistance in the establishment and development of their national industries and other vital sectors of their national economies. Multilateral assistance to the developing countries is expanding; in particular, a special CMEA fund to help them train national personnel has been established. The countries members of CMEA will

further intensify their co-operation with the developing countries and give them the requisite support in the struggle for economic independence and the defence of the inalienable right to dispose of their own national wealth in the interests of their peoples. International détente is truly paving the way for practical co-operation between the States members of CMEA and the developed capitalist States, which is in keeping with the objective requirements of international economic life and serves the interests of the peoples of all countries of the world.

4. The activities of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance are being accompanied by a steady rise in the prestige of the organization throughout the world. The principles underlying its work - full equality, independence, voluntary participation, respect for sovereignty, mutual benefit and mutual aid and the great effectiveness of co-operation for all the countries participating in it regardless of their size or level of economic development - are having an increasing influence on international relations.

5. The strengthening of the influence on international relations of the principles underlying the work of CMEA and the growing interest of States Members of the United Nations in their practical implementation make it objectively desirable that representatives of CMEA should be able to participate in the work of the General Assembly and that the organization itself should be granted observer status in the General Assembly, which would give the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance an opportunity to take part in the work of the Assembly and its Committees during the consideration of matters relating to its field of competence.

6. In order to secure the participation of CMEA in the work of the General Assembly, the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, Cuba, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Ukrainian SSR and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on instructions from their Governments, request the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of an item entitled "Status of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in the General Assembly".
