



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/40/428
3 July 1985
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Fortieth session
Item 39 of the preliminary list*

COMMEMORATION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 2 July 1985 from the Acting Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a telegram dated 24 June 1985 from A. A. Gromyko, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, addressed to you in connection with the fortieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter.

I request you to circulate the text as an official document of the fortieth session of the General Assembly under item 39 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) V. SAFRONCHUK
Acting Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Telegram dated 24 June 1985 from the First Deputy Chairman of
the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the USSR addressed to the Secretary-General

In the history of international relations there is an extremely significant date - 26 June 1945, the date when the Charter of the United Nations was signed.

If we look at the United Nations Charter through the prism of time, there would appear to be every reason to say that it has proved its durability during the most critical and dangerous turning points in world politics and will retain all its significance in the future as well.

The Charter's durability is explained by the fact that it was forged in the crucible of the joint struggle of the United Nations to save human civilization from fascist barbarism. The founding States of the United Nations have left in the Charter of this world organization the imprint of a harsh lesson of history learnt through much suffering and terrible ordeals: the lesson that we must live together in peace with one another as good neighbours and unite our strength to maintain international peace and security. In other words, the Charter, in the language of an international law, embodies the concept of the peaceful coexistence of States put forward by the founder of the Soviet State, V. I. Lenin.

Today the path of development of international relations indicated in the Charter is really the only reasonable alternative to a nuclear catastrophe. Although the provisions of the Charter were signed even before nuclear weapons had been created, their validity became still more obvious after the emergence of such weapons. This applies primarily to the main task proclaimed in the Charter, namely, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

The experience of 40 years since the signing of the United Nations Charter shows that, whenever States showed a readiness to abide by the Charter, the way was paved for a constructive dialogue between them and for the strengthening of general security. A vivid example of this was the 1970s, which were marked by a relaxation of international tension. It was perfectly natural that the United Nations unequivocally supported the deepening and strengthening of détente and that States in the documents of the time, particularly the Helsinki Final Act, declared their determination to conform to the United Nations Charter in their policies.

The Charter, and the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions based on it, show the way to solve the most critical problems of contemporary world politics, and primarily the key problem, removal of the nuclear threat. It is obvious that implementation of the United Nations resolutions adopted on the initiative of the USSR or with its active support and aimed at preventing the arms race in space and stopping it on earth, and particularly at the prohibition of all tests and at the freezing, reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons altogether and everywhere, would remove the threat hanging over mankind. The resources released as a result would be used to promote the economic and social progress of countries, including the developing ones, and this would also be in keeping with the noble goals of the United Nations Charter.

The provisions obliging all States to abide by the principles of non-use of force and non-interference in internal affairs and to respect the right of peoples to determine the course of their own development have also lost none of their timeliness. The provisions of the Charter aimed at eliminating the shameful system of colonial and racist oppression have also not been thoroughly exhausted.

Today, as 40 years ago, the peoples of the world look to the United Nations with faith in the possibility of achieving the noble goals laid down in its Charter. The duty of the United Nations and of all its Members is to strive in every way to make the aspirations of the peoples a reality. We are convinced that the effectiveness and authority of the United Nations can and must be enhanced by the strict observance of its Charter by all States.

As for the USSR, it has been, and will remain, steadfastly faithful to its signature under the United Nations Charter. As the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, M. S. Gorbachev, has stressed, the Soviet Union has always attached, and will continue to attach, great significance to the United Nations as an effective instrument of peace and is prepared to take further steps to ensure that the just democratic principles upon which the United Nations was founded 40 years ago became firmly established in the practice of international relations.

A. GROMYKO

First Deputy Chairman of the Council of
Ministers of the USSR and
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR
