



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERALA/40/390  
18 June 1985  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

---

Fortieth session  
Item 89 of the preliminary list\*

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE

Letter dated 18 June 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 transmit herewith the text of the Soviet reply to your questionnaire No. SD 2082/13 of 19 March 1985 concerning the implementation in the USSR of the Specific Programme of Measures and Activities to be undertaken prior to and during International Youth Year.

I request you to circulate the above-mentioned text as an official document of the General Assembly under item 89 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) V. SAFRONCHUK  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary  
Acting Permanent Representative  
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
to the United Nations

---

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

ANNEX

Soviet reply to the Secretary-General's questionnaire No. SD 2082/13  
of 19 March 1985 concerning the implementation in the USSR of the  
Specific Programme of Measures and Activities to be undertaken prior  
to and during International Youth Year

In proclaiming International Youth Year, the United Nations calls upon Member States to turn their attention to three fundamental objectives: participation, development, peace - that is, to the involvement of youth in all spheres of socio-political life, to its contribution to the development of society, and to the ensuring of peace for present and future generations.

The noble objectives of the celebration of International Youth Year are actively supported in our country. Concern for youth is one of the basic principles of Leninism, a historic achievement of the true socialist society. The socialist way of life has delivered young people from exploitation and inequality. It gives young people guarantees, not in words but in deeds, of social and political rights, ensures that they have the broadest access to creative work, education and culture, and gives them confidence in the future.

In the USSR the conduct of activities in connection with International Youth Year constitutes not merely a short-term campaign but the planned realization of the long-term course charted for young people by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and by the Soviet State, and most of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Measures and Activities Prior to and During International Youth Year have already been given real effect in our country or are being successfully put into effect as our society develops. Figuratively speaking, in the USSR every year may without exaggeration be called youth year.

The work on the celebration of International Youth Year in our country is being led by a special commission established by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and headed by Comrade G. A. Aliev, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. The Commission includes outstanding political and governmental figures of the USSR, leaders of ministries and departments dealing with youth, and representatives of young people themselves and of youth organizations.

The problems of the rising generation are constantly at the centre of the attention of State and governmental authorities and are a subject of concern to mass social organizations. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and a number of commissions on youth affairs are systematically considering questions concerned with increasing the role of youth in economic and cultural construction and are taking young people's interests into account in every aspect of their consideration of State plans for the economic and social development of the country.

Acting through the organs of people's power - the Councils of people's deputies - young people are being given the broadest opportunities for active participation in the affairs of society and the State. All citizens who have reached the age of 18 years have the right to participate in elections. Any citizen who has reached the age of 21 years may be elected to be a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. At the most recent elections alone, 330 deputies out of 1,499 elected to highest organ of power were less than 30 years old. In the local organs of Soviet power at all levels, 776,000 deputies are young people, making 33.3 per cent of the total number.

The independent mass social organization - the All-Union Leninist Communist Union of Youth (Komsomol) - numbering about 42 million young people, makes active use of the right to initiate legislation, accorded it under the Constitution of the USSR, and participates in the preparation and implementation of major State activities.

The Constitution - the fundamental law of the USSR - embodies a broad spectrum of rights relating to the principles of shaping the lives of the country's young citizens inter alia the rights to work and to choose a trade or profession, to leisure, to education, to health protection, to social insurance and to enjoy cultural benefits.

A radically new and higher stage in the development of popular education in our country is represented by the reform of general-education and vocational schools, which is essentially a broad social programme for shaping the new generations.

Universal and lasting peace is an essential prerequisite of progress in all spheres of human activity and a primary condition for guaranteeing the vital rights and interests of the youth of all countries. The above tenet has a particularly topical ring to it this year, when the fortieth anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism, to the achievement of which the Soviet Union made a decisive contribution, is being celebrated. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet State are consistently and untiringly engaged in active measures to improve the climate in the world with the aim of defending the primary right of man, the primary right of youth - the right to life. Soviet youth ardently supports this policy and itself plays an active part in pursuing it.

The central event of the Year in the USSR will be the XII World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow. This representative youth forum is called upon to serve the further consolidation of democratic youth throughout the world. Its numerous participants and guests will be able to see with their own eyes the real rights and opportunities enjoyed by young people in all spheres of Soviet society.

The work of the International Youth Year centre will occupy an important place in the Festival's programme, which envisages a wide range of activities aimed at reflecting the role and participation of youth in the celebration of the Year, as well as United Nations activities in the sphere of youth.

A special feature in the preparation and celebration of the Year in the USSR is the widespread involvement of youth organizations in those activities. This is reflected not only in the discussion and solution of issues affecting the Soviet Union but also in extensive co-operation among young people throughout the world. For example, last year alone in the Soviet Union there took place such major international and bilateral activities as the World Meeting of Working Youth under the slogan "For the right to work, for the right to life", in which representatives from 92 countries took part; the Week of Solidarity with the Youth of the Countries of Central America; III Conference of the Youth of the Baltic Countries; the XIII Meeting of Soviet and American Youth; the XVIII Camp of Friendship of Soviet and French Youth; the VII International Seminar of Young Research Workers on Problems of Peace and Co-operation in the Pacific Ocean Basin; and days and festivals of friendship with the youth of socialist countries.

Young Soviet men and women are taking an active part in the international campaign entitled "World actions of youth against nuclear war, for peace and disarmament"; in Disarmament Week, which was proclaimed by the United Nations; and in many activities conducted by the specialized agencies of the United Nations within the framework of the Year.

The celebration of International Youth Year in the USSR will be a genuine public showing of our social achievements and of everything that has been and is being done in our country for young people.

All the measures undertaken in the USSR within the framework of the Year are aimed at further improving the ideological and moral upbringing of young people and making them more active at work and in society and will promote the constant improvement of the conditions of life, work and education.

-----