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INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 25 December 1989 from the Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I herewith transmit to you the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

I request you to circulate this statement as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights", and as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. BELCNOGOV

ANNEX

Declaration on the situation in Romania

The Soviet Union is following very attentively the development of the situation in the friendly country of Romania.

The Soviet Government is maintaining permanent contacts with and is consulting the Governments of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty, and it is exchanging information with them. Both we and our allies unequivocally support the revolutionary renewal, the just struggle of the Romanian people and the efforts of the Council of the National Salvation Front, which has proclaimed a programme of far-reaching democratic change. We have discussed with our allies the desirability of holding a consultative meeting at the level of ministers for foreign affairs.

It is the general conviction of the Treaty States that the Romanian people took the fate of the country into its own hands and, despite the fierce resistance of the forces of totalitarianism, will be able to win victory in the struggle for freedom and democracy. For this very reason, there is an understanding that it is desirable to avoid any type of collective action which might recall the practices of the past.

At the same time, the Soviet Government is engaging in an exchange of views with other States which are also sympathetic to the just cause of the Romanian people. The Soviet Union supports the efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to Romania.

At this juncture, solidarity with Romania is a moral duty of the world community as a whole.

The Soviet Government recognizes the Council of the National Salvation Front of Romania, and, through the Soviet Embassy in Bucharest, is maintaining permanent contacts with it, inter alia on the question of providing the most needed assistance. We are determining the nature and volume of such assistance within this framework. At the present time, the Soviet organs of State and public organizations are taking steps to arrange the delivery of such assistance. In particular, consignments of medicines, food and other necessary material aid have been sent or are ready for dispatch.

We have confirmed to the Council of the Front that all obligations with respect to Soviet deliveries will be strictly fulfilled, and additional requests from Romania will be given priority consideration.

As was stated by the supreme organ of the Soviet Union, the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR, and by the Head of State, M. S. Gorbachev, we are full of admiration for the heroic Romanian people, we are deeply convinced of its ability to overcome the resistance, and we firmly believe in the irreversibility of the process of democratic renewal now under way.

In our approach to the events that are taking place, we will take our lead from the will of the Romanian people and the choice it has made.
