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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

COMMEMORATION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Note verbale dated 30 May 1985 from the Permanent
Representative of Hungary to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/10 of 8 November 1984, and resolution 39/161 A and B and decision 39/425 of 17 December 1974, has the honour to communicate the reply of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have this note verbale circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 27 and 39 of the preliminary list.

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement concerning the observance of the fortieth anniversary
of the United Nations and the proclamation of 1986 as
International Year of Peace

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic supported and welcomed the adoption of the resolutions concerning the appropriate observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the proclamation of 1986 as International Year of Peace, and it expresses its readiness to contribute to their implementation. The proclamation of the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace acquires particular significance in view of the world-wide commemoration this year of the fortieth anniversary of the victory over fascism, which created the conditions for the establishment of the world's first international organization based on the principles of universality and sovereign equality of States.

The period since the birth of the United Nations has witnessed radical changes in the world that have made their effects felt on the world Organization itself. Fundamental changes have occurred in the number and composition of Member States as well as in the set of conditions for the work of the Organization. Today the United Nations is a universal international organization in which States of different size and number of population, with different social systems and at different levels of economic development participate on an equal footing. At the same time the expansion and increasing complexity of political, economic, scientific, cultural and other relations have increased the number of tasks facing the international community and often presupposing global approaches in dealing with them.

The Hungarian Government maintains that the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, elaborated 40 years ago, are still valid and adequate, providing an appropriate framework for the development of manifold and peaceful co-operation among Member States and for the preservation of international peace and security.

Having become a Member of the United Nations 30 years ago, the Hungarian People's Republic is fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter and is acting in the forums of the Organization in order to promote the cause of peace and social progress, to strengthen peaceful coexistence between States with different social systems, and to expand co-operation and relations among them.

The observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace offers good opportunities for concentrating attention on the widest possible scale on the just and democratic principles on which the world Organization is built and for giving expression to the pressing need for efforts to avert the danger of nuclear war and to strengthen international peace and security.

In compliance with the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly the Hungarian People's Republic set up a National Committee on 16 May 1985 to organize and co-ordinate events and actions in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and in observance of the Year of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace. The Committee is chaired by His Excellency Dr. Péter Várkonyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, and is composed of representatives of the National Assembly, the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, the Patriotic People's Front, and such other major social organizations as the Central Council of the Hungarian Trade Unions, the Young Communist League, the National Peace Council, the United Nations Association of Hungary and the National Council of Hungarian Women.

At its first meeting the National Committee reviewed the programmes of action for the observance in Hungary of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace. The common goal of programmes is to focus attention on the results of four decades of United Nations activities as well as on the significance of the purposes and principles of the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, the reduction of international tension and the cessation of the arms race.

A particularly active role in the implementation of commemorative programmes is played by social organizations, first of all the National Peace Council and the United Nations Association of Hungary, which are going to carry out a variety of programmes in observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations. Scientific conferences will discuss the lessons offered by the history of the United Nations, the results of its activity, its difficulties and future tasks. The commemorative events and the observance of the International Year of Peace will be covered by the mass media, disseminating information about the role, tasks and objectives of the United Nations and about the activities of the representatives of the Hungarian People's Republic at the United Nations. It is to be noted that last February Hungarian Radio launched a series of programmes presenting and evaluating the activities of the United Nations; the issue of commemorative stamps is envisaged in accordance with the recommendation of the Universal Postal Union; a monograph of analyses and evaluations covering the 40 years of United Nations activities will be published for the occasion; articles and studies dealing with the United Nations have already been published in numerous Hungarian dailies and periodicals.

In accordance with resolution 39/161 B, the events of commemoration will give appropriate expression to the significance of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, keeping in view the approaching twenty-fifth anniversary of its adoption.

An active part in the observance of the International Year of Peace will be played by Hungarian state and social organs, educational and scientific institutions, giving principal emphasis to questions of disarmament, elimination of nuclear weapons and consolidation of peace, as well as to current tasks in the struggle for peace.

The Hungarian Government announced its contribution of 1 million forints to the voluntary fund for the programme of the International Year of Peace at the pledging conference held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 1 March 1985.

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic expresses its conviction that the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the observance of the International Year of Peace will contribute to the strengthening of the role of the United Nations and will promote efforts by peoples and States to maintain peace, develop international co-operation and give full effect to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.