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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE

Letter dated 12 August 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the appeal of the XII World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow to youth and students of the world.

I request you, Sir, to circulate the text of this appeal as an official document of the fortieth session of the General Assembly under item 89 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

* A/40/150.

ANNEX

APPEAL TO YOUTH AND STUDENTS OF THE WORLD

Dear friends:

This appeal is addressed to you by the delegates to the XII World Festival of Youth and Students, which was held from 27 July to 3 August 1985 in Moscow, the capital of the USSR, under the slogan "For anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship!"

The desire to become more closely acquainted with and better understand each other, and to reflect jointly on what can be done by the young generation of different peoples to solve the most acute problems of the present day was the guiding idea which drew to the festival forum more than 20,000 young people of the most varied political, philosophical and religious views from 157 countries of the world and from West Berlin.

The differences in views and opinions on individual matters that were natural at such a representative forum did not prevent us from concentrating at the festival on the main issue which today underlies the co-operation and joint actions of the broad democratic, progressive and peace-loving forces of the young generation - the struggle for the universal realization of the inalienable right of every person to life under conditions of peace and liberty.

Forty years ago, the freedom-loving peoples by their joint efforts achieved victory over Hitlerite fascism. A terrible price was paid for the great victory of freedom over slavery, democracy over tyranny and humanism over barbarity. At the festival, we paid a tribute to the fond memory and immortal achievement of all the forces which liberated the peoples from enslavement - to the Soviet people, who made an outstanding contribution to the defeat of Hitlerite fascism, to the peoples of the other countries of the anti-Hitler coalition, to the partisans and fighters of the resistance movement, to anti-fascists and democrats, to the millions of freedom fighters who fell on the field of battle, and to all those who perished in torture chambers and concentration camps or under the ruins of towns and villages.

The tragic lessons of the Second World War make it incumbent on the present young generation, which shoulders a considerable responsibility for the fate of the world today and tomorrow, to struggle resolutely against war before it begins.

For this reason, we call upon young people of all countries irrespective of their political, philosophical or religious convictions to do their utmost to halt the forces of militarism and aggression, to avoid disaster by joint efforts, to bring an end to the nuclear and conventional arms race on earth and prevent its spread into outer space, and to secure the complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction.

The tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, whose fortieth anniversary falls this year, must not be repeated!

In the year of the tenth anniversary of the successful conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, we reaffirm from the festival rostrum our commitment to the spirit and letter of its Final Act and the principles of inter-State relations embodied therein, and restate our desire to contribute to implementing all of its provisions, to reviving the policy of détente and to strengthening mutually beneficial co-operation among States with different social systems.

We advocate the peaceful solution of all contentious issues at the negotiating table and favour a more just and human system of international relations free from injustice and violence, which inevitably lead to tension and conflicts. A positive role in this respect is also played by the non-aligned movement.

The XII World Festival of Youth and Students was a clear demonstration of strengthening anti-imperialist solidarity with the peoples, youth and students of Central and Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, particularly southern Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, and with all those who are struggling against encroachments upon the freedom, independence and sovereignty of peoples and upon their right to self-determination and the independent management of their destiny, against the vestiges of colonialism, expansionism, apartheid and all forms of racism and racial discrimination, and against Fascist and dictatorial régimes.

We advocate the removal of economic backwardness, the achievement of genuine economic self-reliance, the ending of neo-colonial exploitation, domination and oppression and the solving of related problems of the foreign debts which the poorly developed countries face and are unable to pay, and the establishment of a new international economic order.

We consider that the developed and developing countries must substantially improve their co-operation in accordance with the principles of equality, thereby helping to lessen existing conflicts and solve as soon as possible the most acute social, economic, ecological and other global problems of the present-day world, such as the protection of the environment, the elimination of hunger and disease and the eradication of illiteracy.

In the year of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, we reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Organization.

The International Youth Year declared by the United Nations under the motto "Participation, Development, Peace" has made it possible to focus the attention of world public opinion on the needs, problems and aspirations of the young generation.

We believe that youth can and should have a better future. To achieve this objective, we must work jointly to ensure that each person has confidence in the future, has the right to work and life worthy of man, and the right to general and vocational education and to participation in the running of State and society, and has the opportunity to achieve basic social, economic, political, civil and human rights.

For eight days, we were the guests of Soviet youth and the Soviet people. We express our sincere gratitude to them for the excellent conditions which were created for holding the festival, and we leave the capital of the XII World Festival with the best recollections of the genuine sympathy, good will, solidarity and friendship of Soviet people.

The XII World Festival of Youth and Students was uniquely broad in its composition and demonstrated the common desire of young people throughout the world, representing various political views, to develop contacts and exchanges and to advocate joint actions for peace, disarmament, freedom and justice, in favour of new relations of friendship and co-operation among peoples.

Long live anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship!

Until new festival encounters!
