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Policy

OTHER MATTERS

ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN 1985

Letter dated 10 June 1986 addressed to the President of
the UNDP Governing Council by the heads of delegation
of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic
Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland and the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics

Geneva, 10 June 1986

Sir,

We have the honour to submit a joint statement on "The contribution of United Nations multilateral technical assistance to the International Year of Peace".

We request you to circulate the text of the statement as an official document.

Yours sincerely,

- (Signed) L. Beraha
Head of the delegation of the People's Republic
of Bulgaria
- (Signed) P. Chlumsky
Head of the delegation of the Czechoslovak
Socialist Republic
- (Signed) G. Philipp
Head of the delegation of the German Democratic
Republic
- (Signed) I. Nathon
Head of the delegation of the Hungarian People's
Republic
- (Signed) L. Bayart
Head of the delegation of the Mongolian People's
Republic
- (Signed) S. Turbanski
Head of the delegation of the Polish People's
Republic
- (Signed) M. Shumayev
Head of the delegation of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics

Joint statement of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: "The contribution of United Nations multilateral technical assistance to the International Year of Peace"

The socialist countries mentioned above attach great importance to the International Year of Peace proclaimed in 1986 in accordance with the relevant resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. In this connection, the socialist countries consider that there is an inseparable link between the aim of the maintenance of lasting peace and security and the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis, the development of broad and mutually beneficial co-operation, and the achievement of international economic security.

The socialist countries once again draw the attention of the international community to the concrete programme for the improvement of international economic relations, the achievement of international economic security and confidence-building in this important area of relations among States. The implementation of this programme objectively meets the needs and interests of all peoples, and promotes the achievement of true economic independence of developing countries, as was underlined by the CMEA countries' Economic Summit (Moscow, 1984), and is of direct significance for the activity of the economic organs of the United Nations during the International Year of Peace.

The socialist countries consider that the contribution of multilateral technical assistance to the International Year of Peace should promote real progress in the activity of international economic organizations, given the interrelationship between disarmament and social and economic development. General Assembly resolution 200 (III) "Technical assistance for economic development" specified, that "The technical assistance furnished shall not be a means of foreign economic and political interference in the internal affairs of the country concerned and shall not be accompanied by any considerations of a political nature; be given only to or through Governments; be designed to meet the needs of the country concerned; be provided, as far as possible, in the form which that country desires; be of high quality and technical competence..." It was on this basis that UNDP was founded, the political character of which is determined today by the "1970 Consensus", based on the principles of voluntariness and universality. This fundamental document laid down the corresponding democratic platform for the United Nations programme activities.

The socialist countries consider that to provide an effective contribution to the improvement of the international economic relations and to confidence-building in this important sphere of relations among States should become one of the most important objectives of multilateral technical co-operation and of the whole United Nations technical assistance system. The most important condition in this context is to remove the nuclear threat, curb the arms race and return to an atmosphere of constructive dialogue and co-operation. Concrete proposals to this end, including the Programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world by the year 2000, were submitted by the Soviet Union and other socialist States. The socialist

countries fully support the policy based on the principle of "disarmament for development", put forward by M.S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his statement of 15 January 1986. The reduction of military expenditures of States may become a real source of the funds required to resolve the global economic and social problems facing developing countries, including those in the field of multilateral technical co-operation. Only by creating such conditions will it be really possible to attain the comprehensive objectives of the multilateral technical assistance system.

The socialist countries steadily support efforts aimed at strengthening international economic relations on an equitable and democratic basis. They carry out this policy through bilateral economic, scientific and technical links with developing countries, as well as through active participation in multilateral technical co-operation.

At the same time our countries believe that the United Nations technical assistance system can co-operate in the fulfilment of these principles on a more effective basis, which would promote the more rapid implementation of the provisions of the documents adopted in the framework of the United Nations multilateral assistance system relating to the restructuring of international economic relations on an equitable and democratic basis, and above all of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.