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OTHER MATTERS

Note by the President of the Governing Council

The attached letter dated 4 June 1991 from the head of the delegation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic was addressed to the President of the Governing Council. In accordance with the request therein contained, the letter is being circulated as a document of the Governing Council.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

LETTER DATED 4 JUNE 1991 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

I have the honour to request you to circulate the attached letter from the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Byelorussian SSR, Mr. V. Kebich, addressed to the Administrator of UNDP as an official document of the thirty-eighth session of the UNDP Governing Council, under agenda item 11.

(Signed) S. LING
Head of the Delegation of
the Byelorussian SSR

Appendix

[Original: Russian]

LETTER DATED 23 MAY 1991 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS OF THE BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
ADDRESSED TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The accident that took place on 26 April 1986 at the Chernobyl nuclear power station was the most serious in modern history, and has proved to be a major disaster for the Byelorussian people.

With the lapse of time we are becoming increasingly aware of the catastrophic nature of the Chernobyl tragedy and the unprecedented scale of its consequences. More than 70 per cent of the fallout descended in Byelorussia, 22.4 per cent of its territory was contaminated by radionuclides and 2.2 million people (one fifth of the Republic's population) were in the zone of long-term exposure to anthropogenic radiation. As a result of the accident Byelorussia suffered serious economic damage, amounting in all to more than 100 billion roubles or more than 10 current annual budgets of the Republic.

The disaster is of enormous dimensions, and after five years it is becoming obvious that joint efforts on the part of the international community are needed in order to overcome the consequences of the accident. We appreciate the international support and assistance extended to our Republic and see it as a manifestation of humanism and solidarity with the Byelorussian people which suffered most from the Chernobyl catastrophe.

The Byelorussian SSR highly appreciates General Assembly resolution 45/190 on "International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant" and notes with satisfaction the measures taken by the United Nations Organization to study, mitigate and minimize the radiological, environmental, socio-economic and other consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl.

In pursuance of the above resolution efforts have begun to develop a programme for coordinating the activities to be carried out by United Nations organs, organizations and programmes. We are convinced that these efforts cannot be successful without the participation of the United Nations Development Programme.

In view of the above I request that the Council should consider the provision of technical and other specialized assistance to the Byelorussian SSR, bearing in mind the unprecedented nature of the disaster and the emergency situation which has developed in the Republic as a result of the long-term impact of radiation on the life and health of its population.

I am sure that, as the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, you will understand and support this request.

(Signed) V. KEBICH
Chairman
of the Council of Ministers
of the Byelorussian SSR