Thirty-eighth session
Items 50, 56, 62, (66) 78
    and 135 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Letter dated 14 September 1983 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the German Democratic Republic to the Secretary-General

I take the liberty of informing you that, on 12 September 1983, the Council of
State of the German Democratic Republic considered a report on the 10-year
membership of the German Democratic Republic in the United Nations and appraised
this country's activities in the Organization as being successful.

The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of
Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic,
Erich Honecker, emphasized the important role incumbent on the United Nations, in
particular in the present complicated international situation, with regard to the
maintenance of world peace.

*     A/38/150.

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I wish to send you the enclosed statement by the Chairman of the Council of State, Erich Honecker, and to request that you kindly have this letter, together with the enclosure, circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 50, 56, 62, 66, 78 and 135 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Oskar FISCHER
ANNEX

Statement by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic regarding the report on the successful 10-year record of United Nations membership of the German Democratic Republic, delivered at the session of the Council of State held at Berlin on 12 September 1983.

The report and the remarks of the Foreign Minister reflect the active and responsible role of the German Democratic Republic in the struggle to resolve the key issue of international politics—the maintenance of peace and security.

We can note that the socialist German State honours the obligations it undertook when it was admitted to the United Nations. The GDR does not only respect the principles anchored in the UN Charter but, at the same time, contributes to making them the universal standard of intercourse among nations. This stance is appreciated. During my friendly meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar here in Berlin last June, he paid tribute to the GDR's policy of peace and its constructive participation in the United Nations' work and wished the people of the GDR continued success in their peaceful construction effort.

The trust and prestige which the GDR enjoys in the community of States and peoples have a distinct origin: The result from the truly peaceful nature of the GDR's foreign policy. Since its inception as the first German socialist State the GDR has committed itself to the maxim of doing everything to ensure that no war will ever again emanate from German soil. This unshakable principle has determined the GDR's active socialist peace policy at the extremely sensitive dividing line between the two most powerful military coalitions in history.

That principle is basic to our consistent engagement in the struggle against the threat of a nuclear war, the deployment of new American nuclear missiles in Europe and the politics of boycott, sanction and slander which are fuelling confrontation and behind whose smokescreen the stationing of those new US missiles is to be made easier and NATO's war preparations vis-à-vis the socialist countries are to be spurred on. Our peaceful foreign policy in every respect supports proposals for the stabilization of peace and security, and we have submitted such proposals together with our allies and on our own.

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The trust in and the prestige of our Republic are also due to its domestic foreign policy which has eliminated the roots of German militarism and imperialism once and for all and which is in the service of the working people. Progress in the implementation of the GDR's central policy of integrated economic and social achievement is also of important relevance to its foreign policy.

In the conduct of the GDR's domestic and foreign policies, the firm fraternal alliance with the USSR and the other countries of the socialist community and cooperation with all forces espousing peace, social progress and democracy are a source of strength for the solution of all tasks facing us. Our practical action testifies to the seriousness and honesty of our constructive concept of peace and understanding among nations. We are considered to be a reliable friend because of the concurrence of word and deed and the resolve of socialist foreign policy in the pursuit of equitable international cooperation as well as solidarity in the face of militarism and fascism, racism and apartheid, and colonial and neo-colonial oppression.

And, finally, the stability and dynamism of the socialist economy, which are evident also in the present highly complex international circumstances, qualify our country as a reputable partner in world-wide economic cooperation.

These factors are a solid guarantee that the GDR will also in the future make an appreciable contribution to the solution of the great tasks before the world organization and actively assist in responding to the overriding challenge to save future generations from the scourge of war.
In almost 40 years of its existence the United Nations has covered a long road which was not smooth at all times. As an essential element of the system of international relations as a whole, the world organization has had a major role to play; in particular, it has promoted the struggle of peoples for national and social liberation from the yoke of colonialism. The 1980s will, no doubt, put the United Nations Organization to new tests. "To maintain international peace and security" is the first of the purposes and principles in the Charter of the United Nations. That priority objective corresponds with the experience of the peoples. For it was in 1945, under the impression of the victory over Hitlerite fascism, that the Charter was written down and adopted as generally binding in international law.

Today, as the imperialist policy of superarmament and confrontation endangers international peace as never before since World War II, that objective is more topical than ever.

The possibility of drifting into a nuclear inferno jeopardizes life on all continents. Responsibility, therefore, lies with all States to avert a new round of the nuclear arms race which would further aggravate the international situation and increase the danger of a new world war. The most urgent task facing the United Nations at present is to unite the efforts of States in the struggle against the danger of war and to mobilize all potentials and resources that can promote peace. Particularly now that the danger of war is so evident as it has never been since World War II because of the anti-Soviet campaign in connection with the provocative plane incident in the Far East, I wish to express my hope that responsible statesmen and politicians will work to calm down the international atmosphere, reject the deployment of new US missiles, and encourage the continuation of dialogue and cooperation between the East and the West.
They have great obligations and broad opportunities to contribute to a stable peace and to mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of true independence and equality. As far as the German Democratic Republic is concerned, it considers that the primary goals of its work within the United Nations are:

- to stave off the danger of nuclear war through cessation of the arms race and materialization of practical disarmament steps;
- to remove current sources of conflict and hotbeds of tension through negotiated settlements and to preclude the emergence of new international tensions and conflicts;
- to promote propitious cooperation among States based on the principle of peaceful coexistence;
- to extirpate colonialism and racism;
- to achieve a democratic restructuring of international economic relations on the basis of equality, and finally
- to resolve other global problems such as hunger and disease in the world, to provide education in the human interest, and to build a more friendly world. Arms limitation and disarmament would release ample resources for these purposes.

The various initiatives taken by the socialist States have been designed to serve the objectives I have just mentioned. Also during the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly, the German Democratic Republic will work for the implementation of the realistic proposals put forward in the Prague Declaration of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty States, at the Moscow meeting of the leading representatives of socialist States, and with the recent initiative of the USSR. Our Minister of Foreign Affairs is positively instructed to act accordingly.
It is these goals that determine also our cooperation with the non-aligned countries in the struggle for peace, against imperialist threats and interference, and for real international equality of States both politically and economically. The same holds true for our policy of understanding and reasonable accommodation of interests which we pursue in joint efforts with all those who are willing to accept peaceful coexistence and are opposing arms buildup and confrontation, trade boycotts, sanctions and economic warfare.

The Council of State of the GDR again pledges its support of the purposes set forth in the Charter of the United Nations with a view to strengthening the world organization. The people of the socialist German State wholeheartedly subscribe to this pledge. For us, it is indeed encouraging to know that we share with the overwhelming majority of UN Member States a desire to restore a sense of reason and political realism in international affairs. The GDR will, as I assured Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in the middle of this year, certainly make its contribution towards this end.

As regards the Madrid Meeting, it took almost three years before it could be brought to an end against fierce resistance from forces inimical to détente. It ended with a concluding document which is firmly based on the Helsinki Final Act, that magna charta of peaceful coexistence. With this result, the foundations of the CSCE process that the socialist States have consistently sought to advance since the mid-1960s have not only be preserved; this process has indeed gained fresh, significant momentum.

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The result of Madrid, above all the agreed convening of the conference on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe, provides a possibility to go on with the process of détente. This chance must be used with a sense of responsibility by all those involved. This will guide the German Democratic Republic in implementing the Concluding Document of Madrid, the text of which we have published right after the end of the Meeting - being the first participating State to do so.

On behalf of the Council of State I thank the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his exposé. The report is approved.