Thirty-fourth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 46

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 29 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to
Your Excellency the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish
People's Republic, Emil Wojtaszek, concerning measures being initiated by Poland
with a view to a comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Declaration on
the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace (resolution 33/73 of 15 December 1978).

I shall be grateful if you would have this letter and the text of my Foreign
Minister’s letter to Your Excellency circulated as an official document of the
General Assembly under agenda item 46.

(Signed) H. JAROSZEK
Ambassador
ANNEX

Letter dated 23 November 1979 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic addressed to the Secretary-General

Nearly a year ago, on 15 December 1978, during its thirty-third session, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace. The Polish People's Republic, which initiated the document, considers its adoption as a success of all forces acting in defence of peace, in favour of strengthening security and broadening all-round friendly co-operation among nations. In this very spirit we interpret the vast support offered for the Declaration by the membership of the United Nations.

In the opinion of Poland, the significance of the document inter alia stems from the fact that for the first time ever with the active participation of representatives of Governments of the overwhelming majority of all States of the world, it has formulated the inherent right of every nation and every human being to life in peace, regardless of race, conscience, language or sex. In this context, Poland considers the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace to be a political document of direct relevance to disarmament negotiations pursued on different levels. Initiatives advanced by Poland and other States of the socialist community play their generally recognized role in these discussions and negotiations, particularly at the present time, fraught as it is with consequences of serious gravity.

Genuinely satisfied over the acceptance of our proposal by the international community, I cannot fail noting at this juncture that it had been prompted, in particular, by the tragic experiences of the people of Poland during World War II, the fortieth anniversary of the outbreak of which we have just observed. Precisely these experiences and the conclusions therefrom have strongly affected the formation of our post-war political thought, imbued with an aspiration to create and strengthen the atmosphere of peace in the world based on the conviction that notwithstanding the differences in political systems, all States should be guided by the desire of maintaining peace.

We are glad to note that the adoption of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace has had a world-wide resonance. Its provisions and principles have stimulated numerous statements, meetings, discussions and resolutions. May I only recall that it was the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace which inspired the one hundred seventh session of the UNEEGO Executive Council to adopt an appropriate resolution which makes direct reference to the Declaration, reaffirming its principles and appealing for their implementation. At the Sixth General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPAWL), held in Quito, its participants have also adopted a resolution, based on the provisions of the Declaration, concerning the right of the peoples of the region to life in peace.
I have the honour to inform you that Poland, as the initiator of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, takes it to be its privileged duty to develop activities for the sake of its implementation. The paramount objective we set for ourselves in this regard is creation and strengthening of an atmosphere of and conditions for peaceful existence of our generation and the generations to come, friendship, mutual understanding, peaceful co-operation among States as well as enhancing prosperity of nations in conditions of peace. That is how we conceive of life in peace, the right to which has been enshrined in the Declaration.

Only a few days after the Declaration had been adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Parliament of the Polish People's Republic passed its own resolution on the document. Numerous press interviews, radio and television statements by leading representatives of Polish political, cultural and scientific life, discussions of experts as well as in teachers', professional and youth quarters, offer convincing evidence of the commitment of the people of Poland to the promotion of the ideas of the preparation for life in peace and the implementation of the principles of the Declaration.

On 18 October 1979, the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic adopted a decision on Poland's implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace.

Education of and schooling for children and youth are one of the areas in which Poland intends to concentrate its efforts to ensure the fullest possible implementation of the Declaration. The decision of the Council of Ministers provides for an ever-greater emphasis on the idea of preparation for life in peace at all levels of the country's school and educational system. Consequently, the school curricula in history, social sciences, geography, civic education, etc. will in particular expound such factors as respect for and appreciation of other nations' accomplishments, the present relationships between cultural life in Poland and the cultures of other nations, etc. With this in view, there are inter alia plans to continue work, which Poland has already initiated, on the verification of text-books, particularly those in history and geography, in co-operation with competent authorities of other countries, and to include questions pertaining to the preparation for life in peace in programmes of teachers' training, improvement of their qualifications, etc. As regards higher education, the decision provides for an adequate reflection of the subject-matter of the Declaration, both in didactic activity among students, particularly at classes and lectures, in scientific research and publications, primarily in the areas of social sciences and the humanities.

The Council's decision places special emphasis on the important role of science and culture in disseminating the ideas of the Declaration. The Government of the Polish People's Republic is confident that both the work and the voice of Polish scholars and artists in support of the Declaration, shall become part of the effort of intellectuals from other countries in popularizing its purposes and principles. The decision envisages further promotion and awarding those scholar and cultural accomplishments which in their best way will manifest and disseminate the ideals of the Declaration in literature, sculpture, painting, etc. The overriding motive of
the decision of the Council of Ministers in the latter areas is the conviction that scientists and intellectuals can significantly add, by way of their creative potentials, to the shaping of socio-economic processes necessary to ensure peaceful international co-operation and reveal and popularize all the benefits that life in peace and peaceful work can really offer.

Another field of action is that of public information. The decision underscores the importance of mass media in the wide dissemination of the idea of preparation for life in peace and in familiarizing the Polish people and the world public opinion with efforts taken by Poland and other countries towards the implementation of the Declaration, including information activities on the part of appropriate press and book publishing institutions by publishing statements, articles and commentaries relative to the implementation of the Declaration.

On the international forum, Poland will take active part in efforts of both the United Nations and UNESCO as well as of other international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the principles and provisions of the Declaration. It is planned that the number of Polish schools associated with UNESCO will be increased, their functioning to be improved and popularized. Annual UNESCO camps in foreign languages will be organized in Poland.

In its bilateral relations, Poland will be raising the subject-matter of the Declaration in talks and consultations with representatives of Governments from other countries at various levels, so as to initiate tangible bilateral co-operation. Considering the heretofore positive reception of the Declaration in the world, Poland will pursue making references to the Declaration in communiqués of official visits, in inter-State declarations, agreements and in other international documents, particularly in the context of strengthening efforts aimed at détente and disarmament. In other words, it is Poland's intention in that spirit to initiate and channel concrete bilateral and multilateral co-operation in the fields referred to in the Declaration, especially in the political, public information, scholarly, cultural and other related activities.

In our opinion, the political, civic, professional, women and youth organizations can play a significant role in the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration. These organizations might initiate studies of the contents of the Declaration and dissemination of the idea of the preparation of societies for life in peace in their respective local environments and in the bilateral and multilateral contacts with their counterparts in other countries.

I have briefly described for Your Excellency the current Polish activities and plans for the future regarding the implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace. I sincerely believe that they will be received with interest and a positive response on the part of the Member States of the United Nations, as well as with Your Excellency's understanding and support.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration which accompany my sentiments of profound esteem for your work in putting to life the lofty ideals of the United Nations.

(Signed) Emil WOJTASZEK
Minister for Foreign Affairs