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

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/31/50.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1975, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3499 (XXX), operative paragraph 4 of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"4. Invites Governments to continue the submission of, or to bring up to date, their observations and proposals in accordance with paragraph 1 above;"

2. By a note verbale dated 29 December 1975, the Secretary-General invited Member States to communicate to him, as soon as possible, the observations and proposals referred to in the aforementioned paragraph of resolution 3499 (XXX).

3. As at 10 February 1976, observations in response to the Secretary-General's note referred to above had been received from the Government of Romania. These observations are reproduced in section II below. Any further observations will be published in an addendum to the present report.

II. OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ROMANIA

/Original: French/

/22 January 1976/

The Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the United Nations has the honour to transmit herewith excerpts from the address delivered by the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mr. Nicolae Ceaușescu, on 18 December 1975 to the Grand National Assembly, the highest organ of State authority in Romania.

By a decision taken on 19 December 1975, the Grand National Assembly endorsed the observations and conclusions contained in that address.

The decision stated, inter alia, that:

"The Grand National Assembly welcomes Romania's contribution towards enhancing the activities of the United Nations, strengthening its role in international life and improving its structure, organization and work methods, in keeping with the important changes which have occurred in the world, the shifts which have taken place in power relations on a world scale and the new realities and requirements of international life.

"The Grand National Assembly believes that the United Nations should make a greater contribution in considering and resolving major contemporary world issues such as the elimination of under-development, the establishment of a new economic order, the achievement of disarmament including, first and foremost, nuclear disarmament, fostering and generalizing new relationships between States based on equality, respect for independence and sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, mutual advantage, renunciation of the use of force or the threat of force, and the building of a better and more just world.

"The Grand National Assembly fully endorses the document entitled 'Romania's position on the improvement and democratization of the activities of the United Nations and the strengthening of its role in achieving co-operation among all States without distinction as to social system, in building a more just and a better world, and in securing a durable peace' (A/C.6/437)."

ANNEX

Excerpts from the addressed delivered by President Nicolae Ceaușescu
to the Grand National Assembly on 18 December 1975

Improving the activities of the United Nations and enhancing
its role in keeping with the major responsibility it has in
the contemporary world

The solution of the complex problems confronting mankind today requires the active participation of all States in international affairs without distinction as to size, social régime or geographical location. At the present juncture, a particularly important role in that endeavour is to be played by the small- and medium-sized countries, the developing countries and the non-aligned countries, which constitute the vast majority of the international community and are directly concerned with finding equitable solutions to international problems and promoting a new policy of peace and co-operation that is conducive to the free development of each people along the path of progress and civilization. Taking that reality as a point of departure, efforts should be made to bring about a thorough democratization of international relations, to discover the most appropriate ways of solving the problems facing mankind today through common agreement, through consensus in which all nations take part and through negotiated settlements. We believe that the most important role in that regard belongs to the United Nations by virtue of the fact that it offers the most suitable organizational framework for full and democratic discussion of problems and for the active participation of all States in the search for solutions and in international life generally.

Proceeding from the foregoing considerations, Romania has always supported, and continues to support, the improvement of the activities of the United Nations and the strengthening of its role in developing co-operation among nations, fostering a new brand of politics, promoting respect for the principles of international law and building a more just and a better world. To that end, we submitted a document setting forth our country's position regarding ways and means of increasing the role and the contribution of the United Nations towards the improvement of international life (A/C.6/437). That document has been issued publicly and is well known to public opinion. I will not therefore discuss it any further here. I would like merely to mention that we took as the point of departure for our proposals the necessity for the United Nations to take into account and reflect more accurately in its activities and its structure the vast changes which have occurred in the world during the 30 years which have elapsed since its establishment, as well as the need for greater effectiveness in considering the problems of contemporary international life and in finding solutions to them. Without a doubt, the United Nations has through its activities played a positive role on the international scene and has helped to foster détente, development and collaboration and co-operation among States. We should, however, mention that some unjust decisions and measures were taken which ran counter to the goals and the spirit of the Charter, and that a number of gaps have become evident in the activities of the United Nations.

We are concerned and disturbed by the tendency today to take up and consider outside and over the head of the United Nations an entire range of problems which directly affect all peoples, progress and world peace. Criticisms are heard of the activities of the United Nations; having negative attitudes from the start and disgruntled with a number of recent resolutions and decisions, the critics condemn the United Nations and even call for its abolition. They also display negative attitudes towards the new majority in the United Nations created by the admission of newly-independent States, and they cast doubt on the ability of those States to deal responsibly with international issues and to promote positive developments in international politics. We believe that such an approach to the question of the existence and activities of the United Nations does not in any way serve the interests of the peoples of the world or the cause of international peace and co-operation. Any attempt to weaken the United Nations or to deprive the peoples of the world of this platform from which to wage their struggle for new policies, equality and respect for national independence, détente and security must be vigorously rejected. The interests of the world's peoples will not be served by eliminating the role of the United Nations but by constantly upgrading its activities, enhancing its authority in international affairs and increasing its contribution towards the solution of the complex problems confronting mankind in the interests of all peoples and of peace generally.

That was the thrust of the Romanian proposals contained in the document submitted to the United Nations, a document which was aimed at making the Organization more democratic, improving its activities and strengthening its role, thereby ensuring a more adequate framework for the genuine participation of all nations in international political life. The Romanian proposals involve in essence the introduction of changes in the functioning of the United Nations which reflect the new world situation and the improvement of its structure, organizational framework, work methods and style. These changes will make it possible to give more prompt and effective consideration to the major international problems, to find equitable solutions to them through negotiation; they will also make it possible to implement singlemindedly its decisions and resolutions, to eliminate conflicts, to avert tension and military clashes and to strengthen trust and security in the world. The successful conclusion of the European General Conference provides a convincing example of how general consensus among States can be reached on basic issues and suggests enormous possibilities for the United Nations, in which States from every continent are represented. Accordingly, it is imperative to enlarge the bodies of the United Nations in order to ensure the more intense participation in their activities of the scores of States which have won their independence during the last 30 years and which show an ever-growing resolve to assert their positions and participate actively in international life.

We also begin with the premise that the Security Council plays an important role in international affairs. For that very reason, we believe that its activities must be improved with a view to increasing the effectiveness of its efforts to defend and strengthen peace. To that end, the number of members of the Security Council must be increased to keep pace with the increase in the membership

of the United Nations and, in particular, to increase the role of the small- and medium-sized countries in international life. We feel that given present international circumstances it is necessary to preserve the right of the veto in the decision-making process of the Security Council. We also feel, however, that this right must not be abused nor used to further the particular interests of some countries to the detriment of the general interests of peace. The right of the veto must not be used save in entirely special situations and exceptional cases in order to defend the cause of international security and the interests of all peoples and safeguard world peace and détente. At the same time, one or two representatives of each geographical region should exercise, by means of annual rotation, the same rights as the present permanent members of the Security Council, for as long as the present system of the veto is maintained. It would thus be possible for the small- and medium-sized countries and all continents to participate more actively in the decision-making process, in accordance with their role and interests in international politics.

We particularly welcome the consensus reached in the United Nations General Assembly regarding the adoption of the resolution on improving the United Nations Charter and strengthening the role of the Organization in international political and economic life. The rich programme of work drawn up by the General Assembly for the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, which has been instructed to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, gives us reason to hope that in a short period of time new and significant strides can be made in the democratization of the United Nations and the enhancement of its role in accordance with the major responsibility it has in the contemporary world.

Romania maintains that activities aimed at defining and adopting new principles of relations among States must be relentlessly pursued. In the document mentioned earlier, our country proposed the drafting and adoption of a Universal Code of Conduct which could complement the United Nations Charter by synthesizing the vast experience accumulated by States in the post-war period in their efforts to establish new international relations conducted in a spirit of justice and equality, of respect and trust among nations.

If the Charter were to reflect the changes that have occurred in the world and the requirements and basic objectives of international life today, it would then be able to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of all peoples. The international community of nations feels the need for a United Nations Charter that would vigorously proclaim and promote new international relations from which domination and oppression, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism and all forms of inequality among States would be forever banished. The Charter should lead to the elimination of all privilege and discrimination, and should make it possible to satisfy the interests of all nations, irrespective of size. By its every provision, the Charter should inspire and give direction to the process of establishing truly democratic and equitable relations in the world. The United Nations Charter would thus be a Charter of the freedom and independence of peoples, of the fundamental rights of man and of States, ensuring the free choice by every nation of its path to progress and civilization, and international peace and co-operation.

Working towards such ends, the United Nations can play a greater role in the discussion and solution of the great issues of the contemporary world such as, the elimination of under-development, the establishment of a new economic order, the achievement of general disarmament and, primarily, nuclear disarmament, the promotion and generalization of new and democratic relations based on equality, respect for independence and sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, mutual advantage and the renunciation of the use or threat of force. It could thus make an increasingly active contribution to the efforts of peoples and advanced forces everywhere to create a better and a more just world. Let us make every effort to improve and strengthen the role of the United Nations so that it might make an increasingly significant and effective contribution towards strengthening the new trend in international relations and towards establishing a climate of détente, co-operation and understanding among nations.
