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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH REGARD TO
THE MAINTENANCE AND CONSOLIDATION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATION AMONG ALL NATIONS AND
THE PROMOTION OF THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 8 September 1972, addressed to the Secretary-General
by the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations

On the instructions of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania, I
have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda for the twenty-seventh
session of the General Assembly, of an important and urgent item entitled:

"Strengthening of the role of the United Nations with regard to the
maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security, the
development of co-operation among all nations and the promotion of the
rules of international law in relations between States".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,
an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(Signed) Ion DATCU
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
the Socialist Republic of Romania to the
United Nations

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The United Nations, which was founded more than a quarter of a century ago for the main purpose of "saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war", was entrusted with the highly responsible task of ensuring the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, and of promoting the development of friendly and good-neighbourly relations among peoples, extensive co-operation among all nations and respect for the rules of international law in relations between all States. The Organization was conceived as a forum in which all States, large and small, regardless of social or political system, might combine their efforts and work together to build lasting peace and promote economic and social progress the world over.
2. Throughout its existence, the United Nations has played an important role in international life. The major events of the post-war period have come before the United Nations for consideration and many far-reaching resolutions and decisions have been adopted by this Organization. It has helped to improve the political climate, has exerted a beneficial influence in relaxing international tensions, has played a positive role in the process of the liberation of peoples from colonial domination and has stimulated co-operation between States in the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian fields.
3. However, there have been and there still are obvious inadequacies and shortcomings in the activities of the United Nations which affect its capacity to take appropriate action towards achieving the fundamental objectives assigned to it. The noble principles enshrined in the Charter have not yet become firmly established in relations between all States of the world. Centres of tension and armed conflict still exist in various parts of the world; countless human lives and a vast quantity of material wealth are being consumed by the ravages of war; huge military and, in particular, nuclear arsenals, have been built up in various parts of the world, presenting serious danger to mankind as a whole. The arms race is continuing at an alarming pace, placing a heavy burden on the people and jeopardizing international peace and security. There are peoples still living under the colonial yoke, who are obliged to take up arms and fight for their sacred right to live in freedom and to decide their own destinies as they wish. The gap between developed and developing countries continues to widen, placing an obstacle in the path of general progress and generating animosity, distrust and conflict in the world. Numerous decisions adopted by the United Nations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter have hardly been implemented at all or have been implemented only partially.
4. The changes now taking place in the world of today and the immensity of the problems facing mankind require the United Nations to play an ever greater role in international life so that, through its entire range of activities, the Organization can satisfy the yearnings of all peoples for peace, freedom and progress. It has thus become necessary, in the opinion of the Romanian Government, to take prompt measures to increase the Organization's capacity for action and the effectiveness of its contribution in order to ensure:

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(a) A rapprochement among peoples, the promotion of a policy of peace and détente, the establishment of new relations among States, the elimination of the causes of conflict and tension, the prevention and curbing of all acts of aggression and interference in the domestic affairs of States, and the settlement of international disputes exclusively by peaceful means;

(b) The observance, by all States, of the principles of the Charter and the fundamental rules of international law. The Organization must be more active and must not allow the independence and sovereignty of States to be violated on any pretext whatsoever; it must see that all Member States fulfil the obligations they have assumed under the Charter as regards refraining from the use of force or the threat of force;

(c) The promotion of and respect for the fundamental rights and obligations of States; the elaboration of rules to govern relations between States in various fields of activity and measures to ensure their implementation; the elaboration of principles and rules relating to peaceful means of settling disputes between States, in accordance with the Charter;

(d) The cessation of the arms race, the adoption of practical measures aimed at the reduction and destruction of armaments - particularly nuclear weapons - and at the achievement of general and complete disarmament;

(e) The final elimination of colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and all forms of racial discrimination; firm support for the struggle of the peoples for their national freedom and independence and against colonial domination;

(f) The expansion and intensification of co-operation among all States, the rapid development of trade and of scientific, technological and cultural exchanges, eliminating all barriers, restrictions and discrimination that are hindering co-operation among nations;

(g) The economic and social progress of the developing countries, the reduction and elimination of the gap between them and the industrialized States; the establishment of multilateral programmes to support the efforts of the developing countries - to the implementation of which the developed countries would be required to make a substantial contribution.

5. The expansion of the role played by the United Nations in international life will have to be accompanied by an improvement in the activities of the Organization and its bodies; by a more appropriate representation of all Member States in United Nations bodies, so that the new realities of the present-day world are better reflected in the actual structure of the Organization and so that these bodies can perform their tasks under the right conditions; the achievement of universality by the Organization and its various bodies and the participation by all States, on an equal footing, in the consideration of problems and the adoption of decisions. The United Nations must genuinely be a forum for the entire world community; it must provide a framework conducive to the active participation of all States in the solution of international problems in the interests of all peoples and in the interests of détente, co-operation and peace.

6. The effectiveness of the United Nations ultimately depends on the political attitude of the Member States, on their will to co-operate within the Organization with a view to solving problems of common interest, to fulfil their obligations under the Charter and to respect the decisions and recommendations adopted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. The fulfilment of the commitments undertaken in accordance with the Charter and the application of the decisions and recommendations adopted must become the rule of conduct guiding all Member States.

7. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania considers that it is necessary and timely to undertake an in-depth examination, involving the participation of all Member States, of such a current and urgent issue as the strengthening of the role of the Organization, so that it can become a truly effective instrument for the attainment of the ideals of peace and security, of co-operation and of progress for all peoples.

8. It is in this spirit that the Romanian Government requests the inclusion in the agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly of an item entitled: "Strengthening of the role of the United Nations with regard to the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security, the development of co-operation among all nations and the promotion of the rules of international law in relations between States".
