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Item 1 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Letter dated 26 April 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Acting Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, and in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, we have the honour to request the inclusion of an additional item, entitled "International co-operation in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant", in the agenda of the first regular session of 1990 of the Economic and Social Council.

An explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution for consideration by the Economic and Social Council are enclosed (see annex).

We request that this issue be considered at an early stage in the work of the first regular session of the Council.

(Signed) Aleksandr M. BELONOGOV
Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to the United Nations

(Signed) Oleg N. PASHKEVICH
Acting Permanent Representative of
the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist
Republic to the United Nations

(Signed) Guennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Permanent Representative of
the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist
Republic to the United Nations

Annex

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

On 26 April 1986, an accident occurred at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the north of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. A thorough investigation of this problem has now led to the conclusion that there has never in the history of mankind been a technological disaster so destructive and so unprecedented in its consequences for the health and the lives of present and future generations and for the state of the environment.

Significant areas in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and certain western regions of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic suffered radioactive contamination to varying degrees. Part of the population has been resettled away from the areas with a high concentration of radionuclides, and agricultural production and other types of industrial activity have been halted.

Over the years since the disaster, the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic have taken large-scale measures to minimize its consequences and to protect the health of the people, especially children. These measures are primarily designed to ensure normal vital activity for the resettled population and also to improve medical services and set up appropriate social welfare facilities for life in the regions which suffered radioactive contamination. In addition, large-scale decontamination work has been carried out with a view to preventing the transboundary movement of radioactive particles.

In addition to the efforts of government organs in the affected Republics, a major contribution to the elimination of the consequences of the accident has been and is still being made by international intergovernmental institutions, public charitable organizations and funds, business and scientific circles and private individuals from various countries.

At the same time, additional consequences of the accident are being felt, which are of a long-term nature. A huge amount of work will be needed to transfer people from areas too dangerous to live in, to solve the practical social and humanitarian problems which arise in this connection, to undertake broad radio-biological and medical research, to conduct radiological monitoring and to organize decontamination.

For the implementation of the programmes envisaged, there is a pressing need for the co-ordination and expansion of joint national and international efforts within the framework of a special programme of co-operation under United Nations auspices. The Economic and Social Council, as the co-ordinator of the organs, organizations and programmes in the United Nations system, could play an important role in this connection.

The experience acquired through such co-operation could be generalized and used in the future for the protection of mankind and of nature from radioactive danger in the interests of all countries.

The delegations of the USSR, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic are prepared to provide to the members of the Economic and Social Council more detailed information on matters connected with the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and efforts to eliminate them, in connection with the consideration of the proposed agenda item.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

International co-operation in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with profound concern the tragic consequences of the accident which occurred in April 1986 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and which, because of its dimensions, assumed not only national but also international importance,

Noting the appeal to the Secretary-General, contained in the letter from the Permanent Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, for the provision of all possible assistance in the efforts being undertaken to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant,

Deeply concerned also about the state of health of the people, especially children, who suffered and continue to suffer from the effects of increased radiation, as well as from the long-term consequences of radiation,

Taking into account the need to continue immediate, large-scale and comprehensive measures to eliminate the consequences of the accident, in the first place those related to the safeguarding of the health of the population, including its resettlement to environmentally safe areas, the improvement of the environment in the contaminated areas and the prevention of further possible transboundary radioactive pollution,

Conscious of the urgent need for broad international co-operation in the elimination of the consequences of the accident,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/224 of 22 December 1989, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, recognized the need to strengthen international co-operation in rendering assistance in cases of environmental emergencies,

1. Welcomes the efforts undertaken by Governments, international and national non-governmental organizations, business and scientific circles, individuals and also the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United

Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other bodies, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system for the elimination of the consequences of the accident;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with a view to co-ordinating and expanding the aforementioned efforts, to prepare, with the assistance of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, proposals for a programme of international co-operation for the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and to submit a report on the subject for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

3. Requests to that end the Secretary-General to dispatch to those areas of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic which were affected by the accident an inter-agency mission to evaluate their priority needs and to inform the international community without delay of the results of the mission in the report referred to in paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

4. Makes an urgent appeal to all States members, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to provide all possible assistance in the efforts to overcome the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.
