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SPEECH BY V.S. LAVROV, HEAD OF THE SOVIET
DELEGATION OF OBSERVERS AT THE SEVENTH
SESSION OF THE ECA

Esteemed Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

Permit me, first of all, to express the sincere appreciation and gratitude of the delegation of observers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the Seventh session of the UN Economic Commission for Africa to the friendly people of Kenya, to their Government and to Mr. Jomo Kenyatta, the distinguished President of the Republic, for the kind and generous hospitality accorded to us on African soil.

This is the seventh time that observers from the Soviet Union are participating in sessions of the Economic Commission. Every time, meeting representatives of the African countries in one or another independent African State, Soviet people are happy to note the marked changes taking place in Africa, the emergence of new independent African States.

May I, on behalf of the Soviet Government, congratulate the independent States of Malawi and Zambia on their admission to ECA membership.

It is now only a matter of days before the declaration of Gambia's independence. That means that soon yet another African country, as yet an associate member of this Commission, will acquire the status of full participant. The Soviet delegation resolutely supports the demands of

African States that the racist policies of apartheid be discontinued by the RSA authorities.

We condemn the racist regime established in Southern Rhodesia by the white minority and support the demand by African States and by the national patriotic forces of Southern Rhodesia concerning the establishment there of representative bodies of native population on the basis of universal and equal suffrage and concerning the transfer to them of full authority as a necessary prerequisite for the proclamation of Southern Rhodesia's independence.

The ring of the newly independent States and the national liberation forces is becoming ever tighter around the Portuguese colonialists in Angola, Mozambique and the so-called "Portuguese" Guinea. There is no doubt that in spite of the help rendered to them by their NATO allies these slaveowners of the 20th century will be ousted from Africa, and this time is not far away.

Soviet people follow with great sympathy and understanding the brave and heroic struggle of the peoples of colonial countries for their independence and believe that 1965 must become the year of the complete liquidation of all colonial regimes to the very last one.

The liberation of colonial territories is only one of many new and exceptionally important features of present-day Africa. The mighty onward movement on this continent finds its manifestation in such facts as the establishment of the republican system in Kenya, the creation of a union of sister peoples in Tanzania, the democratization of social life in the Sudan and the measures aimed at the elimination of foreign land holdings in Tunisia.

One must specifically note the vital importance of the completely or partially implemented profound socio-economic reforms in the UAR, Algeria, Ghana, Mali, Guinea and other African countries directed at the further consolidation of their political and economic independence, and the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism in African States. The policy of planning, the establishment of public and

co-operative sectors, the agrarian reforms, the increased deductions from profits and the limitation of the export of profits by foreign monopolies, the complete or partial nationalization of foreign property, the training of national personnel, and other radical socio-economic changes aimed at swift economic development and the elimination of domination by foreign monopolies of imperialist powers adopted in a number of African countries are of tremendous importance for all African States.

In this connexion it would not be an exaggeration to say that if the secretariat of the Economic Commission and its appropriate working bodies comprehensively summarized the positive experience of African countries in the implementation of progressive democratic socio-economic reforms they would make a substantial contribution conducive to the development of the economic and political independence of African States.

During the past year nearly every African country has effected useful influence towards changing the political, economic and social climate of Africa. In spite of all obstacles, the hand of the barometer of African life has been moving towards "clear".

If we look at how events developed during the past year on a broader, i.e. world-wide, scale, we shall see that here the most evident tendency was one leading towards the relaxation of international tension, though dangerous aggravations in some regions of the world has many a time cut across this tendency. In our opinion everybody would agree that the further promotion of this tendency and the elimination of all obstacles in its path would correspond to the vital interests of all nations, including those of Africa.

In this connexion one cannot but note that the unabated armaments race leading to the waste of colossal amounts of human and material resources remains a source of concern. Being a consistent advocate of disarmament, the Soviet Government has declared at the 19th session of the General Assembly that it is ready to participate in further discussions, at any forum and at any level of the problems of general and complete disarmament, the banning and destruction of nuclear weapons, as well as measures aimed at curbing the armaments race. It has also submitted to the General Assembly a memorandum containing a number of specific

proposals aimed at a further reduction of international tensions and the development of co-operation between nations with differing social systems.

The group of African member States in the UN has put before the General Assembly the question of declaring Africa a nuclear-free zone. This proposal of the African States directed at the recognition of a denuclearized status through international agreements deserves all our attention. We express the hope that at this session the members of the Commission will reaffirm their unbreakable will to turn Africa into a nuclear-free zone. The Soviet delegation vigorously supports this important action of the African countries.

We should like to hope that the Governments of countries represented on the ECA have welcomed the contribution of the Soviet Union to the cause of slowing down the armaments race in the form of the reduction of its military budget by 1110 mln. roubles, or 1220 mln. dollars, effected in 1964 and 1965. It would not be superfluous to note here that while unilaterally reducing its military budget, the Soviet Union suggests that the militarily big States should agree to reduce their military budgets by 10 or 15 per cent, or in some other agreed proportion. Through an agreement on mutual reductions of military budgets of States by 10-15 per cent it would be possible to set aside a certain amount of the released resources for aid to developing countries.

Like the well-known earlier proposals of the Soviet Union related to the economic programme of disarmament, this new initiative of the USSR is in the spirit of the resolutions of the Cairo Conference of Non-Aligned Nations which says, in particular, that "resources now used for armaments should be used instead for the purposes of developing the underdeveloped regions of the world and achieving mankind's prosperity".

Of course, the principal foundation for the development of young States is, and will continue to be, the use of their internal potential. However, as the Cairo Declaration justly points out, the success here will largely depend on how far will be secured "respect of the rights of peoples and countries to control their national wealth and resources and to dispose of them freely". One cannot help seeing that the countries of Africa,

as well as other countries who gained independence from colonial domination still have to spend colossal efforts on the struggle against such manifestations of neo-colonialism as the plunder of their national resources by foreign monopolies, economic pressure, interference in internal affairs, sabotage and even outright military intervention.

Last year many African countries came up against these neo-colonialist methods. This has been most evidently shown by the military intervention of the NATO Powers in the internal affairs of the Congo. The Soviet Government regards the recent military action of the three Western Powers in the Congo as a new act of armed intervention in the internal affairs of this country, and expresses its full sympathy with the efforts of the African States aimed at discontinuing military and all other interference by the colonialists in the affairs of the Congo, at bringing about the immediate withdrawal of all foreign military personnel, including mercenaries from the Congo.

Vestiges of colonialism in the field of trade and economy are still no less dangerous for the economic development of African countries. The practice of imposing unequal agreements on developing countries, the export of considerable resources from African countries by foreign monopolies and the use of "assistance" with military, political and other strings attached, has by no means been eradicated.

Life shows that without the elimination of all the vestiges and manifestations of colonialism and neo-colonialism in the economy one can hardly hope for a speedy rectification of the difficult situation in which the peoples of the newly independent countries found themselves as a result of many years of colonial domination.

It is only natural, therefore, that the greatest success in the struggle for economic independence, for greater welfare and social progress, is scored by those countries which take decisive measures to close all the channels used by the neo-colonialists. It is a welcome fact that year after year the African countries accumulate their own experience in the implementation of these measures which become ever more radical and

efficient. Many telling facts cited in the speeches of delegates to this session testify to this.

As these socio-economic changes are implemented the African countries are confronted with the problems of further prospects and ways of the development of their economy. In this connexion many African public figures and economists display interest in the experience of the economic, social and cultural development of the Soviet Union and of the Soviet Constituent Republics of Central Asia. Soviet people are always ready to share experience with their African friends.

The results of 1964 show that during that year too the principal programme task, the creation of the material and technical basis of communism, was successfully carried forward in our country. Good results have been achieved by the industry. The output of steel was no less than 85 mln. tons, i.e. more than is produced in Great Britain, France and the FRG taken together. We have produced 223 mln. tons of oil and 551 mln. tons of coal. Electric power output was approximately 459 bln. kwt/h., i.e. one and half times more than the output during the 20 years before World War II.

In 1964 more than 600 gigantic industrial enterprises -- factories, electric power stations and other plants -- were put into operation.

Last year more than 150 oil, gas, ferrous, non-ferrous and rare metals, gold, diamond and non-ore deposits were discovered.

During the same period collective farmers achieved high production indices in agriculture. At the same time we are aware that we have to work hard to satisfy completely the increased needs of the country in agricultural products and cattle-breeding in particular.

On the basis of the co-operation of science, modern technology and production, the Soviet Union is coming to the fore in key areas of world scientific and technical progress. Naturally, we are proud that Soviet people have blazed the trail into outer space and were first to realize an age-old dream of mankind. The launching of the "Voskhod" spaceship with three cosmonauts on board in 1964 is a new outstanding achievement in this field.

Thanks to the successes in material production achieved as a result of the persevering work of the Soviet people and huge capital investments our Government is able to implement effective measures to raise the welfare and the cultural level of the people.

The Act on a wage increase for workers of education, health, trade and other branches adopted last year was a welcome fact. The problem of the pensionary insurance of collective farmers has also been resolved.

We have a difficult road behind us and we still face many immediate needs both in the field of industrial development and of agricultural production. We confront many outstanding tasks also as regards the rise of the living standard of our people and the increase of the efficiency of production and capital construction.

We also pay great attention to the further economic and cultural growth of the national republics of Central Asia, the Transcaucasus, and others.

Let us take, for example, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tadjikistan. Proceeding along the path of non-capitalist development, these recently poor and backward colonial regions have in less than one generation become powerful industrial and collective farming socialist Republics with developed industry, irrigated mechanized diversified agriculture and a high cultural level. There has taken place a real national regeneration of the Uzbek, Kazakh, Tadjik and other peoples.

Here are several figures and facts from the life of these peoples which have manifestly shown with their example that other backward peoples can do away with their old-age backwardness in a short time.

Whereas before the Revolution there were in Uzbekistan only several tens of small factories, now there are more than a hundred branches of industry in the Republic, over a thousand large factories and plants using modern technological equipment. The Uzbek people are especially proud of their success in the creation of a big power base. The socialist Uzbekistan now turns out four times more electric power than the whole of the Russian empire before 1917.

Industrial production has grown in similar high rates in Soviet Tadjikistan. Tens of branches of heavy and light industry have been built from scratch. Together with Uzbekistan this Republic is a principal supplier of cotton in the Soviet Union and holds a world record in the yield of this valuable crop. About 25 centners of cotton per hectare were picked in 1963 in Tadjikistan, i.e. almost 10 centners more than in the USA. The Tadjik methods of raising high yields, are being studied in the US.

Under the conditions of the socialist system the peoples of the Soviet Union have achieved considerable success in the development of culture. An evident example of this is Tadjikistan where before the Revolution there were only 13 teachers and 10 schools.

As the founder of the Tadjik Soviet literature Saddriddin Aini graphically put it, "literate and educated people were as scarce... as fruit trees in a waterless desert". Now in the Republic only the number of students of higher educational institutions per 10 thousand people exceeds that of Iran by 10 times, of Italy -- by 2.6 and of France -- by 1.8.

Health service has been improved radically. For example, in the pre-revolutionary Kirgizstan there were only 15 doctors and now there are more than 4,000 of them, besides 13,000 nurses.

Other fraternal Republics of the Soviet Union have also carried out social reforms unprecedented by their scale and significance.

It is only natural that the African countries in the process of their development find and will go on finding many individual solutions conditioned by their historical, natural, ethnographic and other peculiarities. It seems to us, as has been pointed out above, that the Economic Commission for Africa must carefully collect and summarize the experience of African countries that has already been accumulated in order to use it to the benefit of all the developing States of the continent.

It would hardly be a mistake to say that until now the activity of the ECA has concentrated mainly around the elaboration of general resolutions and the general approach to the problem of economic development. Such a tendency was to a certain extent justified because Africa had no other bodies except the ECA for the co-ordination of the solutions of economic problems.

Now, after the creation of the Organization of African Unity and the establishment within that organization of the Economic and Social Commission, the ECA is capable of co-ordinating efforts in the detailed preparation of specific recommendations on vital economic and social problems facing the African States.

The importance of this question is shown by the fact that the agenda of the present session includes, as an individual item, consideration of the interrelations between the OAE and ECA.

The Soviet Government entertains great respect towards the activity of the Organization of African Unity and considers this organization as a representative organ promoting the achievement of the political and economic aims of African unity, as an important instrument for safeguarding the interests of African States from the intrigues of the imperialist powers.

During the one and a half year of its existence the Organization of African unity had demonstrated its effectiveness in the fight against imperialism and neo-colonialism, and for the consolidation of the political and economic independence of the African States.

Of great importance for the further development of all - African economic co-operation are the resolutions of the OAE directed at the mutual co-ordination of national development plans, the setting up of the all-African market and payments union, the establishment of efficient co-operation in the field of transport and the creation of the Telecommunications Union of all African countries.

ECA co-operation in the implementation of these measures would be, in the opinion of our delegation, a welcome contribution to the

strengthening of co-operation and unity of African peoples, to their struggle for economic and social progress.

The Soviet delegation supports the proposals of African countries aimed at achieving close co-operation between the OAE and the ECA for the purposes of consolidating the political and economic independence of those countries and their struggle against the colonial policy of the imperialist States.

Esteemed delegates,

We think it is quite appropriate that problems of economic and social development of African countries are being discussed at the present session in relation to the results of the work of the UN Conference on Trade and Development which took place last year.

The recommendations on the principles of international trade relations and trade policy, and the conditions of economic and technical cooperation adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the initiative and with the support of the Soviet Union, other socialist states, developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America constitute an important foreign policy action by peace-loving nations.

These recommendations are aimed at the expansion of economic co-operation on equal footing among nations, at the strengthening of the national economy of developing countries and at the development of their foreign trade.

However, it is necessary to point out at this moment that all these good and useful decisions of the Conference will remain on paper if they are not followed up by efforts to implement them. We cannot forget that the Western Powers raised objections to the adoption of most of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference that are of vital importance to developing countries. It is possible that they will resist attempts to implement these decisions. This is why the

results of the Conference's work must be considered as a first step; and hard battles lie ahead in order to make them established practices of international economic relations.

The Soviet Union is of the opinion that it is necessary to strive for the consolidation and further development of the constructive results of the Conference. The decisions that have been adopted by the Conference are apt — provided they are implemented — to have considerable economic and political bearing in the immediate future on the increase of international economic cooperation, and to influence the character and direction of the future activities of UN economic bodies.

In this connection we would like to note the initiative of the ECA secretariat which prepared a special document on the results of the work of the UN Conference on Trade and Development for this session (Note on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, E/CN.14/316). The secretariat not only analyzes the decisions of the Conference from the point of view of the interests of African countries in this document, but appeals to the session to deal with certain specific aspects of their implementation as well. Undoubtedly, the formulation of practical measures on the implementation of these lengthy recommendations of the Conference cannot be fully made in the short period of time allotted this session. This is why the intention of the ECA Executive Secretary to give high priority to further work connected with the implementation of the Conference's recommendations deserves support.

The Soviet Union has already taken measures to implement some recommendations of the Conference. In particular, the Soviet Government, beginning with January 1, 1965, lifted duties on commodities which originate and are imported from developing nations. Duties are lifted ahead of time not only on raw materials, as it is set down in paragraph 9 of Appendix A. 11.1 to the Concluding Act, but on all manufactures of developing nations as well. As this regulation does

not concern developed nations, the lifting of duties means granting tariff preferences simultaneously to all developing nations and this fully corresponds to the Eighth General Principle adopted by the Conference.

The lifting of duties on commodities of developing nations will promote the further expansion of their trade with the USSR, although trade between the Soviet Union and developing countries, in particular with the countries of Africa, has been increasing at a fast rate in recent years. Trade turnover with the African nations doubled from 1958 to 1964 and reached 378 million roubles (\$420 mln.). Trade with African countries that acquired political independence recently has been expanding especially fast. Trade with this group of nations increased 13 times in the same period.

In developing trade and economic ties with the countries of Africa, the Soviet Union renders them considerable aid in the economic field. Soviet supplies of machines and equipment which constituted more than one half of total USSR exports to African countries in 1963 are of great importance to the expanding economies of these nations. Taking into consideration the currency difficulties of African countries, the Soviet Union supplies its machines and equipment on easy terms, with considerably deferred payments.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union promotes the expansion of foreign markets of African countries, and the development of national industries by increasing purchases. The USSR purchases such important goods for the economy of African countries as cocoa-beans, coffee, citrus fruits, bananas, pineapples, oilseeds, wool, raw leather, cotton, copper bauxites and other goods, as well as manufactured industrial goods.

Speaking of future trends in trade between the Soviet Union and African countries, it is necessary first of all to emphasise that the possibilities for the further development of our trade with these

countries with a view to expand its volume and list of commodities and increasing the number of countries trading with us are far from exhausted.

The Minister of Foreign Trade of the USSR, N.S. Patolichev, stated at the UN Conference on Trade and Development, that "the volume of trade of the USSR with developing countries can increase nearly 2.5 times in the next 7 years... We proceed on the assumption that the rate of increase of trade with these countries will remain high during a long period of time in the future, including the period between 1964 and 1970".

In the case of African countries it seems that the rate of increase of our trade with them will be higher than the rate of increase of trade between the USSR and all developing countries. This is due to the fact that the USSR started trading relatively recently with many African States, and the volume of trade with them is still small. Apart from this, the recent years have shown that a further increase in the number of African countries with which the Soviet Union established trade relations can be expected in the coming years.

It is necessary to point out that imperialist countries and their allies in military-political blocs are greatly concerned by such an increased cooperation and are making strenuous efforts to drive a wedge between the proponents of a fair pattern of international economic and trade relations. They are trying, not without malice, to camouflage the consideration of a compensation for losses inflicted on the developing countries by the looting colonial policies of imperialist states.

However, they cannot avoid the well-known fact that the responsibility for the grave economic situation in developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America lies squarely with the colonialist and capitalist monopolies which used to bleed the colonies for dozens and sometimes hundreds of years. The fact remains that the oil

monopolies of Western Powers are continuing to draw profits on Arabian oil at the rate of up to £ 1,400 million every year. Even from such a small country as Ghana the British firms drained £ 300 million in the last 30 years. (From statement by UAR President Nasser of May 1, 1964.) Monopolies of imperialist powers continue to extract huge sums by various means from developing nations. The question is in order: how can imperialist States, and socialist countries that have never participated and are not participating in this colonial looting be equally treated?

Our stand has been and is now that the colonial imperialist powers that profited by looting other peoples' riches should compensate the developing nations at least with a part of the loss they inflicted.

At the same time we fully understand that countries which freed themselves from colonialism are interested in receiving some assistance from socialist countries in order to increase their rate of development. But this assistance is based on entirely different principles. It is said in the Program of the Party which is in power in our country that the fraternal union with peoples that have thrown off the colonial and semicolonial yoke is one of the cornerstones of Soviet foreign policy. The USSR Government is basing its economic relations with African nations on these principles. The representatives of many member nations of ECA are fully aware of the considerable assistance rendered by the Soviet Union to their countries.

However, due to the fact that the agenda of the present session has a separate item concerning international aid I would like to give a short reference to the contribution of the Soviet Union to the economic development of Africa.

Esteemed delegates,

The Soviet Union applies a policy of friendship and fraternal cooperation with countries of Africa and all other developing countries. The relations of our country with other countries are based on the principle

of peaceful coexistence, established on sincere friendship, sympathy and respect for all peoples, and a wish to render the developing countries any possible economic and technical aid in their fight against neo-colonialism without any political or other strings attached. Delegates from a number of nations particularly mentioned the need for such assistance.

Economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and developing nations does not aim at deriving profits from the utilization of their resources.

Recent years saw a considerable expansion of economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and the independent countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

As regards Africa, in accordance with the bilateral inter-Governmental agreements concluded in 1959-1964 the Soviet Union embarked on economic and technical cooperation with 15 African countries.

As a rule, these agreements provide for Soviet assistance in the construction of industrial enterprises, agricultural and power projects and in other fields of economy and are aimed at the consolidation of the public sector. Altogether it is planned to construct more than 300 projects in Africa with the technical assistance of the Soviet Union.

The total amount of the USSR's commitments as regards the delivery of complete enterprises to African countries and technical assistance in their design, construction and assembly, now comes near the figure of 1,400 million roubles, i.e. more than \$1.5 billion.

We render assistance in the form of credits on easy terms for the construction of enterprises, delivery of equipment, sending of experts and aid in the training of national personnel. Thus, the Soviet Union gives technical assistance in the setting up of more than 60 training establishments, including 4 institutes, 3 technical schools and 54 training centres.

Taking into consideration the great interest expressed by the

African countries towards a number of projects for the construction of industrial complexes by individual countries and on a sub-regional basis, as well towards the training of personnel, the Soviet Union is prepared to send to African countries to participate in the implementation of the above-mentioned projects highly qualified specialists as UN experts at the expense of Soviet contributions to UN technical assistance funds.

In view of the great need of African States for their own qualified personnel the Soviet delegation, as you will recall, declared at the 5th and 6th sessions of the ECA our readiness to organise, under ECA auspices, a regional professional technical school or a training centre for technical specialists for industry and agriculture at the expense of the funds of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Soviet official agencies are prepared to discuss with the representatives of the ECA specific subjects relating to the establishment of such a school or centre. We also hope that the UN Technical Assistance Board and appropriate specialized agencies will undertake practical measures with a view to implementing this and other Soviet proposals.

I have been authorised to state that the Soviet Government, being cognizant of the burning need among the developing countries for highly qualified national personnel for use in the heavy industry branches has directed the USSR Council of Ministers' State Committee for External Economic Relations to express to the UN Technical Assistance Board its agreement to organise in the USSR during 1965-1967 training courses for metallurgists from developing countries with an annual enrolment of 60 persons at the expense of Soviet contributions to the UN technical assistance fund. We would like to hope that these proposals will meet the understanding of the delegates to this session.

Besides economic and technical cooperation with the developing countries of Africa through bilateral agreements, the Soviet Union also aids them in the development of their national economy and culture through the United Nations.

In the last 4 years the Soviet Union has accepted for regular or advanced training 363 UN scholarship holders from 28 African countries.

Among the various methods employed by the Soviet Union to provide regular or advanced training of national personnel mention should be made of seminars held in the USSR for specialists of developing countries at the expense of our contributions to the UN technical assistance fund. In 1964, for example, 24 seminars were organized in the USSR under the auspices of the various UN specialized agencies. About 150 specialists from African countries participated in these seminars. Among them we may mention, in particular, a seminar on planning held in Moscow, on the social implications of industrialization, organised in Minsk, on the role of industrial complexes in economic development which took place in Tashkent. In the opinion of specialists from African and other developing countries these seminars were very useful.

The Soviet Union is ready to participate in the work of the ECA-sponsored 4-month advanced training courses for transport specialists of African countries by sending Soviet teachers and instructors at the expense of the unused portion of the contributions of the Soviet Union to the UN technical assistance funds and other means.

The Soviet Union will continue to respond with understanding to the requests of the developing countries of Africa to establish and develop economic and technical cooperation both on a bilateral basis and through the United Nations.

Distinguished delegates,

The independent States of the African continent presently find themselves in rather favourable foreign policy conditions to resolve many important economic and social problems. During recent years their international prestige has grown immeasurably and their influence on world developments has greatly increased. The consolidation of the unity of African States as well as the coordination of their political and economic activities with the developing countries of other continents constitute their great success.

The Cairo Assembly of the Organisation of African Unity, the summit meetings of the leaders of Arab States, the participation in the UN Conference on Trade and Development and, finally, the second Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the non-aligned nations have still further strengthened the determination of free Africa to continue with the anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle, to defend together the cause of peace, freedom and independence, to secure respect of their rights and dignity. These important meetings and conferences will, we feel, also contribute to the development of inter-State economic relations in Africa.

In the process of the common struggle against imperialism and colonialism friendly ties and comprehensive cooperation between African States and the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have strengthened still further. We would like to state here that the Soviet Union resolutely supports the demand by the Second Conference of Non-aligned Countries in Cairo concerning the elimination of colonialism and neo-colonialism.

Permit me, Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, to wish the delegations of African States great success in the work of this ECA session and further achievements in the economic and social development of the countries and nations of the African continent.

The Soviet people sincerely rejoice at the growing successes of the African countries and are confident that the further expansion of their activity in the political, economic and social spheres will weaken the forces of imperialism and colonialism, reaction and war, and contribute to greater victories of the forces of peace, democracy and progress.

Thank you.