I have the honour to bring the following matter to your attention.

As will be recalled, by decision of the Preparatory Committee for the
United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at its first session
(A/CONF.48/EC/6, para. (38), p. 19), the United Nations Secretariat was
recommended to engage in consultation with the States Members of the
Organization in order subsequently to include their views and suggestions in
the Secretary-General's report concerning the contents of the Declaration
on the human environment.

It is clear from the text of the recommendation that the views and
suggestions in question are those solely of States Members of the United Nations.

However, the questionnaire prepared by the United Nations Secretariat
pursuant to the aforesaid recommendation of the Preparatory Committee
(EC.114/23 (1-2-3)) was sent on 21 December 1970 not only to the Governments
of States Members of the United Nations but also to the Governments of a
number of States not Members of the Organization.

The Permanent Mission feels obliged to call attention to this departure
by the United Nations Secretariat from the exceedingly important principle
contained in the aforesaid recommendation of the Preparatory Committee and
expresses the hope that you, Mr. Secretary-General, will make the necessary arrangements for the above-mentioned report to include only the replies of Governments of States Members of the United Nations.

I request you to have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Y. MALIK
Permanent Representative of the USSR to the United Nations