**DOCUMENT A/9541**

Letter dated 30 January 1974 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the message addressed to you today by His Excellency President Houari Boumediene, President in Office of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries, President of the Revolutionary Council and President of the Council of Ministers of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, in which he requests you to initiate the appropriate procedure for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the following item:

“Study of the problems of raw materials and development”.

(Signed) Abdellatif RAHAL
Permanent Representative of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria to the United Nations


By note verbale of 31 January 1974, the Secretary-General transmitted the letter and its annex to all Member States, in accordance with rule 9 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

**ANNEX**

Message dated 30 January 1974, addressed to the Secretary-General by His Excellency Mr. Houari Boumediene

For several years, the United Nations has attempted to establish the conditions for the democratization of international relations in various fields. The progress made in decolonization has enabled the United Nations and the agencies of the United Nations system to concentrate their attention on the problems of development, thanks to the determination of the third world countries to create international conditions such that the existing relationships of exploitation could be replaced by just relationships founded on equality and respect for the sovereignty of States. Trusting in international co-operation, they have, in unanimous documents, solemnly adopted programmes and put forward solutions likely to promote their development while respecting the interests of all parties concerned. The Algiers Charter of the “Group of 77”, adopted in October 1967, and the Lima Declaration of November 1971 illustrate this desire for cooperation with a view to instituting a just international order.


For the discussion of this item, see: Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Special Session, Plenary Meetings, 2208th to 2213th meetings; ibid., Ad Hoc Committee of the Sixth Special Session, 3rd to 21st meetings.

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**ANNEXES (S-VI) 7**
The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of…to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General’s note of 31 January 1974 transmitting a request from His Excellency, Mr. Houari Boumediene, President of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic People’s Republic of Algeria, for convening of a special session of the General Assembly to consider an item entitled “Study of the problems of raw materials and development” (A/9543).

On 14 February, the required majority of Member States had concurred in this request. Consequently, the regular sessions of the General Assembly were postponed, at the request of a Member State and after consultations with the other Member States, beyond the scheduled opening date specified in the rules of procedure.

By letters of 15 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary-General, brought the communication of the Chairman of the Group of 77 to the attention of the Chairmen of the various regional groups, requesting them to ascertain and to inform him whether a postponement was acceptable to the members of any regional group, whether a postponement was acceptable to the members of any regional group, and, if so, whether the suggested date of 2 April was suitable. Similar letters were also sent to those Member States which do not belong to any regional group.

By 19 February, the Secretary-General had informed the Chairmen of all the regional groups that there was a consensus among the members of the group in favour of a postponement of the special session. The Secretariat had informed all Member States with which it had been in touch that the Group of 77 requested a postponement of the special session.

On 21 February, the Secretary-General received a further letter from the Chairman of the Group of 77 informing him that the Group had unanimously decided in favour of convening the special session on 5 April.
After consultations, the Chairmen of the five regional groups informed the Secretary-General that the members of their groups had concurred in the date of 9 April. The Member States which do not belong to any regional group also informed the Secretary-General that they concurred in that date.

The Secretary-General therefore has the honour to inform the Permanent Representative that the sixth special session of the General Assembly will convene at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 9 April 1974, at 3 p.m.

Three copies of the provisional agenda (A/9543), drawn up in accordance with rule 16 of the rules of procedure, are attached. Further copies will be distributed through the usual channels.

The Secretary-General wishes to remind the Permanent Representatives that the credentials of those representatives who are not already authorized to represent their Governments in the General Assembly should be issued in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure.

DOCUMENT A/9556

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Sixth Special Session

1. At its 2210th plenary meeting, on 11 April 1974, the General Assembly allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Sixth Special Session the consideration of agenda item 7, entitled "Study of the problems of raw materials and development", with the exception of the debate on the item which was being held directly in plenary meetings (2208th to 2231st meetings).

2. The Ad Hoc Committee held 21 meetings, from 30 April to 1 May 1974. An account of the Ad Hoc Committee's discussions is contained in the relevant summary records.

3. At its 1st meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee elected Mr. Fereydoun Hoveyda (Iran) as its Chairman. At its 2nd meeting, the Committee elected Mr. Jan Arvesen (Norway), Mr. Eugeniusz Kabuga (Poland) and Mr. Eustace E. Seignoret (Trinidad and Tobago) as its Vice-Chairmen. At the 3rd meeting, Mr. Hama Araba Diallo (Upper Volta) was elected Rapporteur.

4. The Ad Hoc Committee had before it the following documents:

- A/9544: Evolution of basic commodity prices since 1950: note by the Secretary-General
- A/9544/Add.1 and Corr.1: The significance of basic commodities in world trade in 1970: note by the Secretary-General
- A/9544/Add.2 and Corr.1: The hypothetical impact of commodity price movements on world trade: note by the Secretary-General
- A/9544/Add.3: Evolution of banana prices since 1954 and the significance of bananas in world trade in 1970: note by the Secretary-General
- A/9545: Letter dated 5 April 1974 from the Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Technical reasons, the mimeographed version of the report entitled "Study of the problems of raw materials and development" was printed on the first two pages of document A/9556, paragraphs 1 to 15, and on document A/9556, paragraphs 14 to 15, and on document A/9556, paragraphs 16 to 19.

Original: English/French
30 April and 1 May 1974
5. At its 3rd meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee heard statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

6. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to set up a Working Party of the Whole to consider the proposals made by delegations during the general debate in plenary meeting. At the 6th meeting, Mr. Eustace E. Seignoret (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, was elected Chairman of the Working Party. The Working Party had eight meetings, from 17 to 25 April 1974. It elected Mr. Munir Akram (Pakistan) as its Vice-Chairman and Mr. Eustace E. Seignoret as Rapporteur.

7. The Working Party established a list of heads to facilitate the discussion of the specific proposals made in plenary by India as follows:

1. Special measures to mitigate the immediate difficulties of the developing countries most seriously affected by economic crisis bearing in particular the particular problems of the least developed land-locked countries.

2. International trade and development:
   (a) Raw materials and other primary commodities;
   (b) Food;
   (c) Manufactures and semi-manufactures;
   (d) General trade.

3. Financial matters including assistance to the developing countries.

4. Technology and development.

5. Institutional questions, follow-up.

6. Other proposals.

8. At the 19th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on 29 April 1974, the representative of France introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.166/L.35/Rev.1) on the establishment of a special development fund (SDF) read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Convinced that the operation of raw materials markets can be improved only if the informal markets which these markets are based is widely known."

"..."
"Considering that in the case of a number of raw materials, including some of the most important, the information available to the international community is often partial, scattered or non-existent; 

1. Believes that a series of steps should be taken to ensure better knowledge and a clearer picture of the markets; 

2. Decides to establish for this purpose within the United Nations a central economic observatory with the task of: 

(a) Collecting information on the prices actually quoted in major transactions involving mineral, energy and agricultural raw materials, including topical products, particularly those for which there are no internationally recognized and readily available quotations; 

(b) Analysing the conditions which determine the prices of raw materials (supply and demand, reserves and stocks, operating costs, feasibility and cost of replacement, marketing channels, etc.); 

(c) Determining the short-term and long-term outlook for market development; 

(d) Establishing sets of weighted average prices to serve as a reference base, and undertaking all necessary statistical studies on production and consumption prices; 

(e) Drawing, where necessary, the attention of the international community to imbalances which may drastically and seriously disrupt the conditions of supply and demand and hence the prices of these products; 

(f) Providing objective basic data for the negotiation of international agreements or arrangements on raw materials; 

3. Requests the Governments of Member States to co-operate fully with the economic observatory, especially by facilitating the collection and provision of the relevant information necessary for the effective attainment of the objectives set out in paragraph 2 above; 

4. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures, in consultation with the various competent United Nations organs and the other international agencies concerned, to implement this resolution, bearing in mind the special responsibility of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the field of raw materials expert interest to developing countries; 

Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the measures taken pursuant to this resolution; 

At the same meeting, the representative of Bolivia, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.166/L.41) entitled "Emergency measures in regard to the supply and demand of fertilizers and pesticides", which read as follows: 

"The General Assembly, 

Aware that over a quarter of mankind is living at a level of bare subsistence, 

Noting that assurance of adequate food supplies is a matter of utmost priority to all countries and particularly to developing countries, 

Noting further that most developing countries are faced with grave problems of food scarcity and rapidly increasing food prices resulting in malnutrition with the threat of starvation becoming a near reality, 

Acknowledging that Governments of many developing countries are experiencing difficulties in obtaining the required quantities of fertilizers at reasonable prices, 

Recognizing that all constraints on increasing food production should immediately be removed, 

Acknowledging also that the area for immediate priority that will have a major impact on food supplies and food prices is that of fertilizers, 

Appreciating that an emergency multinational effort by the world community would enable urgent supplies of fertilizers and pesticides to be deployed promptly and rationally to those developing countries in greatest need, 

Considering the urgent need to increase the supply of fertilizers to developing countries, to assist them to finance their fertilizer imports, and to provide them with the necessary technical and financial assistance to process their own raw materials into semi-finished or finished fertilizer products, 

1. Requests the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: 

(a) To draw up immediately an emergency plan of operations for increasing the supply of fertilizers to developing countries, including the establishment of a fertilizer pool, and to call an emergency session of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to approve the plan of operations and put it into effect; 

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(b) To invite countries to contribute fertilizers or cash for the purchase of fertilizers to this pool;

(c) To invite developing countries to submit requests for fertilizers from this pool on a grant or subsidized basis;

(d) To distribute widely as a matter of urgency an analysis of the world supply and demand situation for fertilizers and pesticides including constraints on increased production and the under-utilization of existing productive capacity;

2. Calls upon those developed countries manufacturing fertilizers and pesticides substantially to expand exports to developing countries at reasonable prices, bearing in mind their serious balance-of-payments difficulties, and to increase production particularly for that purpose;

3. Calls upon developed countries and other countries in a position to do so, as well as international institutions, to extend technical and financial assistance and capital equipment on the softest possible terms to developing countries so as to enable them to utilize fully their existing productive capacity;

4. Urges the international community, and especially the developed countries, to give the necessary capital and technical assistance to developing countries in order to process their own raw materials into semi-finished or finished fertilizer products;

5. Calls upon the World Food Conference to consider, inter alia, the medium-term and long-term aspects of the fertilizer problem;

6. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to bring these proposals urgently to the attention of all Member States, to appeal for an urgent and positive response, and to report on the replies received to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-seventh session.

11. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.166/L.44), entitled "Group of eminent persons to study natural resources", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Governments, to appoint from the public and private sectors and on a broad geographical basis, an international group of 20 eminent persons intimately acquainted with international trade, social and economic problems to be supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat:

(a) To undertake immediately, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a comprehensive survey of the earth's non-renewable and renewable resources, relying whenever possible on existing sources of information;

(b) To develop recommendations concerning a global early warning system to foreshadow impending surpluses and scarcities;

(c) To report its final comments and recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-ninth session in July 1975 for consideration by the General Assembly at its special session to take place in September 1975;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to analyse and disseminate data on natural resources and utilize the United Nations University, when it is established, to conduct long-term and basic research on resources, especially on the problem of energy;

3. Requests the United Nations Development Programme, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Nations Re- solving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, as well as other appropriate United Nations organizations, to assist developing countries to discover and develop raw material resources now known to be in short supply during the decade;

4. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other appropriate United Nations organizations to continue studies in the field of commodities with respect to production, export, imports, stocks, prices, and artificial restrictions on supply and trade;

5. Requests the international community to co-operate in the efforts specified in paragraph 1 above by making available appropriate technology and funds through governmental and private channels, particularly for explorations in the least developed among the developing countries and the land-locked countries."

12. At the same meeting, the representative of France introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.166/L.45), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

Recognizing that it is vitally important that the changes taking place in the relations among States should be effected in accordance with the requirements of greater justice and greater international solidarity, so as to ensure equitable and stable social and economic development for present and future generations,

Aware of the need to bring about the balanced development of the international community,

Reaffirming the principle of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources,

Recognizing that raw materials occupy an essential place in the world economy and in particular the economies of the developing countries,

1. Decides to establish a temporary committee of limited size to pursue the discussions which have taken place at the sixth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to raw materials and development, taking into account all the ideas expressed during those debates, with a view to identifying all possibilities of concerted action, in particular through commodity agreements or arrangements, and proposing appropriate procedures for the implementation of its conclusions;

2. Requests the President of the General Assembly to appoint the members of this Committee in accordance with the principles of balanced geographical and economic distribution; any representative of a member country may have access to the work of the Committee and submit to it working documents con-
May, as required, set up working groups and call upon experts.

1. Requests the committee, in particular, to begin without delay consideration of the general problems posed by the rational exploitation of energy resources and the satisfaction of world needs in conditions which are reasonable and equitable for all.

2. Requests the committee to initiate to that end a preparatory dialogue between producers and consumers within the committee itself with a view to obtaining a better knowledge of resources, needs and market trends, particularly in the medium and long term, and with a view to the stabilization and regulation of trade.

3. Also requests the committee to examine the possibilities of improving the conditions for the transfer of technology related to research and exploitation of energy resources and the conditions of the industrial and agricultural development of the producing countries, as well as the action to be taken to solve the particularly serious problems concerning certain by-products such as fertilizers and pesticides.

4. Requests the committee to study means of extending the dialogue thus undertaken to include the international community as a whole, either by means of a special conference or by referring the questions to be discussed to competent existing organs, and requests it to report on this point to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

At the same meeting, the representative of Saudi Arabia introduced a draft resolution, subsequently issued as document A/AC.166/L.46, the text of which read as follows:

"Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order

We, the Members of the United Nations,

Having convened a special session of the General Assembly to study for the first time the problems of raw materials and development, devoted to the consideration of the most important economic problems facing the world community,

"Bearing in mind the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations to promote the economic advancement and social progress of all peoples,

Solemnly proclaim our united determination to work urgently for

"The establishment of a new international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and co-operation among all States, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadyly accelerating economic and social development for present and future generations.

1. The greatest and most significant achievement since the foundation of the United Nations has been the independence from colonial and alien domination of a large number of peoples and nations which have been reduced to undeclared statelessness;
Cally upon the industrialized countries, developing countries whose income from exports has greatly increased in recent months, and other potential contributors, to extend immediate relief and assistance to the most seriously affected countries. Such relief and assistance must be in addition to the levels of aid and, if in the form of aid, programmed on 'grant' or 'soft' terms, and be provided by the end of 1975. The criteria for disbursement and relevant operational procedures and terms must reflect the essential characteristics of this exceptional situation. The assistance could be provided through bilateral or multilateral channels. The special measures may include the following:

a. Concessional commodity assistance, including petroleum, fertilizer, and food aid, on a grant or deferred payments in local currencies;

b. Deferred payments for all or part of imports of essential commodities and goods;

c. Long-term financial assistance on concessional terms;

d. Contributions on special terms for drawings on a special International Monetary Fund facility;

e. Agreement for bilateral debt renegotiation on a case-by-case basis where default appears unavoidable;

f. Provision on more favourable terms of financial resources, capital goods, and technical assistance to accelerate the industrialization of affected countries;

g. Investment in industrial and development projects on favourable terms;

h. Subsidy for additional transport and transit services, particularly of land-locked developing countries.

5. Requests the Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund and heads of other competent international organizations to assist the ad hoc committee in performing functions assigned to it under operative paragraphs 4;

6. Requests the ad hoc committee to submit its report and recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at the fifty-seventh session and invites the Council, on the basis of its consideration of the ad hoc committee's report, to submit suitable recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session;

7. Decides to consider as a matter of high priority the question of special measures for the most seriously affected countries at its twenty-ninth session.

17. At the 21st meeting, on 1 May 1974, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee introduced two proposals contained in documents A/AC.166/L.50 and A/AC.166/L.51. The Ad Hoc Committee adopted these proposals without a vote (see para. 19 below, draft resolutions I and II). In the light of this decision, the sponsors of the proposals contained in documents A/AC.166/L.47 and A/AC.166/L.48 (see paras. 14 and 15 above) did not press for a vote on their proposals.

18. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the representative of Tunisia, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the draft resolutions contained in documents A/AC.166/L.35/Rev.1, L.41, L.42, L.44, L.45 and L.46 (see paras. 8-13 above) should be referred to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session.

Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee

19. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order

The General Assembly

Adopts the following Declaration:

DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

We, the Members of the United Nations,

Having convened a special session of the General Assembly to study for the first time the problems of raw materials and development, devoted to the consideration of the most important economic problems facing the world community,
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concerning Development, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the heads of the other competent international organizations to assist the Ad Hoc Committee on the Special Programme in performing the functions assigned to it under paragraph 6, and to help, as appropriate, in the operations of the Special Fund;

8. Requests the International Monetary Fund to expedite decisions on:
   (a) The establishment of an extended special facility with a view to enabling the most seriously affected developing countries to participate in it on favourable terms;
   (b) The creation of special drawing rights and the early establishment of the link between the allocation of special drawing rights and development financing; and
   (c) The establishment and operation of the proposed new special facility to extend credits and subsidize interest charges on commercial funds borrowed by Member States bearing in mind the interest of the developing countries and especially the additional financial requirements of the most seriously affected countries;

9. Requests the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund to place their managerial, financial and technical services at the disposal of Governments contributing to emergency financial relief so as to enable them to assist without delay in channelling funds to the recipients, making such institutional and procedural changes as may be required;

10. Invites the United Nations Development Programme to take the necessary steps, particularly at the country level, to respond on an emergency basis to requests for additional assistance which it may be called upon to render within the framework of the special programme;

11. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee on the Special Programme to submit its report and recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-seventh session and invites the Council, on the basis of its consideration of this report, to submit suitable recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session;

12. Decides to consider, within the framework of a new international economic order, as a matter of high priority the question of special measures for the most seriously affected countries at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

20. The Ad Hoc Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

“The General Assembly decides to refer to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session the six draft resolutions contained in paragraphs 8 to 13 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.”

DOCUMENT A/9557

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Sixth Special Session in document A/9556

Note by the Secretary-General

Original: English
1 May 1974

1. At its 21st meeting, on 1 May 1974, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Sixth Special Session adopted a draft resolution on the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (A/9556, para. 19, draft resolution II).

2. Under the terms of section X, paragraph 2, the General Assembly would decide, as a first step in the Special Programme, to request the Secretary-General to launch an emergency operation to provide timely relief to the most seriously affected developing countries defined in preambular paragraph (c), with the aim of maintaining unimpaired essential imports for the duration of the coming 12 months and to invite the industrialized countries and other potential contributors to announce their contributions for emergency assistance or intimate their intention to do so. The Assembly would further request the Secretary-General, on the basis of the emergency operation to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session through the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-seventh session.

3. Under the terms of section X, paragraph 5 (ibid.), the General Assembly would establish a special fund under the auspices of the United Nations, through voluntary contributions from industrialized countries and other potential contributors, as a part of the Special Programme, to provide emergency relief and development assistance, which will commence its operations at the latest by 1 January 1975.

4. Under the terms of section X, paragraph 6, the General Assembly would establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Special Programme, consisting of Member States, which would:
   (a) Make recommendations on the scope, machinery, modes of operation etc. of the Special Fund, taking into account the need for:
      (i) Equitable representation on its governing body;
      (ii) Equitable distribution of its resources;