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## PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 14 November 1985, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. DE PINIÉS	(Spain)
later:	Mr. BOUZIRI (Vice-President)	(Tunisia)
later:	Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Vice-President)	(Costa Rica)
later:	Mr. AGIUS (Vice-President)	(Malta)

United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year  
(plenary meetings devoted to policies and programmes relating to  
youth in accordance with resolution 39/22 of 23 November 1984)

International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace: report of the  
Third Committee [89] (continued)

Policies and programmes relating to youth: report of the Third Committee [95]  
(continued)

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Mrs. AGNELLI (Italy): I would like to convey Italy's greetings and good wishes to the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year, which is called upon to consider the problems of young people in depth.

If we solve the problems of youth today, we shall be able tomorrow to count on more efficient and more motivated ruling classes and workers in various areas of

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activity, and therefore on the more orderly advancement of national societies and of international relations.

For this reason, as well as in line with an institutional duty, the Italian Government has duly established and carried out a youth policy.

This policy is based on the guidelines laid down in a number of documents presented to Parliament by the Government and on the principles set forth in the report of the Advisory Committee established pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 39/22 of 23 November 1984.

Italian policy in this field is concentrated mainly on: youth employment, assistance to the handicapped and to drug addicts, schools, cultural exchanges, volunteer services, and the status of women.

The specific objectives chosen by the Italian Government in the employment sector are: to create areas of employment for young people in industries and other economic sectors through the introduction of incentives in vocational training contracts; to provide the discipline of part-time work; to utilize the opportunities offered by the public sector; and to review apprenticeship norms, especially in the artisan sector.

We plan to help the handicapped and drug addicts by meeting not only their health needs but also their social needs. We have undertaken the programming of school studies and vocational training, as well as the programming of housing and urban structures which will provide the handicapped with easy access to collective public services.

We shall soon complete the reform of the high schools, the review of the elementary school curriculum and the extension of the programming method, recently applied in some university sectors, to all aspects of university organization. Thus we plan to bring education more closely into line with the job opportunities offered by the modern world.

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With a view to allowing young people to enjoy the positive feelings derived from a growing awareness of other national cultures, the Italian Government is laying more and more stress on the development of foreign cultural exchanges. It recognizes that such exchanges, together with increased international co-operation in the scientific, economic and technical fields, is a means of establishing fraternal relations between peoples.

The Government is also giving strong support to initiatives taken in the field of volunteer services. Its aim is to promote the fruitful involvement of our young people in projects that favour the growth of the host countries. Their work has proved to be highly useful in the developing countries and they have been given special encouragement in the ecology sector and in activities designed to protect the environment.

Particular importance is attached to the question of equality between the sexes. The specific aim is to improve the position of young women in society and also to fight the discrimination from which working women are still suffering and which makes them a minority group, especially as regards promotion to higher-level jobs. The Italian Equal Rights Act of 1977 sets forth the principles for solving this problem. In this sector, too, the Government has set up, within the Office of the President of the Council of Ministers, a Committee to deal with the problems of women.

The topics proposed by the General Assembly for International Youth Year proclaimed in resolution 34/151 of 17 December 1979 have been debated in Italy with profound interest and in depth. We have laid particular emphasis on the active participation of young people in this debate. We understand it as a genuine and special "partnership" which will tackle various issues. The Government is at great pains to avoid any temptation to manipulate youth organizations with a view to obtaining results imposed from above.

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Pursuant to the Assembly resolution, we have set up a National Committee for International Youth Year that I have the honour to chair. Within this Committee, a number of sectoral working groups have been established to deal with such specific youth problems as information, employment and marginalization.

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We have tried our hardest to encourage the elaboration of a new youth policy, with as many young people as possible taking part in this task. We hope that this policy will break through the institutional barriers which still oppose their full participation and will gather into one comprehensive whole what has been autonomously developed at the local and national levels. In other words, this is an effort to co-ordinate the initiatives carried forward by young people themselves.

In this context we have started to extend to all the municipalities of Italy the experience of youth projects already carried forward by some, such as Torino, Bologna, Vicenza and Forli. Quite recently in Bologna a conference entitled "The Institutional forms to give effect to a national youth policy" was held. It assembled concrete proposals in order to give a common sense of direction to a multiplicity of local initiatives.

We have also established a number of working groups in which youth organizations play a dominant role.

The first working group was set up to foster the participation of young people in discussions of school problems. The group completed a study which will be presented during a conference to be held in Urbino on the topic "Young people and institutions: youth participation in school - objectives and proposals".

The second working group studied a report on the development of a new employment strategy evolved from many youth projects on the basis of the diversification, extension and more sophisticated development of the educational system and of vocational training. The specific conclusion which emerged is that the system should not only consider existing job opportunities but also anticipate future employment trends. In this field, self-employment initiatives have received a strong boost by the establishment of youth co-operatives and the experiment of opening "transitional shops" designed to revive the handicrafts industry through the training of artisans in the various sectors.

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The third working group has devoted special attention to the question of peace, not in its negative sense meaning absence of war, but as a positive instrument of brotherhood and understanding. The "International Youth Meeting" held at Jesolo in September provided a moment of reflection for 450 young participants. Of these, 280 came from European and non-European countries. They agreed on the adoption of a new set of values - namely, individual responsibility; international social justice; individual freedom with respect for diversity; self-determination of peoples; international democracy; and partnership.

The fifth working group tackled the problems of marginalization. As a consequence of conditions of diversity, marginalization involves different approaches to social conflicts: some young people react aggressively or violently, some take to alcohol or drugs; some, on the other hand, become loyal members of youth organizations; others retreat into a state of passivity or shrink back into their shells in a state of sterile withdrawal. The most vulnerable are those who live in difficult social conditions. To cite only some of the most endangered groups, we could mention the handicapped and the immigrants.

Finally, the question of drugs was exhaustively discussed at the recent conference, "Youth for youth against drugs", held in October at Villa San Giovanni. In its conclusions, it stressed that the instruments of youth policy must involve not only the individual but all the resources of society. This conference, in other words, laid down the principle that even the individual with the greatest lacunae in his own affective past has the ability to make his own special contribution to the elaboration of his life projects. This contribution must be recognized and encouraged.

In concluding, may I point out that we have tried to work in a whole series of heterogeneous sectors, analysing separately the individual problems in order to reach also viable conclusions likely to improve substantially the overall picture.

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We hope to be able to profit from our own experience; but we are also watching with equal interest similar experience acquired in other countries. We are convinced that the exchange of experience and of opinions can enrich all of us and help to open up before us the prospect of a generation of active young people in the different nations who are healthier and more aware of their problems.

Indeed, we must admit that development in this direction would obviously help to reduce international tensions, which are inevitably affected by the upsets inherent in the struggles and malaise of young people.

Mr. DUDINSKI (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): We the representatives of the youth of the Member States of the United Nations have gathered here at the United Nations in this International Youth Year being held under the theme "Participation, Development, Peace" to discuss the most difficult problems facing the young generation of the world.

The main condition to guarantee and ensure the vital rights and interests of the youth of all countries and the main prerequisite for progress in all areas of human activities is precisely the prevention of nuclear war and ensuring global lasting peace. This is particularly timely this year, on the fortieth anniversary of the victory over Hitler fascism and Japanese militarism. In the noble goal of defending the greatest human right, the right to life, a great deal depends on young people and much can be done by them. Just as it is to all other young people in the Soviet Union, peace is very dear to me. And these are not just words; this is the policy of our State and the aspiration of our people. The Byelorussian SSR knows very well the meaning of war. In the period of the Second World War our Republic was subjected to terrible destruction by the Hitler hordes. But the greatest and most irreplaceable losses to Byelorussia, like those of the entire Soviet State, were the losses in people: our grandparents, our mothers and fathers, our older brothers and sisters, those who fell, were killed and tortured