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AS WRITTEN

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

MESSAGE

OF H.E.MR. LEVON TER-PETROSSIAN
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
TO THE PARTICIPANTS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Cairo, September 5-13, 1994

Yerevan. 1 994

Honorable Heads of States and Governments,
UN Secretary-General Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali,

Heads and Members of Delegation,

The Cairo Conference on Population and Development is dedicated to the fundamental problems of modern times. The future of civilization truly depends on the ability of the representatives of nations and states with the experience of the past and of those capable to seize the opportunities of the present to lay the foundations for universal cooperation and respond to the imperatives of the day.

The world in which we live is essentially different from that of the turn of the century, and even from the world of the mid-century. Demographic, economic, food-related, ecological and energy problems which, in the not distant past were viewed as national or regional issues, have now become global problems. These are impossible to resolve without the combined efforts of mankind.

With this regard I would like to express my deep respect to the United Nations Organization, which under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proven to be an exceptional international forum capable to utilize the collective mind and will of mankind.

This is not the first UN conference on worldwide problems. It is a pleasure to recall the responsible approach manifested during the 1992 UN Conference on Environment in Rio de Janeiro, in which I had the honor to participate.

It is extremely important that the spirit of the past conferences and mankind's striving to control the most crucial problems pertaining to its own existence be expressed in concrete action.

The world today is flooded with different interests, contradictions and conflicts. Our region is witness to that. If we want to ensure the future of our children, we must adopt a very broad and responsible approach to the realities of the day. Mutual accusations of propagandistic nature must be replaced by the search for realistic solutions to conflicts and problems based on compromise.

The Cairo Conference, as well as other meetings of such scale, objectively contribute to the increase of role of multilateral mechanisms to coordinate the actions of states, and the development of a general strategy to regulate the emerging world problems and contradictions. They bring together the wishes of states, by combining their individual efforts, on the one hand, and enriching one another through their accumulated experience, on the other.

How will mankind be seen as it enters the XXI century? Reflections on that not too distant future dominate our thoughts. We look to the future with anxiety but nonetheless with anticipation and hope.

We in Armenia have initiated and are implementing programmes of radical economic reforms, which correspond to the principles of this and previous conferences. Parallel to achieving stable economic growth, these programmes are intended to create a safe environment, increase the living standards of the population, improve public health, education and social security. To achieve these goals we have to first overcome the consequences of the 1988 tragic earthquake and the communication and transport blockade, and to solve the problems of the hundreds of thousands refugees living in Armenia. Nevertheless, we are determined to gradually integrate in the world economy. For this we and other newly independent states need the support of international institutions.

We appreciate very highly the significance that is given to the role of women within the scope of the objectives and tasks of the Programme of Action. It is not accidental that an international conference entitled "Women on the Threshold of the XXI Century" is planned to be held in the capital of Armenia.

Armenia is prepared to do its best to contribute to the realization of the decisions of the Conference on Population and Development. We hope that those decisions will be based on an affirmative international consensus.

It is a great pleasure for me to address the Conference and specially to congratulate the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Hosni Mubarak, on the occasion of his election as Chairman of the Conference and for the enormous efforts for the organization of this Conference.

I would also like to congratulate the Secretary-General of the Conference Ms. Nafis Sadik for her devotion and for the fruitful preparatory work.

I congratulate all the participants of the Conference and wish them success in their work in the name of the well-being of all nations, peace and progress.

LEVON TER-PETROSSIAN

Yerevan, September 7, 1994

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