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LETTER DATED 11 DECEMBER 1950 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF POLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, 11 December 1950.

I have the honour to enclose a printed copy of the Memorandum addressed to the United Nations and adopted by the World Congress for Peace, held in Warsaw from 16 November to 22 November 1950. Professor F. Joliot-Curie, the President of the Second Congress for Peace, acting on behalf of the Permanent Peace Council, has submitted the Memorandum which was adopted by the Plenary Session of the Congress to the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and other officers of the United Nations.

Herewith I beg to request, on behalf of my Delegation, that this Memorandum be issued as a United Nations document and distributed to all Delegations.

In view of the importance of the Memorandum and the approaching end of the Assembly, I would appreciate a speedy publication and distribution of that document.

(Signed) JULIUSZ KATZ-SUCHY
Permanent Representative of
Poland to the United Nations

MEMORANDUM ADDRESSED TO THE UNITED NATIONS BY THE SECOND WORLD PEACE
CONGRESS, WARSAW, 16-22 NOVEMBER 1950

When they established the United Nations, the peoples of the world placed great hopes in that Organization. The greatest of these is the hope of peace.

At the present time, however, war is disturbing the peaceful life of certain peoples and soon it may disturb that of all mankind. If the United Nations is not justifying the great hopes which were placed in it by the peoples of the world -- both those represented in it by their Governments and those not yet represented in it -- if the United Nations is not ensuring peace and tranquillity for mankind, this is because it is influenced by those forces which have abandoned the only possible path to universal peace: the search for general agreement.

If the United Nations wishes to justify the hopes which mankind still places in it, it must return to the path which the peoples of the world have traced out for it since the day of its foundation and, as the first step along this path, it must arrange a meeting of the five Great Powers -- the United States of America, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China -- as soon as possible, for the consideration and peaceful settlement of current disputes.

The Second World Peace Congress, comprising delegates from eighty countries and representing the genuine voice of peace-loving mankind, urges that the United Nations and the legislative organs to which the governments of the various countries are responsible should immediately consider the following proposals which are designed to restore confidence among all countries, irrespective of their social systems, and to maintain and restore peace.

1. In view of the fact that the war now proceeding in Korea is not only causing the Korean people untold suffering but is also threatening to spread, we urge that this war should cease, that foreign armies should be withdrawn from Korea and that a peaceful solution should be found, with the participation of the representatives of the Korean people, for the domestic conflict which is setting one part of Korea against the other.

/We urge

We urge that this problem should be solved by the full Security Council, that is to say, including representatives of the People's Republic of China. We call for the cessation of intervention by American troops against the Chinese island of Taiwan (Formosa) and of the hostilities against the Republic of Viet-Nam, which are also fraught with the danger of world war.

2. We categorically condemn any attempt made, or any measure taken, in violation of the international agreements prohibiting the rearmament of Germany and Japan. These attempts and measures represent a grave threat to peace. We urgently demand the conclusion of a peace treaty with a unified and demilitarized Germany, and with Japan, and the withdrawal of occupation forces from these two countries.

3. We regard the violent measures used to maintain peoples in a state of colonial dependence and oppression as a threat to the cause of peace and we proclaim the right of these peoples to freedom and independence.

We also proclaim our opposition to all forms of racial discrimination, since they engender hatred between nations and endanger peace.

4. We deem it necessary to denounce the attempts of the aggressors to confuse the very concept of what constitutes aggression and thus to provide a pretext for foreign intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries.

No political, strategic or economic consideration, no argument based on the internal situation or the existence of domestic disputes in any given State can justify armed intervention by any other State whatsoever. Aggression is a criminal act committed by the State which first uses armed force against another State on any pretext whatever.

5. We consider that propaganda for a new war constitutes the greatest threat to the peaceful collaboration of nations. We regard it as one of the most serious crimes against humanity. We call upon the parliaments of all countries to enact a law for the protection of peace, which will make propaganda in favour of a new war, in whatever form, a criminal offence.

6. Since all decent men, irrespective of their political beliefs, regard the ruthless mass extermination of the civil population of Korea as a crime against mankind, we ask that an authoritative international commission should be called upon to investigate the crimes which have been committed in the Korean war and, in particular, the question of General MacArthur's responsibility.

/7. As spokesmen

7. As spokesmen of the peoples who bear the heavy burden of war budgets, firmly resolved to ensure firm and lasting peace for mankind, we place the following proposals before the United Nations, parliaments and peoples:

The absolute banning of all kinds of atomic weapons, bacteriological, chemical, poisonous and radio-active weapons, and all other means of mass extermination;

The proclaiming as a war criminal of the government which first uses these weapons;

The Second World Congress, aware of its responsibility to the peoples, solemnly appeals to the Great Powers that, in the course of 1951 and 1952, they should, progressively, simultaneously and in the same proportions, reduce all their land, sea and air forces, such reduction to be between one-third and one-half.

Such a step will, by placing a limit on the armaments race, reduce the danger of aggression.

It will be a means of lightening the burdens encumbering State budgets and weighing heavily upon all classes of the people.

It will also be a means of re-establishing international confidence and necessary co-operation among all nations, irrespective of their social systems.

The Congress declares that control measures to prohibit atomic and mass-destruction weapons and so-called conventional armaments are technically possible. An international control body provided with qualified inspectors should be established under the Security Council. It will be the duty of such a body to supervise both the reduction of conventional armaments and the prohibition of atomic, bacteriological, chemical and other weapons.

In order to be effective, such control should extend not only to military forces, existing weapons and armament production declared by each country, but also, upon demand of the international control commission, to the inspection of military forces, armaments and production of armaments presumed to exist in addition to what has been declared.

/These proposals

These proposals for a reduction of armed forces constitute a first step towards general and total disarmament, which remains the ultimate goal of the champions of peace.

The Second World Peace Congress, in the conviction that peace cannot be guaranteed by seeking a balance of forces leading to an armaments race, declares that these proposals give no military advantage to any nation, but that they will certainly result in preventing war and in increasing the welfare and security of all the peoples of the world.

8. We emphasize that, in certain countries, the transition from a peace-time to a war-time economy disturbs to an increasing extent both economic relations and the international trade in raw materials and manufactured goods. We believe that such a transition has a harmful effect on the standard of living of numerous peoples, that it obstructs economic progress and trade currents, and that the resulting situation is the cause of conflicts which threaten ^{the} peace of the world.

Because we are defending the vital interests of peoples and are desirous of placing the international situation on a sounder basis, we ask that normal principles of exchange and trade between the various countries be re-established on a basis of reciprocity. In this way, the needs of the peoples would be satisfied, all forms of economic discrimination would be removed, and the economic development of large and small States would be assured.

9. We consider that the obstacles placed in the way of cultural intercourse among peoples engenders discord and misunderstanding, creates an atmosphere of distrust and favours war propaganda. We consider that closer cultural bonds among peoples create the most favourable conditions for their mutual understanding and strengthens their confidence in the common struggle for peace.

We therefore call upon all Governments to contribute to improving cultural relations among peoples, in order to enable them to become more familiar with their respective contributions in the field of culture. We ask them to facilitate the organization of international conferences of scholars, visits from one country to the other, the most extensive publication and dissemination of literary works and familiarity with works of art.

/We invite

We invite the United Nations to justify the hopes which people have placed in it, and we bring to its attention the establishment by us of a world peace council.

The world peace council will be a representative body with delegates from all the peoples of the world, whether their countries are members of the United Nations or not or are still dependencies or colonies.

It calls upon the United Nations to carry out effectively the duties entrusted to it in order to strengthen and develop pacific collaboration among all countries. It will assume the lofty task of ^{ensuring} solid and lasting peace corresponding to the vital interests of all nations.

Lastly, the world peace council will give the entire human race the assurance that despite all present difficulties which must not be minimized, it will accomplish its mission.

For the Second World Congress for Peace

(signed) F. JOLIOT-CURIE

President:

This message to the United Nations was
adopted at the Plenary Meeting of the
Second World Peace Conference
held at Warsaw on 22 November 1950.