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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF
STATE OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE CONFERENCE

I have the honour to transmit herewith the message of 24 August 1987 from the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honecker, to the President of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

I should be grateful if you would bring the message to the attention of the President and to have it circulated as a document of the Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

(Signed) Harry OTT
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex

GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST
UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE
OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

On behalf of the German Democratic Republic I extend cordial greetings to you and to the participants in the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

The convening of this significant international meeting testifies to a growing awareness that the realities of the nuclear and space age and a propitious economic and social development for all countries and peoples require a new, responsible approach to the question of war or peace. Comprehensive international security is inconceivable without disarmament and development.

More weapons do not produce more security. Far-reaching measures of disarmament would lessen military confrontation and the danger of war and, at the same time, release considerable resources for the economic and social development of all States, especially for finding solutions to the acute problems of developing countries, including their foreign debts. New avenues of trustful co-operation could be opened up between States, and efforts to eliminate hunger and disease, to halt the destruction of the human environment and to resolve other global problems of mankind could be pursued more vigorously.

At their recent session in Berlin, the Warsaw Treaty States issued comprehensive disarmament proposals which, if implemented, would permit a turn for the better in international relations. Those proposals also point the way to mutually advantageous economic, scientific and technological relations among States and towards overcoming underdevelopment.

There are now greater opportunities for achieving a breakthrough in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. These should be seized with determination. The Soviet proposals offer the historic chance of concluding a Soviet-United States agreement to eliminate medium-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles and thus to start nuclear disarmament.

Proceeding from the supreme principle of its policy to do everything so that no more war, but only peace will emanate from German soil, the German Democratic Republic is making every effort towards effective disarmament measures in the global and regional framework. It is working for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free corridor and a chemical-weapon-free zone in central Europe.

All countries, irrespective of the political, economic and social system they have, should pursue the common objective that nuclear energy, outer space and high technologies be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, and they should work together on an equal basis for the economic security and development of all nations. The world of today needs dialogue and result-oriented negotiation for the mutual benefit of all parties concerned.

I should like to express the expectation that the Conference will contribute towards mobilizing all forces of reason and realism so as to avert nuclear catastrophe, intensify disarmament efforts and shape a fruitful co-operation of States. Action-oriented decisions should give concrete substance to the "disarmament for development" principle, in which the peoples are placing so much hope. Along these lines I wish the Conference every success.
