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Forty-second session
Agenda items 49, 50, 56, 61, 62, 64,
66, 69, 72 and 73
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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-second year,

Letter dated 15 December 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the German Democratic Republic to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the press release on the meeting of leading representatives of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization, held on 11 December 1987 (see annex).

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I would be most grateful if you could have this letter and the press release circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 49, 50, 56, 61, 62, 64, 66, 69, 72 and 73, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dietmar HUCKE
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Press release on the meeting of leading representatives
of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization,
held on 11 December 1987

On 11 December 1987, a jointly agreed meeting of the General Secretaries and First Secretaries of the Central Committees of the fraternal parties of the Warsaw Treaty member States was held at Berlin. The participants in the meeting included Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) and Chairman of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria; Janos Kadar, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP); Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic; Wojciech Jaruzelski, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party (PUWP) and Chairman of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic; Ioan Totu, Candidate of the Political Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party (RCP) and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, as the Plenipotentiary of the General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu; Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU); Gustav Husak, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CPC) and President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Also participating in the meeting were:

From the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Dobri Dzhurov, Member of the Politburo of the BCP Central Committee and Minister of Defence; and Petyr Mladenov, Member of the Politburo of the BCP Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs;

From the Hungarian People's Republic, Peter Varkonyi, Member of the HSWP Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Ferenc Karpati, Member of the HSWP Central Committee and Minister of Defence;

From the German Democratic Republic, Willi Stoph, Member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers; Heinz Kessler, Member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and Minister of National Defence; and Oskar Fischer, Member of the SED Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs;

From the Polish People's Republic, Marian Orzechowski, Member of the Politburo of the PUWP Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Florian Siwicki, Member of the Politburo of the PUWP Central Committee and Minister of National Defence;

From the Socialist Republic of Romania, Vasile Milea, Candidate of the Political Executive Committee of the RCP Central Committee and Minister of National Defence;

From the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Eduard Shevardnadze, Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Alexander Yakovlev, Member of the Politburo and Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Dimitry Yasov, Candidate of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of National Defence; Anatoli Dobrynin, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and Vadim Medvediev, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee;

From the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Bohuslav Chnoupek, Member of the CPC Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Karel Rusov, Member of the CPC Central Committee and First Deputy Minister of National Defence.

The Commander-in-Chief of the United Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty member States, Marshal of the Soviet Union Viktor Kulikov, also took part in the meeting.

Mikhail Gorbachev informed the participants in the meeting in detail on his visit to the United States and on the course and outcome of the negotiations with President Ronald Reagan. The leading representatives of the allied countries expressed their full support and high appreciation of the outcome of the Washington talks. A step of historic dimensions has been taken which is already having a beneficial effect on the political climate on our planet, building confidence among States and nurturing hopes for the triumph of realism and common sense in the complicated world of today, characterized as it is by contradictions and yet by interdependence. The participants in the meeting assured Mikhail Gorbachev of their great respect for the persistent and energetic efforts made by the Soviet Union, which brought the first tangible results in the field of nuclear disarmament and are proof of the vitality of the new way of political thinking. They stressed their satisfaction with the fact that this was an expression of the joint peace policy pursued by the Warsaw Treaty signatory States, the initiatives and activities launched by the socialist countries, which untiringly work to reduce confrontation and move towards mutually beneficial co-operation in international relations.

They emphasized the constructive approach of the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia, which declared their willingness to fulfil the provisions laid down in the Washington Treaty relating to these countries.

The Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-range and Shorter-range Missiles complies with the interests of each and everyone of us and increases security in Europe, Asia and elsewhere.

The activities of many countries, including the non-aligned States, as well as anti-war movements and peace-loving forces on all continents, have helped it come about.

The participants in the meeting all shared the opinion that it is a matter of fundamental significance that the negotiations in Washington led to an agreement in principle between the USSR and the United States on halving the number of strategic offensive weapons on either side while strictly keeping to the anti-ballistic missile Treaty. The conclusion of a respective agreement, which may happen in the near future, would be a fundamental step forward towards disarmament and towards the creation of a world free from nuclear weapons and violence.

The participants were agreed that the accord reached also provided a solid foundation for making headway in other areas to bridle the arms race - first and foremost with regard to banning and eliminating chemical weapons, stopping nuclear tests and reducing armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic Ocean to the Urals.

The allied socialist countries reaffirmed their readiness to keep to the levels required for their defence and solve the problem of asymmetries and imbalances in individual types of weapons in such a way that the side which has an advantage over the other side reduces the numbers of its weapons. At the same time they expressed their worries about the plans of certain NATO circles to "compensate" for the elimination of the two categories of nuclear weapons on this continent by increasing the number and modernizing other types of weapons.

The participants in the meeting expressed the resolve of the Warsaw Treaty signatory States to continue to make their contribution to strengthening peace, to disarmament, to establishing a comprehensive system of international security and to settling other complex global and regional issues.

It is in this spirit that they will co-operate closely with all the forces that advocate maintaining and strengthening peace in order to banish war once and for all from human civilization.

The Foreign Ministers of the German Democratic Republic, the USSR and Czechoslovakia signed an agreement between the German Democratic Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on inspections in connection with the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the elimination of their intermediate- and shorter-range missiles.

An atmosphere of fraternal friendship and comradely co-operation, which characterizes relations between the allied socialist countries, prevailed at the meeting held in the capital of the German Democratic Republic.
