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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 11 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you a letter from Mr. Bohuslav Chřoupek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, concerning a new Czechoslovak initiative on the gradual establishment of a zone of confidence, co-operation and good-neighbourly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty States and the NATO States as put forward by Mr. Miloš Jakeš, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, in Prague on 24 February 1988.

* A/43/50.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 12, 64, 67, 72, 73 and 137 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Evzen ZÁPOTOCKÝ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 25 February 1988 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Czechoslovakia to the Secretary-General

In the context of the lasting endeavours exerted by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic towards the safeguarding of international peace and security, which is also the principal goal of the United Nations, I wish to inform you of a new Czechoslovak initiative envisaging gradual establishment of a zone of confidence, co-operation and good-neighbourly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty States and the NATO States which was put forward by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Mr. Miloš Jakeš, in his statement delivered in Prague on 24 February 1988 on the occasion of the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the victory of the Czechoslovak working people.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is convinced that the problem of European security, co-operation and confidence requires new creative approaches that will be increasingly conducive to the strengthening of peaceful relations in Europe, which is an urgent, imperative demand corresponding with the interests of world peace, détente and development of all countries and nations.

With the view of attaining these goals, my country has been consistently striving for an intensification of constructive international dialogue on the ways and means of consolidating guarantees of peace in all spheres of international relations, at both the global and the regional levels. In so doing, it proceeds on the basis of full awareness of the irreplaceable role of the United Nations as a universal guarantee of international peace and security, being determined to contribute to its enhancement in all respects.

Guided by the aforesaid ideas, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is putting forward the above-mentioned proposal relating to the entire complex of the highly topical issues concerning strengthening of peace, co-operation and confidence on our continent, which reads as follows:

"We live in the heart of Europe interlaced by innumerable historical, cultural, economic and national ties. At the same time, we are on the borderline between the two most powerful politico-military groupings, in an area oversaturated with weapons. Our priority objective is good-neighbourliness and good partnership in a common European home. To this end, we have been exerting constant efforts with a view to developing all-round dialogue, especially within the framework of the all-European process. Its potential is already beginning to make itself felt. With the aim of moving further ahead the horizons of co-operation, we are striving for a speedy conclusion of the CSCE follow-up meeting at Vienna by the adoption of a substantial and balanced final document. Beside progress in the economic and humanitarian fields, we accord priority also to opening already during this year talks on disarmament in Europe.

"Nowadays, especially broad opportunities are offering themselves for all European countries, large and small alike, to contribute their respective shares to the consolidation of the positive tendencies of the present time. They all bear responsibility for peace and understanding, for the fate of our continent.

"Reliable peace and security cannot be safeguarded only through measures in the military sphere. Impulses emerging from dialogue on disarmament should be utilized so as to promote progress in all fields of co-operation. We therefore suggest that a zone of confidence, co-operation and good-neighbourly relations be gradually built up along the line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty and the NATO States. We believe that these States might set an example in broad implementation of the provisions of the all-European process in their relations, especially in neighbourly relations, and that they might chart and put into practice new courses of co-operation. Understandably, we advocate a comprehensive approach involving in equal measure the military, political, economic, ecological and humanitarian fields.

"In the military field, this could mean forming gradually a sort of 'diluted' zone where the level of military confrontation would be reduced, from which the most dangerous types of offensive weapons would be eliminated and where significant confidence-building measures would be adopted. Such an approach is in full harmony with the already submitted proposals for nuclear- and chemical-weapon-free zones as well as with the intentions aimed at dealing with the various aspects of disarmament and building of confidence between groups of European States, at the all-European or at the global level.

"In the other spheres, there is a no less extensive room for activity in the pursuit of political dialogue, all-round and mutually beneficial co-operation and elimination of obstacles and persisting long-term problems, including the ecological ones. It is necessary to do away with distorted ideas of one another's objectives and intentions, to expand contacts and to enhance mutual knowledge.

"We propose to convene at a certain stage of elaboration of this initiative a meeting of representatives of the concerned and other interested countries at the political level for the purpose of considering the possibilities of building up confidence and developing co-operation in all fields."

We are profoundly convinced that the present proposal of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, stemming from the desire to make a constructive contribution to the strengthening of peace and security, progress in disarmament and expansion of mutually beneficial ties of co-operation and confidence both in Europe and throughout the world, is in full harmony with the objectives and principles of the United Nations as enshrined in its Charter. Therefore, I should like to express my conviction that its presentation will become an impulse prompting response in the form of constructive steps in the same direction on the part of those States which

it concerns directly and give a new impetus to activation of the efforts of the United Nations towards the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

(Signed) Bohuslav CH^YNOUPEK
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
