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WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Letter dated 8 May 1975 from the Permanent Representative of Romania
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you, with reference to General Assembly resolution 3260 (XXIX), that the position of the Socialist Republic of Romania on the main objectives of the World Disarmament Conference was stated in the reply from the Romanian Government, reproduced in document A/8817 of 25 September 1972, from which I quote the following paragraphs:

"Main objectives

The Socialist Republic of Romania conceives the World Disarmament Conference as a high-level forum for debate and negotiation, with the participation of all States, which would closely scrutinize, and make an effective contribution to the adoption of, concrete measures aimed at halting the arms race and achieving disarmament and, in particular, at the prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons.

The Romanian Government sees this conference as a major political action for which all States and all Governments are called upon to act in a spirit of responsibility towards their own peoples and the peoples of the whole world and to contribute to the adoption of effective disarmament measures, in conformity with the hopes for the peace and progress of mankind.

The general discussions on disarmament held hitherto should be replaced by effective negotiations, and concrete disarmament programmes should be prepared and implemented in stages without further delay.

Within the framework of the World Disarmament Conference and during the annual sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, States should periodically consider the manner in which the conference is carrying out its mandate and review the progress achieved in implementing specific disarmament

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programmes, at the same time agreeing on any further measures and action which might be required at each new stage.

The preparation, convening and work of the conference should induce States to redouble their efforts to achieve disarmament, concentrating such efforts on the most important and pressing disarmament problems, the taking of concrete steps towards general disarmament and, in particular, the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Not only would disarmament be a step of major importance for peace throughout the world, it would also directly accelerate the advance of human civilization by releasing substantial material and human resources.

If the developing countries were given but a fraction of these resources to bolster their efforts, they would have the possibility of eliminating under-development more quickly and making swifter progress along the path of economic and social advancement.

By its composition, organization, activities and working methods, the World Disarmament Conference should provide a democratic forum, based on the principle of the equality of rights of States. On the premise that in the contemporary world no problem affecting a number of States can be solved without the direct participation of all concerned and respect for their interests, and since all peoples are deeply interested in disarmament problems, the Romanian Government considers it essential to ensure that all countries, large, small and medium-sized, whether or not possessing nuclear weapons, Members and non-members of the United Nations alike, can participate effectively and on an equal footing in the discussions and negotiations of the conference and in the adoption of all its decisions.

Any preparatory measures concerning the convening of the conference and any agreement on disarmament reached at the conference should respect the legitimate rights and interests of all peoples and help to strengthen peace and security everywhere.

At the same time, the World Disarmament Conference should help to ensure that people are kept fully informed of developments in the arms race, with its serious consequences, and of the present state of disarmament; the conference should also help to mobilize all the forces of peace and progress to promote the struggle for a rapid halt to the arms race and the implementation of disarmament measures. World opinion should be informed of all the activities of the world conference, the efforts deployed, the results obtained, and the views, suggestions and proposals of States, so as to be able to exercise constant and effective control."

The recent course of international events confirms anew the correctness of the Romanian Government's view as to the need to convene without delay the World Disarmament Conference, whose main objective should be to consider and adopt specific measures for achieving general disarmament, and in particular nuclear disarmament.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 42 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Disarmament Conference".

(Signed) Ion DATCU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Socialist Republic of Romania
to the United Nations
