



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/40/825
S/17596

30 October 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fortieth session
Agenda items 50, 51, 57, 58,
60, 61, 62, 65, 68 and 69
CESSATION OF ALL TEST EXPLOSIONS
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE
IN OUTER SPACE
IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 39/60 ON THE IMMEDIATE
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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fortieth year

Letter dated 30 October 1985 from the representatives of
Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United
Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

We have the honour to request you to have circulated among Member States the joint message addressed to His Excellency, Mr. Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, and His Excellency Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, General

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, by His Excellency Mr. Raúl Alfonsín, President of Argentina, His Excellency Mr. Andreas Papandreu, Prime Minister of Greece, His Excellency Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Mr. Miguel de la Madrid, President of Mexico, His Excellency Mr. Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden, and His Excellency Mr. Julius Nyerere, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, on 24 October 1985, as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 50, 51, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 65, 68 and 69, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Carlos M. MUÑOZ
Permanent Representative of
Argentina to the United Nations

(Signed) Mihalis DOUNTAS
Permanent Representative of
Greece to the United Nations

(Signed) N. KRISHNAN
Permanent Representative of
India to the United Nations

(Signed) Mario MOYA-PALENCIA
Permanent Representative of
Mexico to the United Nations

(Signed) Anders FERM
Permanent Representative of
Sweden to the United Nations

(Signed) Cyprian K. P. MAJENGO
Acting Permanent Representative of
the United Republic of Tanzania to
the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint message dated 24 October 1985 addressed to the President of the United States of America and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union by the Heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania

The world's highest expectations are focused on your meeting at Geneva next month. All peoples and Governments hope that you will be able to stop the deepening of tensions of the last years, opening an era of peace and security for humanity.

You know, as we do, that the growing stockpiles of nuclear weapons, if used, even though by accident or by miscalculation, will engulf us all in complete destruction. No interest can justify this threat to present and future generations. Hence the prevention of nuclear war is a key issue not only for your peoples and their destinies but for all people on every continent. Since the citizens of all nations are equally threatened by the consequences of nuclear war, it is of utmost importance to us also that your meeting should create appropriate conditions and produce concrete steps towards disarmament and peace.

The tragedy of our time is that, mainly due to mutual distrust, it has so far been impossible to end the nuclear arms race. For your own security and that of all nations and human beings and in order to ensure the preservation of the planet we all share, it is of paramount importance to build mutual confidence.

Your meeting offers a historic opportunity to step boldly out of the vicious circle of the escalating arms race. We hope that, through the demonstration of will to establish mutual confidence by overcoming differences, new impetus will be imparted to your bilateral negotiations and also to multilateral negotiations at Geneva, Stockholm and Vienna.

We recognize as a positive development that during the present year your Governments have initiated at Geneva negotiations covering both space and nuclear arms to be considered in their interrelationship. We are concerned that such negotiations have not yet produced results. We feel, however, that various recent proposals and developments seem to offer new hope that both deep cuts in the arsenals of nuclear weapons and effective measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space will now be seriously considered in the bilateral negotiations at Geneva in conformity with the conclusions we expect you to reach at your meeting.

In our Delhi Declaration of January this year (A/40/114-S/16921, annex), we called for a complete halt in the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and delivery vehicles, and of space weapons, to be immediately followed by substantial reductions in nuclear forces. This would facilitate the task of preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on Earth, ultimately eliminating nuclear arms everywhere.

Since January some of us have had the privilege of discussing our proposals with you in person, as well as with the leaders of the other nuclear-weapon States. One suggestion that we particularly emphasized in our message from Delhi was for a halt to all nuclear-weapons testing and the early conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. In the light of these valuable discussions, we have decided to put forward some ideas for consideration at your meeting at Geneva.

We propose that you suspend all nuclear tests for a period of 12 months. Such a suspension could be extended or made permanent. We expect that the other nuclear-weapon States also should take corresponding action.

We believe that this would greatly improve the prospects for substantive agreements and would restrain the development of new, faster and more accurate weapons, which continues unabated even while negotiations are under way.

The problems of verifying the suspension we propose are difficult, but not insurmountable. We believe that you yourselves could find a solution satisfactory to both. If you would consider it helpful, we are ready to offer our good offices in order to facilitate the establishment of effective verification arrangements.

Third-party verification could provide a high degree of certainty that testing programmes have ceased. We propose to establish verification mechanisms on our territories to achieve this objective.

The responsibility entrusted to you is indeed awesome. We are convinced that the international community will support you in your endeavours. For our part, we reiterate our readiness to work together with you for the common security and survival of humanity.

Raúl ALFONSIN
President of Argentina

Rajiv GANDHI
Prime Minister of India

Miguel DE LA MADRID
President of Mexico

Julius NYERERE
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Olof PALME
Prime Minister of Sweden

Andreas PAPANDREOU
Prime Minister of Greece
