

ROMANIA'S POSITION ON DISARMAMENT

Extracts from the report presented by Nicolae CEAUȘESCU, Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Romania, at the Party's Twelfth Congress, Bucharest, 19 November 1979

1. The achievement of general disarmament and, above all, of nuclear disarmament is of fundamental importance to the progress and development of mankind and to the very existence of civilization. The intensification of the arms race and the gigantic increase in military expenditure - which this year amounted to the record figure of \$425 billion - constitute an increasingly heavy burden for all peoples of the world and are a serious threat to world peace and security. It is estimated that the arsenal of weapons and armaments - mainly of a nuclear nature - that has been stockpiled in the world could destroy it several times over. In the circumstances, therefore, the question is what would remain after a nuclear war.

In view of these facts and prospects, it is obvious that no people should remain aloof from or remain uncommitted to the struggle for disarmament and peace.

Indeed, the world is offered only two possible courses, two possible policies at the present time: either the arms race with its baleful consequences continues, or resolute steps are taken to achieve disarmament and peace. It is in the interest of each people and of the development of civilization and of mankind as a whole that everything possible should be done to reject resolutely the policy of armaments and, consequently, to promote the policy of disarmament and peace.

2. The priority task of our time is to put an immediate end to the arms race.

Our responsibility towards our peoples and for peace and the life of mankind as a whole implies that statesmen, Governments, realistic political forces throughout the world and world public opinion should take action along these lines with all due firmness. All countries and all peoples should resolutely reject the arms race and do everything in their power to bring about a reduction of military expenditures and the achievement of disarmament.

In our view, it is of the utmost importance that military expenditures should be reduced by at least 10 per cent up to 1985; 50 per cent of the funds thus saved could be used to satisfy social requirements in each country and

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50 per cent could be used to assist the developing countries. It is known that our country has taken certain specific steps in this direction by reducing the military expenditure component of its 1979 and 1980 budgets and using the resources thus released to increase family allowances. This decision was welcomed as a step likely to stimulate the desire to reduce military expenditures.

3. Romania has submitted specific disarmament proposals to the United Nations and other international forums. We are, of course, aware that disarmament is a complex and long-term process. For this reason, we consider that it would be very important to proceed with the adoption of partial measures, such as the dismantling of foreign military bases, the withdrawal of all troops and all armaments within national frontiers, the gradual reduction of national armies and the elimination of military blocs. Such measures would have the effect of strengthening confidence between States and pave the way for general and complete disarmament.

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4. The special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament created a more democratic framework for the discussion and solution of this problem. Now it is essential that use should be made of this framework, as well as of other existing bodies, and that effective steps should be taken to achieve practical disarmament measures. We realize that international conditions are at present favourable to the achievement of concrete measures in this direction. The time has come for all peoples to act resolutely so that these possibilities can be realized.

5. Romania regards the conclusion of the SALT II Agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States as a positive factor increasing confidence and creating conditions that will make it possible in future to tackle basic disarmament questions.

We consider that, in present circumstances, it would be of decisive importance to halt the production of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction, and to embark on effective nuclear disarmament under strict international control within the framework and under the auspices of the United Nations.

6. Romania, as a socialist country whose policy is based on the ideals of peace and progress, will continue to take the most resolute measures aimed at

building up a world without weapons and without wars, a world in which there is security and co-operation between all peoples.

We call on all peoples of the world, on the parliaments and Governments of States, on political parties, on democratic forces throughout the world and on world public opinion to work resolutely and tirelessly to bring about the attainment of mankind's supreme goal - disarmament.

Let us do everything in our power to ensure that the immense material and human resources which are today wasted on weapons, on the development of means of mass destruction and on war are used solely and entirely to promote peace and the welfare of peoples, their independence and happiness.
