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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE  
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

Letter dated 9 April 1986 from the Acting Permanent Representative of  
Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the address of the member States of the Warsaw Treaty Organization to the European States, the United States of America and Canada on the issue of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in Europe.

I wish to request you to have the text of the address circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 62, 63, 64 and 70 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Ivan GARVALOV  
Ambassador  
Acting Permanent Representative

\* A/41/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Address of the Member States of the Warsaw Treaty Organization  
to the European States, the United States of America and  
Canada on the issue of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones  
in Europe

In the current complicated international situation, at a time when the nations of Europe and the whole mankind are faced with the extremely momentous option of living in peace or perishing in a nuclear war, the Warsaw Treaty member States believe that resolute actions and practical measures are necessary more than ever before to put an immediate end to the arms race and the nuclear arms race first and foremost, to prevent it from spreading into outer space, to switch over to disarmament and to eliminate the nuclear threat once and for all.

To this end, they support the Soviet programme for a general and complete liquidation of nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of this century and for a reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces. They are convinced that nuclear disarmament would guarantee stable peace for all nations in Europe and the world. The complete liquidation of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe would be an extremely important initial step towards ridding the continent of nuclear weapons and towards the consolidation of European security.

The proposals to establish zones free of nuclear weapons in the different regions of Europe, proposals which the Warsaw Treaty member States support steadfastly and persistently, are part of the joint efforts to remove the nuclear danger. They note that in some regions of the world the nuclear-weapon-free zones are already a political reality.

Today the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Europe is as topical as it has ever been. The concentration of armed forces and armaments in this part of the world has reached limits that are more dangerous than anywhere else. The risk of an accidental outbreak of nuclear war is great.

According to the allied States, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Europe would be conducive to the consolidation of the security of the States participating in these zones and to European and universal security, to greater stability and mutual confidence, to the renewal of the process of détente, to the reduction of armed forces and armaments, to the consolidation of the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the expansion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is closely interrelated with the promotion of good-neighbourliness, mutual understanding and co-operation.

The Governments of a number of other European States have also declared themselves in favour of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different regions of Europe. This idea is supported by parliaments, political parties and wide public circles. Proposals to set up such zones on the continent as an important measure to strengthen confidence have been made at the Stockholm

Conference and are being discussed at other international forums. The United Nations attaches great importance to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

The Warsaw Treaty member States are opposed to the increase of nuclear armaments in Europe and anywhere in the world. They call for a halt to the further deployment of nuclear weapons on the continent, for their reduction, and for ridding Europe completely of nuclear weapons, both medium-range and tactical ones. Their proposals to this effect remain in force.

The Warsaw Treaty member States proceed from the fact that the implementation of the proposals for establishing zones completely free of nuclear weapons in different regions in Europe depends on the political will, on the joint decision of the countries of the respective regions. Further effort is required on their part, but all other States should also increase their constructive contribution. The accords on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones must comply with the universally accepted norms of international law and ensure the strict observance of their real and verifiable nuclear-weapon-free status.

Moreover, the States possessing nuclear weapons should undertake to observe strictly the status of the nuclear-weapon-free zones, to refrain from the use or threat of nuclear force against the States included in such zones.

The Warsaw Treaty member States are convinced that the establishment and effectiveness of nuclear-weapon-free zones depend largely on the attitude of the other States, especially of the nuclear States, towards them. They note that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics resolutely supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Europe and is ready to give the necessary guarantees to those zones and expects that the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France will follow suit.

The allied States hail the efforts of the Northern European countries to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in their part of Europe. The prospect of affirming the present de facto status of Northern Europe becomes increasingly feasible thanks to the readiness of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to give guarantees to the countries participating in that zone by signing multilateral or bilateral agreements with them. Similar guarantees on the part of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France would help increase the effectiveness of that zone. The Warsaw Treaty member States also note the readiness of the Soviet Union to take other practical steps towards the materialization of the idea of setting up a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Northern Europe.

They declare themselves in support of the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Balkans and of the efforts for strengthening security and expanding confidence, good-neighbourliness and co-operation among the Balkan States. They hail the multilateral dialogue on this issue started by the Balkan States and call on them to continue and deepen it.

The Warsaw Treaty member States support Sweden's proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free corridor along the line dividing the countries of the Warsaw

Treaty Organization and those of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Europe. They believe that in order to increase its effectiveness, the corridor must be expanded on both sides of that line, taking into account the tactical and technical specifications of those weapons. The establishment of such a corridor could start in Central Europe.

The assumption of a mutual obligation by the Soviet Union and the United States to refrain from the deployment of any nuclear weapons in countries where there are no such weapons and not to replace them with new weapons in the countries where such weapons are already deployed would be of great significance for the materialization of the idea of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in Europe. Along with that, the non-nuclear States on whose territories there are no nuclear weapons should not allow any future deployment of such weapons. Those measures would help prevent the territorial spreading of nuclear weapons, curb the nuclear arms race, guarantee parity of forces at the lowest level possible and preserve the de facto non-nuclear status of the countries with no nuclear weapons on their territory.

Proceeding from the need to rid Europe of the nuclear threat, making efforts to achieve a complete abolition of nuclear weapons, having in mind the experience amassed in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, the principles and stipulations of the Helsinki Final Act and seeking to promote the all-European process, the Warsaw Treaty member States;

- address the States of Europe, the United States of America and Canada with an appeal to undertake energetic actions for the implementation of the proposals to establish zones free of nuclear weapons on the European continent;
- call for support for the efforts of the States that favour the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, at the respective international forums included;
- voice their readiness to participate in the profound and concrete exchange of views between the countries concerned so as to help implement practical measures for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Northern Europe and the Balkans;
- declare themselves for starting negotiations between the States concerned on the establishment of a corridor free of nuclear weapons in Central Europe.

The Warsaw Treaty member States are convinced that the nuclear danger can and must be eliminated. This calls for energetic and resolute action by all States - nuclear and non-nuclear members of military and political alliances, neutral and non-aligned. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the European continent must become a major step towards the consolidation of the security of the nations of Europe and towards ridding this continent of nuclear weapons.