

## CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/644  
21 October 1985  
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LETTER DATED 16 OCTOBER 1985 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TRANSMITTING THE IDENTICAL REPLIES OF MR. HELMUT KOHL, CHANCELLOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The Conference has been apprised of the contents of letters to Mr. Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, by the Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, respectively (cf. document CD/643). In the letters, negotiations on the establishment of a limited zone free of chemical weapons were proposed.

Mr. Kohl replied to these letters on 27 September 1985. The substantive portion of his letters of reply - identical in both cases - is attached. I would be grateful if the text could be circulated as a Conference document.

In his letters Chancellor Kohl underlines the overriding significance the Federal Government attaches to the ongoing negotiations on a comprehensive world-wide ban on chemical weapons, and holds the view that all unresolved questions relating to the proscription of chemical weapons should be discussed within the framework of these negotiations. In the view of the Federal Government, the current threat emanating from chemical weapons relates not only to specific regions - as, for instance, Europe - but to other parts of the world as well, making it imperative that all efforts be concentrated on the rapid conclusion of a world-wide chemical weapons ban, not least in the interest of neutral and non-aligned countries outside of the proposed zone.

(Signed) Henning Wegener  
Ambassador

GE.85-65037

Bonn, 27 September 1985

I have noted with interest your letter of 12 September 1985 proposing that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany enter into negotiations on chemical weapons with the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Government of the German Democratic Republic. As you know, the Federal Government is resolutely working in the appropriate forum, namely the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, for a treaty establishing a comprehensive ban and has presented a number of concrete proposals which have received much attention; in particular, it introduced a comprehensive verification model into the negotiations in 1982. In 1979 and 1984, it held international seminars on the subject of verification, which were attended by diplomats and experts of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. In 1985, the Federal Government continued its efforts for a treaty establishing a comprehensive, world-wide ban on chemical weapons. It is convinced that there is no expedient alternative in the continuation of these efforts.

In conformity with the policy of the Federal Government to achieve, through negotiations, co-operative solutions in the field of disarmament and arms control serving to safeguard peace with lasting effect, I suggest that our delegations enter into talks within the framework of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament in order to discuss the still unresolved questions concerning a treaty for a world-wide ban on chemical weapons. By jointly working for a solution to this central problem, our Governments can make a valuable contribution to promoting the ongoing Geneva negotiations.