



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/41/745
24 October 1986
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Forty-first session
Agenda items 21, 58, 60, 61, 62, 65 and 68
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE
REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS
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
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 23 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from His Excellency Mr. Ioan Totu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, together with an appeal from the Third Congress of Workers of the Socialist Republic of Romania in favour of nuclear and general disarmament, for peace, held at Bucharest from 4 to 6 September 1986 (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if you would have these texts circulated as official documents of the General Assembly under items 21, 58, 60, 61, 62, 65 and 68 of the agenda of the forty-first session.

(Signed) Teodor MARINESCU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Letter dated 23 October 1986 from His Excellency Mr. Ioan Totu,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, addressed to the
Secretary-General

Sir,

In the spirit of active co-operation which exists between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the United Nations and with the approval of the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, I am writing to you on the particularly important subject of the need to halt the arms race and to adopt as soon as possible specific disarmament measures.

The Romanian people, like other peoples of the world, is deeply concerned at the acceleration of the arms race and at the dangerous trend of events towards confrontation and war. A similar concern is eloquently reflected in your annual report to the General Assembly at its present session and also in its plenary discussions.

Romania, firmly attached to its policy of peace and disarmament, has decided to make a reduction of 5 per cent in its armaments, armed forces and military expenditure before the end of this year. Such a decision has been taken in full agreement with the will of the whole people, by the 11,000 participants in the recent Congress of Workers of the Socialist Republic of Romania. Subsequently, the Grand National Assembly - the highest forum of State power - unanimously endorsed this initiative and decided to submit it for the approval of the whole people, in a referendum, so that Romania can proceed with the unilateral reduction of its armaments, armed forces and military expenditure.

Furthermore, Romania feels that it would be of great importance if a whole series of States were to adopt a similar unilateral reduction of their armaments, armed forces and military expenditure. Along these lines, the President of Romania has just transmitted messages to all the Heads of State and Government of Europe, and of the United States and Canada, containing an appeal that each of them should proceed, before the end of this year, to a reduction of at least 5 per cent of their armaments, even before the achievement of an appropriate agreement. In view of the balance of world forces, such unilateral measures for the reduction of armaments, armed forces and military expenditure could in no way endanger the security of any State and their defence capacity but, on the contrary, they would favour the transition to effective disarmament negotiations and constitute an expression of the will of the States concerned to embark resolutely on a course of disarmament and peace.

During the International Year of Peace, proclaimed by the unanimous will of States members of the international community, Romania and President Nicolae Ceausescu are convinced that the United Nations, through the efforts and contributions of all States, will play an increasingly active role in international life with a view to bringing about specific and genuine actions and

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agreements aimed at the halting of the arms race, the achievement of disarmament and the maintenance of peace. For this purpose, I would be very grateful if you would have the text of this letter, together with the appeal by the Third Congress of Workers of the Socialist Republic of Romania in favour of nuclear and general disarmament, for peace, as an official document of the United Nations.

I am sure that the peoples of the world, working together with a profound sense of responsibility for both their present and their future, will bring about a radical change in the trend of international events and that the United Nations will be able to play a leading role in ensuring the triumph of the policy of peace, progress and human civilization.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ioan V. TOTU
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Socialist Republic of Romania

ANNEX II

Appeal by the Third Congress of Workers of the Socialist
Republic of Romania in favour of nuclear and general
disarmament, for peace

The Third Congress of Workers of Romania, meeting in Bucharest from 4 to 6 September 1986, expressing the firm desire of the Romanian people as a whole for peace, understanding and co-operation, and vitally interested in the creation and consolidation of an international climate conducive to the implementation of programmes for the multilateral development of the country, appeals to the working class, to workers and to people all over the world, in view of the current highly complex and serious international situation, to join forces and intensify their struggle to eliminate the threat of a nuclear catastrophe and halt the dangerous and costly arms race, especially the nuclear-arms race, so that genuine progress may be made along the path to disarmament and towards the triumph of reason and peace on earth.

The Congress of Workers of Romania expresses to Nicolae Ceauşescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the deep gratitude and affection of the Romanian people as a whole and its great appreciation for his prodigious theoretical and practical activity and his immense achievements, dedicated unswervingly to the service of the supreme interests of our Socialist nation and of all nations and to free and dignified development in a world of international peace and co-operation.

The constructive and persevering proposals, initiatives and actions of President Nicolae Ceauşescu have had a wide international impact and have consequently promoted full affirmation of new principles of relations between States, the halting of the arms race and the resolute transition to disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, the settlement by peaceful means and by negotiations alone of all disputes and conflicts between States, the establishment of a new world economic order, and the preservation of peace, the most precious possession of all people on earth.

The initiatives taken by Socialist Romania in favour of disarmament and peace and the special respect which our country enjoys in the world are quite naturally associated with the actions of Nicolae Ceauşescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, which have aroused wide international interest and are marked by the highest sense of responsibility with regard to the fate of mankind; Nicolae Ceauşescu is known and appreciated everywhere, in all parts of the world, as a great and tireless hero of peace.

Like the other peoples of the world, the Romanian people is deeply concerned about the deterioration of the international situation as a result of the accelerating arms race, the deployment of new nuclear weapons in Europe and other parts of the world, the continuous improvement of weapons, the trend towards the militarization of outer space, the persistence of armed conflicts, recourse to force, and the threat of force and interference in the internal affairs of other peoples.

Considering that the basic problem of our time is the preservation of peace and that it is the duty of every State and every people to do all they can to free mankind from the nightmare of a devastating nuclear war and from the arms burden, Romania has proposed a complex, realistic and constructive disarmament programme, and has made and is making sustained efforts at the international level to bring about the resumption and consolidation of the trend towards détente, the achievement of disarmament, and the preservation of the supreme right of peoples and nations to peace, life, freedom and independence.

The Congress of Workers of Romania, firmly supporting the new peace initiative of President Nicolae Ceausescu, appeals to the States of Europe, including the Socialist States, to adopt unilateral measures to reduce their armed forces, armaments and military expenditure by at least 5 per cent, even before an appropriate agreement in this field is concluded.

Convinced of the necessity and realism of such a concrete and constructive step, assuming full responsibility before its people and before mankind as a whole for the future and for the existence of life on our planet, Romania is determined, as announced by President Nicolae Ceausescu, to reduce its armaments, armed forces and military expenditure by 5 per cent by the end of this year. The decision taken by the Congress of Workers to submit to the people as a whole, in a referendum, the proposal for the unilateral reduction of military expenditure if an agreement with other States, on that subject is not achieved, represents new and eloquent evidence of Socialist Romania's desire to make a direct contribution to bringing about a radical change of direction with regard to disarmament, so as to strengthen détente and peace.

Considering that in view of the current balance of forces at the world-wide level such unilateral measures do not endanger the security or defence capability of any State, but on the contrary favour a transition to effective disarmament negotiations, the Congress of Workers of Romania renews its appeal to all the States of Europe to reduce their armaments and proceed together along the path to genuine disarmament and peace.

Greeting with profound satisfaction the decision of the Soviet Union to extend until 1 January 1987 the unilateral moratorium on nuclear-weapon tests, the Congress of Workers of Romania calls for an appropriate agreement on the cessation of nuclear tests and considers that the United States of America and other nuclear States should respond positively to the Soviet moratorium, so that concrete agreements may be reached in the near future concerning the cessation of nuclear tests and the transition to practical measures aimed at halting the arms race and achieving disarmament, especially in the nuclear field. Our country considers that it is high time for other nuclear-weapon States to participate in negotiations concerning nuclear weapons; effective steps to reduce the weapons which they already possess would be taken only after the United States of America and the Soviet Union have substantially reduced their nuclear weapons. We also consider that the European States and other States of the world are directly concerned and should participate actively in the conclusion of agreements on the cessation of nuclear tests, the reduction of nuclear weapons and the halting of the militarization of outer space.

In view of the extremely serious situation in Europe, we appeal to the workers and peoples of Europe to intensify their efforts with a view to the achievement of appropriate agreements leading to a halt in the deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles and subsequently the elimination of all nuclear weapons from the continent.

We are in favour of the conclusion, through appropriate agreements, of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament and the Vienna Talks on Mutual Reduction of Forces and Armaments and Associated Measures in Central Europe; this would help to strengthen confidence and would create favourable premises for the success of the forthcoming general European meeting in Vienna, which is supposed to give new impetus to the efforts to build a united Europe, peace, security and co-operation.

In accordance with the consistent position of Socialist Romania concerning the development of understanding and co-operation in the Balkans, we appeal to the workers and peoples of those countries to step up the common efforts to transform the Balkans into a zone of peace, free of nuclear and chemical weapons and without foreign military bases. At the same time, we express our support for the establishment of similar zones in northern and central Europe and on other continents.

In this year, unanimously proclaimed the International Year of Peace by the States Members of the United Nations, we consider it absolutely necessary that all States, all Governments, political leaders and peoples all over the world and all those who cherish the ideals of peace should work closely together, demonstrating the necessary political will to bring about a radical change of direction in the trend of international events, to eliminate negative phenomena from the world, especially the growing danger of a nuclear conflagration, to resolve conflict situations by peaceful means through negotiations, and to establish a climate of understanding, collaboration and peace on our planet, in which each people will be able to develop freely and independently, free of all foreign interference, and to devote its entire potential to advancing along the path of progress and civilization.

The workers of Romania and the Romanian people as a whole, who are engaged in a vast process of economic and social development and improvement of their material and spiritual well-being, reaffirm their determination to act in concert with other countries and peoples in order to achieve those noble objectives in firm solidarity with all progressive, democratic and peace-loving forces throughout the world. The Congress of Workers of the Socialist Republic of Romania appeals to the workers and peoples of the countries that are struggling for socialism, social progress and peace, to the working class and peoples of the capitalist countries, to progressive and realistic democratic forces everywhere and to peoples throughout the world, to strengthen their collaboration and solidarity, to intensify their activities and, through their joint efforts, to:

Defend, irrespective of differences in political, philosophical, religious or other beliefs, the most precious possession of mankind, namely, peace;

Work resolutely to overcome the current serious tension in international life in favour of a new policy of détente, collaboration, understanding and peace;

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Do everything possible, before it is too late, to eliminate the nuclear threat, halt the irrational arms race and achieve disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, with a view to building a world without weapons and without wars;

Campaign resolutely for a halt to the process of militarizing outer space, so that the sky of our planet may remain serene and peaceful for present and future generations;

Give a fresh impetus to the efforts to build a united Europe characterized by peace, security, co-operation and understanding, free of all types of missiles and nuclear weapons;

Support actively the proposals and initiatives for the creation of nuclear- and chemical-weapons-free zones in the Balkans, in northern and central Europe and in other parts of the world;

Reject resolutely, in all circumstances, manifestations of the policy of force, pressure and interference in the affairs of other peoples; and to remain determined to support firmly relations between States based on the principles of national independence and sovereignty, equal rights, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual advantage, and non-recourse to the use or threat of force;

Do everything possible to reduce military expenditure so that the funds thus freed may be used to promote the progress and prosperity of all nations, especially the developing countries, to eliminate underdevelopment, economic disparities, poverty, illiteracy and disease, and to create a better and more just society on earth; to do everything possible to ensure that the marvelous achievements of human genius are used solely for the development and prosperity of mankind and the progress of all nations.

The Congress of Workers of Romania, expressing its solidarity with all the peoples of the world, with all those struggling to preserve peace, forcefully affirms its conviction that, by joint efforts, peoples and progressive forces everywhere really have the capacity to set international life on a constructive course, to avoid a nuclear disaster and to ensure that the policy of peace, co-operation and independence and the cause of progress and human civilization triumph throughout the world.

Bucharest, 6 September 1986
