



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/42/126
12 February 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-second session

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

Letter dated 30 January 1987 from the Permanent Representative of
Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to have this letter and the enclosed text of a message addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "International Year of Peace".

(Signed) Boris TSVETKOV
First Deputy Foreign Minister
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Message dated 29 January 1987 from the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria addressed to the Secretary-General

The year 1986 was remarkable for having been proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Year of Peace. The expectations of the international community regarding this fact were well justified. In spite of the burden of nuclear terror shouldered by mankind, these expectations have been lived up to. The events of the last 12 months have further strengthened our conviction that there is no problem more vital than that of the maintenance of peace and the survival of mankind.

The International Year of Peace has demonstrated that the champions of peace are gaining momentum and that the principles of peaceful coexistence are further winning recognition as a norm of life and inter-State relations. The historic declaration of 15 January 1986 by Mr. M. S. Gorbachev (A/41/110, annex) concerning the elimination by the end of the century of all types of weapons of mass destruction and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world was devoted to this noble objective. We support and highly value this programme for comprehensive and lasting peace as a concrete embodiment of the new political thinking in our nuclear and space age.

Further grounds for optimism during the International Year of Peace have been provided by the results of such important events as the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Harare (see A/41/697-S/18392), and the appeal issued by the New Delhi Six (A/41/518-S/18277, annex). We welcome and share the humane ideas and just demands expressed by the representatives of those countries.

We have welcomed with deep satisfaction the New Delhi Declaration of Principles regarding the establishment of a world free of nuclear arms and violence. It gives us hope that the Soviet Union and India, two great Powers that have made an enormous contribution to the strengthening of peace and security in Asia and throughout the world, are proposing to mankind a comprehensive programme for ridding our planet of the burden of the weapons of mass destruction.

The unilateral Soviet moratorium on all nuclear tests was undoubtedly one of the boldest and most decisive steps on behalf of peace. Throughout the entire International Year of Peace there was not a single nuclear explosion in the Soviet Union. We sincerely regret that this historic gesture of good will was not matched by the United States. That is why we uphold the position that reaching an agreement for the total prohibition of all nuclear-weapon tests continues to be a cardinal goal without which no serious progress could be achieved in the field of disarmament.

We are all still deeply under the impression of the Reykjavik summit between the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet

Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, and the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan. The summit meeting generated great expectations on the part of the international community and of peoples throughout the world. Although the United States side lacked the resolve to accept the historic proposal for the elimination of nuclear arms, the summit in Reykjavik will no doubt remain one of the most important events during the International Year of Peace. We hope that common sense will prevail and that dialogue will continue from where it has been left off.

We are fully aware that the strengthening of peace, the cessation of the arms race and the adoption of meaningful practical steps in the field of disarmament are not problems that can be solved in the span of a year. The International Year of Peace had the important goal of mobilizing world public opinion, Governments, non-governmental and other organizations on behalf of the efforts to preserve peace, to reduce and gradually eliminate the threat of nuclear destruction looming over mankind. Now that the year 1986 has passed, and with it the International Year of Peace as well, it is natural and necessary for us to draw up a balance of what we, in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, have done for the implementation of the humane call "to safeguard peace and the future of humanity".

The Bulgarian Government will transmit later to Your Excellency a detailed account of the manifold concrete activities of our public dedicated to the International Year of Peace. I would like to note only that a national co-ordinating committee for the commemoration of the Year was established early in 1986 in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The committee adopted a specially designed programme and started working on its improvement. I should like to dwell upon some basic aspects of the foreign policy followed and of the activities undertaken by the People's Republic of Bulgaria, which, in our view, are a modest contribution to the larger and noble cause of maintaining peace and promoting co-operation and understanding among peoples.

In the troubled and contradictory world of today we and our allies of the Warsaw Treaty Organization aspire to seek new approaches and solutions to the problem of eliminating all weapons on Earth, those of mass destruction as well as conventional ones, and of preventing the militarization of outer space. We are convinced that at the heart of efforts to promote peace should be concrete practical measures for disarmament that enhance the security of all. This, in short, was the basic substance and meaning of the proposals put forward by the Political Consultative Committee of the Member States of the Warsaw Treaty at its meeting at Budapest.

Our sense of responsibility for the future of our peoples and for the future of humanity was our sole motive in proposing, at the forty-first session of the General Assembly and jointly with the other allied countries, the idea of establishing a comprehensive system of international peace and security. We cannot but express our great satisfaction at the fact that, in its resolution adopted in this connection (resolution 41/92 of 4 December 1986), the General Assembly expressed its approval of this idea. The inclusion of this item in the agenda of the forty-second session of the General Assembly provides an opportunity for the active participation of all Member States in the elaboration of a comprehensive system of international peace and security that would bring humanity closer to its ideal of a world without weapons and war.

Another important event of the International Year of Peace was the successful conclusion of the first stage of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. At Stockholm, Bulgaria was a co-sponsor of proposals in the field of limiting the scope of military activities and concerning the notification of naval activities. We support the efforts to proceed early to the second stage of the Conference, which should deal effectively with disarmament issues.

We would like to see the Vienna meeting of the States participants in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe proceed in a constructive and business-like spirit and bring about positive results that go far beyond what was achieved at the Madrid meeting.

The policy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the Balkans is also guided entirely by the interests of peace and co-operation. The Declaration of Friendship, Good-neighbourliness and Co-operation between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and Greece, adopted last year, has been rightly viewed by the international community as a major positive event going well beyond their bilateral relations. Last year my country renewed its proposal to sign with all Balkan States bilateral agreements that would include a code of good-neighbourly relations, renunciation of territorial claims and non-admission of the use of the territory of one country for hostile purposes and actions against another.

The initiatives of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Socialist Republic of Romania aimed at establishing a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons in the Balkans are well known. My country proposed that a treaty be concluded for the environmental protection of the Balkan peninsula. We voiced our readiness to host in Bulgaria an ecological forum within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The International Year of Peace coincided also with the participation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria as a non-permanent member in the work of the Security Council. Our work in this important organ of the United Nations, which bears principal responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, is a continuation of our overall peace-loving policy. It is aimed at eliminating hotbeds of tension and at finding a lasting, just and peaceful solution to crisis situations. The People's Republic of Bulgaria will continue to oppose most firmly the policy of aggression, diktat and interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, and will defend the right of peoples to choose alone the road of their political and socio-economic development.

In this connection I should like to emphasize in particular the role and the importance of the United Nations in the common aspirations for the maintenance of peace. It is the United Nations that is the natural forum for the discussion of and search for solutions to the multitude of problems of a political, economic, social and other nature. For this reason, the People's Republic of Bulgaria has always supported and will continue to support the activities of the world Organization, as well as efforts to strengthen its effectiveness. In this connection, I would like to stress, Excellency, that we highly appreciate your personal contribution to the implementation of the lofty goals of the International Year of Peace and of the world Organization as a whole.

I would like to assure you that the People's Republic of Bulgaria will continue to pursue its consistent foreign policy of principle in keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in conformity with the imperative of promoting lasting peace and security on our planet.
