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WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Letter dated 29 November 1971 from the Permanent Representative of  
Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to send you a message addressed to the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, which was adopted at the meeting of the Disarmament Committee of the World Peace Council, held in Moscow on 30-31 October 1971.

I request that this message be circulated as an official document of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Károly SZARKA  
Permanent Representative of Hungary  
to the United Nations

MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADOPTED AT THE MEETING OF THE  
DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL,  
HELD IN MOSCOW ON 30-31 OCTOBER 1971

Representatives of the international and national organizations fighting for disarmament and peace, scientists, specialists in disarmament and public leaders who gathered at an enlarged meeting of the Disarmament Committee of the World Peace Council, held in Moscow on 30-31 October 1971, urge the United Nations to intensify the efforts aimed at solving the problem of disarmament, the vital problem of our time.

Stockpiling of ever deadlier types of weapons of mass destruction continues today despite the definite measures that were taken in recent years to limit the scope of the arms race. The vast and ever-growing expenditures for the invention and production of new means of mass destruction are a heavy burden on the economy of countries and slow down economic and social progress. The world feels the grim consequences of the war in Indochina, of the bloody events in East Pakistan, of the rule of colonialism and racialism in Africa. The atmosphere in the Middle East remains tense. It is fraught with a new armed conflict because of Israel's refusal to implement the decisions of the United Nations.

There is an imperative need today for the serious efforts of all States to consolidate international security and to promote the advance of mankind along the road leading to a future, free from armaments and wars. Now, as never before, there is a need for new strong efforts of all people, regardless of their political convictions, to achieve the speediest possible ending of the nuclear arms race and to achieve general disarmament.

The resolve of the United Nations to devote the seventies to disarmament gives mankind grounds for hope that a number of important steps towards disarmament will be taken soon.

The conclusion of a number of international agreements aimed at the limitation of the nuclear arms race and at certain positive changes in the international situation created favourable conditions for further progress on the road to general and complete disarmament and above all, to the banning of nuclear weapons and to the destruction of stockpiles of such weapons. The relaxation of tensions and the quest for ways to ensure security in Europe largely promote this progress.

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We believe that the convocation of a world conference on disarmament would be of the utmost importance for world peace. This conference would be aimed at intensifying the efforts of States towards banning the weapons of mass destruction and ensuring general and complete disarmament. We believe that the present session of the General Assembly of the United Nations could largely promote the solution of these questions that are vitally important both for preventing a nuclear world war and for releasing vast material resources which will be channelled for the solution of urgent socio-economic problems.

We urge the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a decision on the specific questions connected with the preparation of a world conference on disarmament. We firmly believe that the international prestige of the United Nations and the experience it has accumulated will enable it to make this important contribution towards achieving general disarmament.

The United Nations could largely help explain to wide public circles the real possibilities and positive results of disarmament. It is necessary to continue publishing widely the factual data showing that disarmament will not have negative consequences for the economy and that, quite the contrary, well-thought-out measures for the redistribution of expenditures will lead to an effective improvement of economic and social conditions.

We shall exert the greatest possible efforts to promote the convocation and successful holding of the world conference on disarmament.

Mass international actions of different non-governmental organizations and public organizations will help implement the United Nations decisions on disarmament.

We wish the participants in the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly success in the work of the session and, above all, in their activities aimed at ensuring peace and general disarmament.

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