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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Letter dated 10 June 1987 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you a letter to you from Dr. Gustáv Husák,
President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, which reads as follows:

"As is known to you, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is doing everything within its power to contribute, through its policy of dialogue and peaceful co-operation, to the elimination of confrontation in the world and to an improvement of the international situation. Guided by the effort to maintain peace for future generations of mankind, it is seeking the adoption of such effective disarmament measures as will halt the dangerous arms race and lead to a universal and complete disarmament under effective international supervision.

"I am convinced that at a time when the Soviet-United States summit meeting at Reykjavik has elevated the subject of nuclear disarmament to a new level and when, thanks to the new initiatives of the Soviet Union, a real possibility of eliminating nuclear arsenals from Europe is emerging, it is the duty of all European States, whether large, medium or small, to meet these efforts. As a concrete contribution in this direction, the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, jointly with the Government of the German

* A/42/50.

Democratic Republic, proposed to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on 3 April 1987 to open negotiations without delay on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in central Europe. Therefore, I have the honour to make you more familiar with this initiative, which has already won the support of many Governments, political parties, parliaments and a broad progressive public community.

"The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the German Democratic Republic proceed from the assumption that the corridor - from the territory of which all nuclear weapon systems should be removed - should range approximately 150 kilometres along both sides of the border between the above-mentioned three States. At a subsequent stage, it would be expanded to cover the whole area of central Europe as defined for the purpose of the Vienna negotiations on mutual reductions of armed forces and armaments in central Europe.

"In my view, the proposed regional measure would diminish the risk of an armed conflict between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, be a productive step toward enhanced confidence and support effectively the related Soviet-United States negotiations at Geneva. Its significance increases in connection with the proposal of the Soviet Union for the conclusion without delay of a separate agreement on the elimination of Soviet and United States medium-range missiles in central Europe. I firmly believe that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in central Europe would substantially facilitate the negotiations on the reduction and elimination of missiles of operational/tactical designation deployed on the European continent, would be a realistic path toward the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons and could accelerate the solution of the question of reducing armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe.

"We highly appreciate the fact that the Soviet Union has clearly stated its readiness to withdraw, on the basis of mutuality, its entire nuclear force from, and guarantee and observe the nuclear-free status of, such a corridor. We would also welcome the following of this example by other nuclear Powers.

"The people of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic highly appreciate the efforts of the United Nations aimed at, as well as your personal contribution to, maintaining peace and international security. The activity of all peace-loving forces, aimed at safeguarding mankind from a nuclear catastrophe and at resuming the policy of international détente and lasting security, reinforces my hopes that the initiative to establish a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in central Europe will gain support also from the United Nations.

"Allow me to assure you that the people and the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will do their utmost in the future to ensure world peace and achieve effective disarmament steps."

I would be most grateful if you could have the text of the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 63, 67 and 74 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jaroslav CESAR
