



UNITED NATIONS

# International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development

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MESSAGE DATED 21 AUGUST 1987 FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency a message from  
H.E. Mr. Lubomír Štrougal, Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic,  
addressed to the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament  
and Development. I would be most grateful if you could kindly have the text of the  
message circulated as a document of the Conference.

(Signed) Štefan MURIN  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

Annex

MESSAGE DATED 21 AUGUST 1987 FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF  
THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE  
PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

1. On the occasion of the opening of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, I extend cordial greetings to your important deliberations and, on behalf of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, express full support of my country for their inspiring objectives.
2. The Conference is meeting at a crucial period of time demanding responsible decisions in the interests of tangible measures towards limiting armaments and towards disarmament that would become the key source of funds for an all-round economic and social development and would lead to the creation of material guarantees of comprehensive international security.
3. Civilization has already reached a critical limit in raising the destructive capacity of modern weapons and military expenditures, the growth of which today exceeds the overall rate of world output and becomes a decisive factor of destabilization of international economic relations. At the same time, it has not yet managed to cope with the sharpening problems of underdevelopment, indebtedness, starvation and disease afflicting a major part of the inhabitants of our planet.
4. This is so mainly because militarization finds itself in an irreconcilable contradiction with the needs of economic and social progress of the world and the solution of its global problems, including the saving of the environment and rational use of the limited natural and raw material resources. Ignoring this contradiction would mean exposing mankind to a very serious danger in the conditions of the nuclear-missile threat and uncontrollable growth of political, economic as well as social tension on the world-wide scope. That is why we are convinced that the elaboration of an international strategy for the solution of these most urgent problems of our times represents a task of historic significance. The present Conference offers an opportunity in that respect that must not be wasted. Its contribution must be commensurate with the urgency of the challenge with which it is faced.
5. Implementation of the principle of disarmament for development means, above all, erecting a barrier to the militarization of political thinking and economic life. That calls for replacing the concept of security based on force by an orientation to achieving comprehensive security by exclusively political means and global co-operation in the economic and social spheres, in humanitarian questions as well as in the field of ecology. The content and the level of this collaboration should ensure such a qualitative transformation of international relations and of the entire human society that would guarantee a real fulfilment of the aspiration of all peoples and of every person to a life in conditions of peace and security, freedom and prosperity.

6. One cannot therefore back away from the heart of the matter and give way to efforts to maintain the mechanism of feverish armaments and unbalanced exchange, exploitation and discrimination in international economic relations. It is on the contrary of the utmost urgency to establish an international mechanism for transferring the resources released through disarmament to meet the requirements of development and to work out realistic plans for converting production capacities from military to peaceful purposes.

7. We are of the opinion that the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development should concentrate on the elaboration of principles for the implementation of these measures.

8. We wish the Conference successful and fruitful deliberations that would lay the foundations of the process of creating a new economic model of the world in conditions of disarmament and openness and confidence in international relations. I want to assure you that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will actively and consistently promote the attainment of these goals through its activities at the Conference as well as within the United Nations.

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