



UNITED NATIONS

International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development

24 August-11 September 1987
New York

UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SECRETARIAT GENERAL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.130/27
11 September 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1987 FROM THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE

I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement by the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, made 11 September 1987, and to request to have it circulated as a document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

(Signed) Harry OTT
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATIONS OF BULGARIA, THE
BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, MONGOLIA, THE DEMOCRATIC
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, POLAND, ROMANIA, THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,
AT THE 14TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, ON
11 SEPTEMBER 1987

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The Socialist countries consider the convening and successful outcome of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development a landmark event. It reflects the growing awareness of States and peoples that the realities of the nuclear and space age and the propitious economic and social development of all nations require a new, responsible approach to the question of war or peace.

As expressed in their joint memorandum [A/CONF.130/6, annex], the Socialist countries strongly believe that there exists an intrinsic interrelationship between disarmament and development. The recognition of this relationship has become a testimony to and a yardstick of realism in the approach to international problems at the end of the twentieth century.

We view the concept "disarmament for development" as an expression of the new thinking required in our integral and interdependent world. The concept rejects the ongoing arms race and calls for immediate disarmament measures, stresses the need to replace distrust and confrontation, focuses instead on mutually advantageous co-operation and commonality of interests, and induces confidence in international relations.

The Socialist countries highly appreciate the constructive and businesslike atmosphere in which our Conference took place. We welcome that in spite of all differences of opinion which naturally exist with regard to the important issues we have discussed, the spirit of dialogue and co-operation prevailed. This should especially be noted when one takes into account the scepticism in some quarters with regard to the Conference.

The Final Document is the result of long, intensive and sometimes arduous deliberations. It is, of course, a compromise document, which contains ideas and proposals of quite a number of States or groups of States participating in the Conference. Obviously the document will not satisfy all of us completely. But what counts is its overall positive basic line. It provides a sound basis for furthering the relationship between disarmament and development within the United Nations system and can give further momentum to international efforts to achieve progress in both fields. Thus, it is proof of the idea that multilateral efforts can lead to solutions to complicated problems of our time.

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In the document it is quite rightly emphasized that security has become global, running the whole gamut of military, political, economic, ecological and humanitarian problems. Indeed, the world's security is being undermined not only by the arms race but also by unsettled regional conflicts, underdevelopment, non-equivalent exchanges, economic discrimination, a heavy burden of indebtedness and other non-military threats. Growing interdependence among nations, collective approach responding to the needs of humanity as a whole and multilateralism provide the international framework within which the relationship between disarmament and development should be shaped. This overall approach outlined in the document reflects the need to establish a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

The Socialist countries reaffirm their resolve to spare no efforts to promote international economic, scientific and technological co-operation with all States and also to contribute to the elimination of underdevelopment and to the establishment of a new international economic order. They consider it their duty to pursue an active policy of broad economic co-operation with all developing countries on the basis of mutual advantage and full equality in order to resolve the major economic problems facing these countries and to ensure their economic and social advance. In considering economic relations with developing countries, it should not be overlooked that in 1986, according to data of the World Bank, the huge sum of \$29 billion of net capital outflow from developing countries went into the coffers of Western banks.

We welcome that all countries participating in this Conference have subscribed to the close relationship between disarmament and development and reaffirmed their respective commitments. Disarmament can have a positive impact on the world economy and provide a basis for accelerated social and economic development of all countries. This is the only reserve of such magnitude and real potential on this planet capable of meeting the developmental challenges of the modern world. The Socialist countries hold the view that a possibility exists to reduce the share of military spending in the world gross product to the lowest possible level of sufficiency. For their part, they are prepared to work towards this goal and to negotiate with other States to that end.

Especially at this time when our Conference takes place, there exists the chance to conclude an agreement on the elimination of the medium-range and operational-tactical missiles of the USSR and the United States. Thus, it would be possible for the first time in history to destroy completely two categories of nuclear weapons through an agreement. We express the hope that this historic chance will not be missed. It would constitute a significant step also for solving the problems our Conference has discussed.

To strengthen international security and to release resources for development purposes it is imperative to intensify disarmament negotiations in all fields and at all levels and to start negotiations on some issues not tackled until now, in particular on the reduction of military expenditures. Purposeful actions are needed to prevent an arms race in outer space, to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction and to assure the use of nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes. In the long run, it must be possible to devote humankind's ingenuity, science and technology only to that end.

The Socialist countries reaffirm the proposals they outlined in their joint memorandum submitted on 24 August [A/CONF.130/6, annex]. They believe that a special mechanism for the transfer of part of the resources released through disarmament to developing countries and for dealing with other global problems would ensure the required institutional relationship between disarmament and development. An international fund, "Disarmament for development", would demonstrate the determination of States to translate this relationship into their policies and to create, through practical deeds, an atmosphere of mutual understanding, openness and predictability in international affairs.

In view of the importance of the problems of disarmament and development, the United Nations Security Council should consider this complex relationship at top level. This would correspond to its function under the Charter, to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources.

Furthermore, a review conference should be held to examine, in four or five years, the implementation of the Final Document of this Conference.

At this turning point in history, prompt collective efforts are required if the arms race is to be drastically curtailed and resources released for the purpose of economic and social progress of all nations. The Socialist countries stand ready to co-operate with all States of the world in this crucial area in the spirit of goodwill and awareness of the international community's common responsibility for the preservation and flourishing of human civilization. We are ready to participate constructively in the implementation of the action programme of this Conference.

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