



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/335
16 July 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth session
Item 36 of the preliminary list*

DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS THE SECOND DISARMAMENT DECADE

Letter dated 14 July 1980 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Bohuslav Chřoupek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, concerning the declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade and request you to have this letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 36 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jirí SIOSTRONEK
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

* A/35/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 8 June 1980 from H.E. Mr. Bohuslav Chňoupek,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist
Republic, addressed to the Secretary-General

At the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic supported the resolution concerning the declaration of the 1980s as a Disarmament Decade. In supporting this resolution, we proceeded from the fact that, in the course of the First Disarmament Decade of the 1970s, a number of significant results were attained which will have to be strengthened and further expanded in the forthcoming years.

The signing of the Soviet-American treaties of SALT I and SALT II is of extraordinary importance for halting the nuclear arms race. Yet the necessary speedy ratification of SALT II and its implementation is required in that respect. An agreement on the non-emplacement of weapons of mass destruction on the sea-beds and the ocean floors was attained. The use of bacteriological weapons was prohibited. The States also renounced the military use of environmental modification techniques. In 1978, the United Nations General Assembly met for the first time to deal exclusively with the problems of disarmament. The decisions of that session are an impulse towards further disarmament negotiations. In the follow-up of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, certain steps were also made which aimed at building confidence in this area.

In spite of such significant results, it was not possible to succeed in attaining a decisive positive turn in the disarmament negotiations in the course of the First Disarmament Decade. The arms race - on which considerable financial resources are spent - continues. Moreover, in recent months we have been witnessing increased activities on the part of the adversaries of international détente. The most reactionary circles of the imperialist States not only refuse to achieve further progress in the sphere of military détente, but also try to question what has been achieved in that respect so far. Their practical steps and decisions of recent months clearly aim at further increasing international tension and at starting a new round in the arms race which would be a severe blow to the process of international détente and the security of nations.

In this complicated international situation, we therefore consider that the main task of the Second Disarmament Decade is to defend what was attained in the sphere of disarmament in the 1970s and to attain in that respect also further new results. At the session of the Political Advisory Committee of the Warsaw Treaty held on 14 and 15 May, the socialist countries, members of the Warsaw Treaty, presented a number of initiatives and proposals which, if adopted and implemented, would mean halting the arms race and attaining a decisive and positive turn in the negotiations on disarmament.

We firmly reject the efforts of certain circles in the Western countries to increase their military potential first and, only after that, to negotiate

disarmament from a position of force. In this respect, we consider particularly worrying the decision taken last year by the NATO Council to deploy new United States medium-range missiles on the territory of Western Europe. Czechoslovakia, together with other socialist States, is convinced that it is possible not only to prevent a further dangerous escalation of the arms race in Europe, but also to maintain - on lower levels - the approximate balance of force which has come into being, the existence of which was admitted, only recently, even by NATO member States. However, the indispensable prerequisite for this is for the States to let themselves be guided by the interests of peace and security of nations and to show the necessary amount of political goodwill.

In the prevailing situation, the attainment of this aim calls for increased and cohesive efforts on the part of peace-loving States. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, together with other socialist States, is ready to take part in this effort and to co-operate in this respect with other States on the principles laid down in the declaration on international co-operation for disarmament, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. a/

At present, numerous negotiations on disarmament are being held. Their successful outcome will contribute to a decisive extent to the fulfilment of the aims of the Second Disarmament Decade. At the same time, it will set up favourable conditions for the opening and success of other disarmament negotiations. One of the most urgent tasks in this respect is the ratification of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (SALT II) by the United States Senate. The other most urgent task which would represent a practical step leading to a halting of the arms race is the successful termination of the following negotiations:

- on the complete and general ban on nuclear arms tests;
- on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons;
- on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction;
- on the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States which do not have nuclear weapons located on their territories, and on the non-stationing of nuclear weapons on the territories of States where none are located at present.

It is equally necessary to open negotiations on other important disarmament matters which are not being discussed on any level at present. It would greatly enhance the success of the Second Disarmament Decade if fruitful negotiations were opened and completed in the 1980s on such important problems as medium-range missiles in Europe. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic welcomes the initiative

a/ Resolution 34/88.

taken in this respect by L. I. Brezhnev during his talks with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Moscow. We fully support the proposals by the Soviet side to start negotiations on nuclear medium-range missiles simultaneously and in organic connexion with the question of American forward-based nuclear capability. It is evident that a possible agreement could be implemented in practice only after the Soviet-United States agreement on the limitation of strategic arms has entered into force.

Czechoslovakia equally supports the opening of negotiations on other constructive proposals which have already obtained the support of the United Nations Organization, namely:

- the conclusion of a universal treaty on the non-use of force;
- the cessation of the production of nuclear weapons and the gradual reduction of stockpiles to the point of their complete elimination;
- the prohibition of the production of new kinds of weapons of mass destruction and new weapon systems of that type;
- the reduction of military budgets, particularly of the great Powers.

The Second Disarmament Decade would mark an exceptionally favourable start if a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe was convened within the framework of European disarmament. In our view, the meeting of Madrid might reach practical decisions on the objectives, timing, place and character of such a conference. Its agenda should provide for a full discussion on the problems of confidence on which the participants in the conference would focus already in its first stage.

Another important step towards strengthening stability and confidence in Europe would be the attainment of an agreement that, from an agreed date, no State or group of States in Europe was to increase the numbers of its armed forces in that area, set down by the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Such a measure would substantially contribute to the creation of more favourable conditions for the successful completion of the Vienna negotiations on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe - negotiations which Czechoslovakia, one of its direct participants, views as exceptionally important.

Czechoslovakia, together with other socialist States, members of the Warsaw Treaty, regards it appropriate that, in the search for military détente in Europe, material measures aimed at enhancing confidence and at disarmament be linked with political and legal steps aimed at reducing the dangers of war and at strengthening security guarantees for the States. This is why we recommend that all States participants in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe conclude an agreement outlawing the first use of both nuclear and conventional weapons.

It is equally indispensable to strive, on the international level, without further delay for the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons for all times, for the renouncement of the use of force in relations between all States, for the elimination of foreign military bases, for withdrawal of troops from foreign territories, for the reduction of armed forces and armaments, and for the establishment of non-nuclear areas and zones of peace in various parts of the world including Europe.

The period of the Second Disarmament Decade calls for the consideration, within the United Nations Organization for instance, of matters such as the limitation and reduction of military presence and activities in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, in the Mediterranean and in the Persian Gulf. The successful settlement of this problem would serve the interests of peace and the stabilization of the international situation, and contribute to the free use of the most important international routes of navigation.

The conclusion of a convention prohibiting the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of neutron weapons in the Second Disarmament Decade would be a significant success.

The convocation of a world disarmament conference in the course of the 1980s would be a considerable contribution to military détente. On the assumption that States would show a political preparedness to assume concrete commitments and in view of the universal nature and full powers of such a conference, its results would lead to the attainment of a decisive and positive turn in the sphere of disarmament.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is convinced that, by combining the efforts of all peace-loving States and by solving the above-mentioned problems, it is possible to halt the arms race, to attain a decisive and positive turn in the disarmament negotiations and to take a number of concrete steps aimed at attaining general and complete disarmament under strict international control.

(Signed) Bohuslav CHMŮPEK
