

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINA, INDIA, MEXICO AND SWEDEN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A JOINT MESSAGE ADDRESSED ON 6 DECEMBER 1987 TO PRESIDENT REAGAN AND GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV BY THE SIX LEADERS AUTHORS OF THE INITIATIVE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

During the last recess of the Conference on Disarmament, the six leaders authors of the initiative for peace and disarmament addressed, on 6 December 1987, a Joint Message to President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. We would appreciate that its text, which is annexed to this letter, be reproduced and distributed as a document of the Conference on Disarmament as has been done in all previous similar cases.

(Signed) Mario Cámpora
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Argentina for Disarmament
Affairs

(Signed) Jaskaran Singh Teja
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
India to the United Nations
Office at Geneva

(Signed) Alfonso García Robles
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Mexico to the Conference
on Disarmament

(Signed) Rolf Ekéus
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Sweden to the Conference on
Disarmament

JOINT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN AND GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV

Your meeting in Washington on 7 December will be closely watched by the entire world, yearning for an end to the threat of nuclear war.

Your summits in Geneva and in Reykjavik have set the stage. In Geneva you jointly expressed the resolve to prevent an arms race in space, to terminate it on earth, and ultimately to eliminate nuclear weapons everywhere. In Reykjavik, these visions took the shape of concrete disarmament proposals. We wish you success as you now move to act on these proposals.

The signing of an agreement to eliminate all landbases intermediate nuclear forces will be a momentous first step on the road to nuclear disarmament. The world expects you to proceed rapidly on that road. We earnestly hope, that your summit meeting will yield a spirit in which much more far reaching disarmament agreements can quickly be elaborated and concluded.

Under such conditions, the abolishing of the INFS will not be seen as an isolated event, but as a watershed, marking a definitive end to the nuclear arms race and the launching of a confidence-building process where disarmament plays its vital role to build world peace.

Shortly after your summit we will, as participants of the six nation initiative, convene in Stockholm to take stock of current progress on disarmament, and to spell out what we see as the most urgent next priorities.

The decisions on nuclear disarmament are not ours. But both nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States share the responsibility to avert war and to create a stable and just world order. On our part, we will continue to maintain the right of say of the non-nuclear part of humanity on the issues upon which all our lives depend. We wish to pursue the dialogue on how to achieve nuclear disarmament, and to confirm the role of all nations in urging the survival of our civilization.

6 December 1987

Raúl Alfonsín
President of Argentina

Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado
President of Mexico

Andreas Papandreu
Prime Minister of Greece

Ingvar Carlsson
Prime Minister of Sweden

Rajiv Gandhi
Prime Minister of India

Julius Nyerere
First President of Tanzania