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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 3 January 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a. i. of the
Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the appeal of the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the parliaments and governments of all States and to all the peoples of the world.

On instructions from my Government, I should like to request you to have the above-mentioned appeal circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Tudor MIRCEA
Chargé d'Affaires a. i.

ANNEX

Appeal of the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic
of Romania to the parliaments and governments of all States and
to all the peoples of the world

The Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania, meeting in solemn session on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the formation of the unitary Romanian national State, has decided to address a solemn appeal to the parliaments and governments of all States and to all the peoples of the world to develop co-operation, friendship and understanding for the purpose of deepening the course of détente and strengthening international security, halting the arms race and proceeding to concrete disarmament measures, and ensuring a lasting peace on our planet.

The Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania considers that, in spite of the sharpening of contradictions in international life, world developments are not leading towards an inevitable military confrontation or a world war. The will of the peoples to promote a new policy of independence, collaboration, security and peace, to settle all litigious issues by political means and to exclude war and armed confrontation from inter-State relations is asserting itself ever more strongly throughout the world.

The Grand National Assembly expresses its firm conviction that it rests with the peoples, with the State leaders, with the elected representatives of the peoples and with all people of good faith, whatever their philosophical and religious beliefs, to prevent by close collaboration the outbreak of a new world war and to ensure international peace and stability.

The parliaments - the most representative forums of the peoples - and the governments play a major role in this respect, as they can make an essential contribution to the adoption of concrete measures so that the legitimate aspirations for peace, international security and collaboration among all the nations of the world may be attained.

The uncontrolled arms race, the accumulation of ever more sophisticated means of destruction and the unprecedented increase of military expenditures are today the most serious threat to peace and security. The arms race is a heavy burden on all peoples; it poisons the world political climate, it can upset the military balance and sharpens international contradictions. That is why it is vitally important that the balance required for the peace and security of all States should be ensured by reducing military forces and armaments, by gradually cutting military budgets, by disarmament, beginning with nuclear disarmament, and not by accelerating the arms race, increasing military spending and accumulating further stocks of weapons.

In the present-day world, the halting of the arms race, the undelayed passage to effective measures of disarmament, nuclear in particular, are the keystone of the establishment of a climate of real security, peace and understanding among all peoples.

We have the supreme duty to our peoples to express their fundamental interests by resolutely saying "No" to the arms race, to take action to reduce the current military budgets so that the resulting funds may be reallocated for the peoples' welfare and primarily for eliminating underdevelopment, poverty, famine and misery in vast areas of the globe and for raising the general standards of living and civilization of all nations.

In this spirit, the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania calls on all the parliaments and governments of the world to consider freezing their military expenditure, forces and weapons at the 1978 level, proceeding to a long-range disarmament programme, applying a set of measures aimed at steadily slowing down the arms race, stopping the production of new weapons and helping to build a world free from weapons or wars.

The vital aspirations of mankind for peace, progress and civilization render imperative the adoption of concrete measures for nuclear disarmament, for stopping the development and production of new weapons and destroying nuclear weapons, so that man's genius and the scientific conquest of the secrets of the atom can be used for progress, for meeting the requirements of life and peace and for the welfare of mankind as a whole.

We call upon all nuclear States to undertake not to use nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear States and not to locate new nuclear weapons in the territories of other countries.

The worst situation is, of course, in Europe, where the arms race has reached an unprecedented scale and where there is a greater concentration of armed forces and improved weapons, including nuclear weapons than in any other part of the world, further endangering security and civilization. Therefore, all the States in Europe should make determined efforts to achieve European security, creating a climate in which each nation can be secure from any aggression and concentrate its energies on free and peaceful development. Consequently, we call upon the parliaments, peoples and governments of the States signatory to the Helsinki Final Act to work with the necessary determination for the broad development of inter-European collaboration, for the adoption of practical measures for military disengagement and disarmament, without which peace in Europe and in the world is inconceivable.

Highly important for the peace and security of the European continent would be the commitment not to deploy new troops or weapons in the territories of other States and gradually to diminish and eventually to withdraw all foreign troops to within their national borders, liquidate the military bases in the territories of other States, and stop military manoeuvres and any other show of force near the frontiers of other States.

The Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania considers that the strengthening of peace and security implies a constant limitation of the military activity of the blocs, an intensification of action paving the way to the simultaneous abolition of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization. Accordingly, it would be of great importance to establish between the military blocs a zone in which armies, armaments, manoeuvres and military demonstrations would be forbidden.

Given the imperative need to prevent any new escalation of the arms race and to achieve a balance of forces not by increasing military expenditure but by constantly decreasing them, we solemnly appeal to the heads of State, governments and parliaments of NATO member countries to reconsider their decisions regarding the increase of military expenditure and to take steps leading to a cessation of the arms race, military disengagement and disarmament, and to the establishment of a climate of peace and confidence among States.

The Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania submits for the consideration of the parliaments, governments and peoples of Europe the proposal for an all-European agreement among all the States that took part in the Helsinki Conference, embodying the pledge to renounce the threat or use of force.

Wishing to see some measures of military disengagement implemented in Europe, the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania calls on all the States participating in the military negotiations in Vienna to make every possible effort for the successful conclusion of the negotiations as soon as possible, on the basis of the proposals made by both socialist and Western countries; this would help to build up mutual confidence among the European States and pave the way to a firmer approach to military disengagement and disarmament in Europe.

We also call on the parliaments, governments and peoples of Europe to act together in order to have the problems of military disengagement and disarmament discussed within the general framework of European security, with the participation of all the States signatory to the Helsinki Final Act, in the vital interest of all the peoples of Europe and of the whole world.

We have to prepare thoroughly the next Madrid meeting of 1980, so as to highlight the problems of European military disengagement and disarmament, enabling the meeting to adopt concrete measures for intensifying economic co-operation, expanding cultural, scientific and humanitarian relations, and speeding up the process of making Europe a continent of peace, détente and fruitful co-operation among nations.

The adoption of measures of military disengagement and disarmament in Europe should ensure a balance of forces that would not give unilateral advantages to any side but would guarantee the observance of the principle of equal security, consolidating the course towards détente and mutual trust.

A guarantee of international peace and security also requires that every effort be made to achieve a political negotiated settlement of all the conflicts and tensions among countries, to completely eliminate the threat or use of force in international relations, thereby creating favourable conditions for strengthening confidence, understanding and co-operation among all the nations of the world.

The Grand National Assembly, expressing the Romanian people's desire for peace and co-operation, assures the parliaments, governments and peoples of the world that Romania will make determined efforts for the firm continuation of the course towards

détente and understanding among nations, for military disengagement and disarmament, making its full contribution to the cause of international peace and security in Europe in order to promote the fulfilment of all the peoples' aspirations to put an end to the arms race and to proceed to general disarmament, above all nuclear disarmament, to establish a new international economic order and to solve the complex problems by peaceful means, with the participation of all States, irrespective of their size or social system.

We firmly believe that, if parliaments, governments and all peoples unite their efforts and actively work together, they will be able not only to prevent the escalation of the arms race, but also to impose the adoption of practical disarmament measures, ensure the strengthening of international co-operation, understanding and security and the establishment of a climate of peace in which all the nations can develop freely on the road of progress and prosperity.

We call on parliaments and governments and on all peoples to work together in a spirit of mutual understanding and confidence, so that the material and human resources should not be frittered away for military purposes, for wars, destruction and death, but used in the interests of the peace and welfare of peoples, for a better and more just life on this planet.
