



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/141 + add. 1
20 June 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Thirty-fourth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA
OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

ADOPTION OF A DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION
FOR DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 18 June 1979 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Czechoslovakia addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic proposes the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Adoption of a declaration on international co-operation for disarmament".

In submitting this item for consideration by the General Assembly, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is guided by the following considerations:

The most urgent task facing the international community, as has been repeatedly emphasized in the forum of the United Nations and elsewhere, is that of achieving an effective solution to the vital problems of arms limitation and disarmament. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic believes that the speediest possible realization of these goals is the main precondition for ensuring lasting international peace and security for all peoples.

The efforts being made in this direction have, of course, produced important positive results, to which was recently added the new agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on the limitation of strategic offensive arms, which is of exceptional importance.

Despite these positive results, however, it has not yet proved possible to make the necessary decisive move towards halting the arms race and pressing on to disarmament. There must be a continued mobilization of efforts and political will in this direction by all States in the world.

With this objective in view, Gustáv Husák, President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, said the following in his address of 1 May 1979 in Prague:

"We believe that it would be useful to adopt a document on the broadest possible basis, preferably in the United Nations, which would require States to join efforts in dealing with the urgent problems of disarmament and would outline concrete political principles for co-operation in the attainment of this objective. States should assume an obligation to approach disarmament negotiations in a constructive manner and to promote the creation of an international atmosphere conducive to the speedy achievement of the desired progress."

This idea stems from a deep conviction that the achievement of disarmament and the attainment of its goals, which are to ensure lasting world peace and all-round economic, social and spiritual progress for human society, are possible only if there is effective, constructive, continuing co-operation among all the members of the international community, irrespective of their social and economic system or their participation in political or military groupings.

Such co-operation must be demonstrated, developed and intensified in mutual contacts and wherever States conduct negotiations on disarmament or arms limitation so that the aims of those negotiations will be achieved as speedily as possible. It must be based on a firm political will and a common determination by States to achieve concrete, positive results and bring about a decisive shift in disarmament negotiations as soon as possible. At the same time, it must be bolstered by the creation of a favourable atmosphere of trust in relations between States.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic believes that it would be useful if the question of developing and intensifying constructive, fruitful international co-operation in dealing with disarmament problems were to receive comprehensive discussion as soon as possible in the broadest available forum, the United Nations. The consideration of this question at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly should end with the adoption of a declaration on international co-operation for disarmament.

The declaration could constitute a kind of code of political principles and norms governing the conduct of States in disarmament negotiations and of principles which should guide States in their approach to an effective solution of disarmament problems and to the development of constructive co-operation in that direction.

In the opinion of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the declaration should particularly stress that the Governments of all countries in the world bear a historic responsibility for eliminating war from human life, mainly through the adoption of effective, decisive measures of disarmament aimed at the achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

The declaration should solemnly call upon all States actively to promote the development, strengthening and intensification of international co-operation designed to achieve the goals of disarmament, bearing in mind that it is of the utmost importance to establish and ensure lasting, just international peace for the present generation and those yet to come.

With this end in view, States should take decisive initiatives aimed at halting a further arms race and adopting decisive new measures of disarmament which will contribute to the attainment of mankind's great ideal - general and complete disarmament.

States should also actively exercise their inalienable right to take part in disarmament negotiations, as confirmed by the final document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and should conduct such negotiations in a sincere manner, taking advantage of all opportunities and forums available now and in the future for the conduct of negotiations.

It is also important that States should not refuse to participate in measures taken in the field of disarmament and that, guided by the highest interests of international peace and security in conformity with the United Nations Charter, they should actively further such measures in accordance with their military, economic and political potential.

The achievement of a decisive shift in disarmament negotiations also requires that States examine in a fully responsible manner and in a positive spirit of co-operation all constructive proposals and initiatives which are designed to promote the achievement of tangible and mutually acceptable concrete measures of disarmament and accelerated progress in disarmament negotiations.

The declaration should also reaffirm the principle that disarmament problems must be solved in such a manner that the measures taken do not impair the security of any State participating in the negotiations or pose a threat to such a State but, on the contrary, strengthen the security of the entire international community.

The adoption of such a declaration would also play a positive role in translating into reality the goals unanimously put forward at the tenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and would help to create favourable conditions for their practical implementation.

In drafting the declaration, the General Assembly could at the same time develop and give more comprehensive and concrete form to the provisions on these matters contained in other basic documents of the international community.

Guided by these considerations, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will introduce at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly a draft declaration on international co-operation for disarmament.

I should be grateful if you would regard this letter as an explanatory memorandum pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and if you would circulate it as an official General Assembly document.

(Signed) Bohuslav CHVOUPEK