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Items 45 and 46 of the preliminary list*

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 22 May 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the communiqué adopted at the meeting of the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Warsaw Treaty Member States held in Budapest on 14 and 15 May 1979.

I should be grateful if you would have the communiqué circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 45 and 46 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) András HALÁSZ
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Communiqué adopted at the meeting of the Committee of the Ministers
for Foreign Affairs of the Warsaw Treaty Member States held at
Budapest on 14 and 15 May 1979

A meeting of the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Warsaw Treaty on Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance was held in Budapest on 14 and 15 May 1979.

Taking part in the meeting were P. Mladenov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria; F. Puja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic; O. Fischer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic; E. Vojtaszek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic; Şt. Andrei, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania; A. A. Gromyko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and B. Chnoupek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

In accordance with the directive of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Member States, the Ministerial Committee, having held an exchange of views on questions of security and co-operation in Europe, cessation of the arms race and disarmament, examined measures, with due regard for current developments, to implement the tasks set forth in the Declaration adopted by the Political Consultative Committee at its meeting held in Moscow on 23 November 1978.

1. On behalf of their States the Ministers emphasized that the development of the international situation fully reaffirmed the timeliness of the conclusions and the importance of the proposals contained in the Declaration of 23 November 1978, intended to ensure real progress in solving the fundamental problems of today and above all the problem of ending the arms race and achieving disarmament, eliminating armed conflicts and seats of tension and deepening the process of international détente.

The Ministers declared the firm determination of the States represented at the meeting to continue to work for the practical implementation of these proposals in close co-operation with other peace-loving countries and democratic and progressive forces. Such practical results can be achieved through constructive negotiations between the States concerned through a purposeful search for and formulation of generally acceptable solutions. In this work for the benefit of peace it is imperative to show perseverance, to take active practical steps, and to overcome any difficulties without delays or procrastination.

2. In this context the participants in the meeting considered the most pressing task related to the strengthening of peace and security in Europe. They stressed that in the current circumstances a major step in this direction, fully consistent with the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, would

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be the conclusion among all the participating States of that Conference of a treaty on the non-first use of either nuclear or conventional weapons against each other. The conclusion of such a treaty will go a long way towards reinforcing the political and legal foundation underlying the observance in Europe of the principle of the non-use or threat of force, enhancing its effectiveness and thereby providing new safeguards against the unleashing of armed conflicts on the European continent.

At present conditions are also ripe for expanding the measures to strengthen confidence among States, for taking concrete steps in the field of military détente in Europe in the spirit of the Final Act of the all-European conference. In addition to the measures which are being implemented now in accordance with the Final Act, the States represented at the meeting are prepared to agree on prior notification of significant military movements in the same area, major air force manoeuvres in that area and major naval manoeuvres conducted in close proximity to the territorial waters of other participating States of the all-European conference. The countries represented at the meeting are also prepared to agree on the non-enlargement of the military-political groupings in Europe, the limitation of the levels of military manoeuvres and the extension of confidence-building measures to the Mediterranean. They are also willing to give very careful consideration to other proposals aimed at strengthening confidence among States and at military détente.

What is required now is at an early date to begin discussing and negotiating practical measures of such a nature as would contribute to the building of confidence among States in Europe, the easing of the military confrontation and the subsequent lessening of the concentration and the reduction of the armed forces and armaments on the continent. The States represented at the meeting propose that a conference be convened to this end on a political level to be attended by all the European States, the United States and Canada. They believe it desirable for such a conference to be held in 1979. The venue and the date of the conference can be agreed upon among all the States concerned through consultations which the Warsaw Treaty Member Countries are ready to start immediately.

3. On behalf of their States the Ministers expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of real progress at the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. They pointed out that the socialist countries, in their proposals of 8 June 1978, provided realistic answers to the key issues before the talks, broadly taking into account the ideas of the other participants in the talks contributing thereby to a significant accommodation of the positions. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization States, however, have failed - for almost one year now - to give a businesslike reply to these constructive proposals.

The ministers emphasized that if speedy and successful headway is to be made at the Vienna talks the Western participants must also show good will.

4. The Ministers stated further that the latest steps to intensify the arms race, which have recently been taken within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization bloc, are in direct contradiction with the interests of détente and its deepening.

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Of particular danger in this respect are the plans for deployment on the territories of some West European countries of medium-range nuclear missile weapons aimed at targets on the territories of European socialist States, as well as the revival of the plans for development and deployment of neutron weapons.

The States represented at the meeting are convinced that the strengthening of the security of all States in Europe should not be sought through the further intensification of the arms race, but rather through the limitation of nuclear missile weapons and conventional armaments on the basis of complete reciprocity. They believe that all the necessary conditions exist now to that effect and, as they stated in the Moscow Declaration of 23 November 1978, they are ready to make efforts in this direction jointly with other States. It should be clear, however, that if a positive result is to be achieved along these lines a constructive approach is necessary on the part of all. Therefore, the States represented at the meeting call on the member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to desist, in the interest of the security of European countries, from exacerbating the situation in Europe and fueling military tensions, to renounce the measures for stepping up the arms race, and to embark firmly on the road of military détente and disarmament.

5. The Ministers reiterated the view of their States to the effect that the Madrid meeting of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, to be held in 1980, is called upon to promote and consolidate the relaxation of tensions, strengthen security and expand all-European co-operation. The member countries of the Warsaw Treaty are prepared to make their constructive contribution to ensure its success.

They stressed in this connexion that it is extremely important for the success of the Madrid meeting that it should be held in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere, which must be characterized above all by a commitment of all its participants to achieve practical results at the meeting. Accordingly, the States represented at the meeting are in favour of focusing the work of the Madrid meeting on negotiating concrete positive steps for implementing the principles and understandings of the Final Act both as an integral whole, including strong measures for military détente, and for the development and expansion of equal and mutually beneficial economic, scientific, technical and cultural co-operation.

The States represented at the meeting believe it essential to ensure a thorough and comprehensive preparation of the Madrid meeting and to that end are willing to keep in touch and hold bilateral and multilateral consultations with all States signatories to the Final Act of the all-European conference. The subjects of the consultations may also include the question of the level of representation of States at the meeting, bearing in mind its importance for the cause of détente, security and co-operation in Europe.

Of great importance for the success of the Madrid meeting would be a constructive preparation and productive work of the proposed all-European conference on the question of military détente.

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6. In expressing the position of principle of their States as regards the need for ending the arms race and ensuring a decisive transition to real disarmament measures, particularly nuclear disarmament, the Ministers unanimously declared themselves in favour of redoubling the efforts to the utmost with a view to a speedy achievement of practical agreement regarding:

(a) The conclusion and bringing into force of the new Soviet-American treaty on the limitation of strategic offensive arms and a transition to the next stage of negotiations on their reduction;

(b) The dates and procedures for holding talks on ending the production of nuclear weapons of all types and on gradual reduction of their stockpiles up to and including their complete elimination;

(c) The permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and simultaneous renunciation by all States of the use or threat of force in their mutual relations;

(d) The conclusion of a treaty on complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests;

(e) The adoption of measures to strengthen the guarantees of the security of non-nuclear States, including the renunciation of the use of nuclear weapons against the States that do not possess nuclear weapons and do not have them on their territories, and the undertaking not to deploy nuclear weapons on the territories of States where there are no such weapons at present.

The participants in the meeting confirmed once again that their countries strongly advocate the reduction of military expenditures by States having a major military and economic potential. They call for starting negotiations promptly on the specific extent of such reductions as the first step for the next three years or any other initial period acceptable to all.

The States represented at the meeting are against building up armed forces and armaments on the territories of other States. They pronounce themselves in favour of concluding agreements on the reduction of armed forces and armaments, for new international efforts to be made towards the dismantling of military bases on foreign territories and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territories of other States, towards the creation of non-nuclear zones and zones of peace in various regions, including Europe.

They state again that they are ready to disband the Warsaw Treaty Organization concurrently with the disbandment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and, as the first step, to dismantle their military organizations, starting with the mutual reduction of military activities.

7. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs pointed out that new attempts have lately been made to undermine the process of international détente, create new hotbeds of military danger, launch campaigns hostile to socialist countries and stir up

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animosity between peoples. The revival in some countries of the activities of neo-fascist and neo-nazi organizations and trends is highly dangerous too.

The States represented at the meeting are convinced that all these attempts are doomed to failure if peace-loving States and peoples demonstrate proper vigilance, give adequate rebuff, and step up in every possible way their activities in the struggle for further progress towards a more durable peace in Europe and in the world at large.

The member States of the Warsaw Treaty call upon all States to build their relations on the basis of strict observance of the principles adopted by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe: sovereign equality, respect for rights inherent in sovereignty; refraining from the threat or use of force; inviolability of frontiers; territorial integrity of States; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-intervention in internal affairs; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; equal rights of peoples and their right to self-determination; co-operation among States; fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law.

The socialist States represented at the meeting will continue, as before, to act consistently and unswervingly in the interests of peace, détente and international co-operation.

The meeting of the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Warsaw Treaty proceeded in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and mutual understanding.
