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WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Letter dated 1 October 1971 from the Permanent Representative of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed  
to the Secretary-General

I am transmitting to you herewith a statement by the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic concerning the convening of a world disarmament conference.

I request that the statement be circulated as a document of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Y. MALIK  
Permanent Representative of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
to the United Nations



Allow me, Excellency, to send you a statement of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic on the proposal of the Government of the USSR for the convocation of a world disarmament conference. I request you in preparation for the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly to bring this statement to the notice of the United Nations Member States as an official document of the General Assembly.

Accept the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

Otto WINZER  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E. U Thant  
Secretary-General of  
the United Nations  
New York  
United Nations Headquarters



STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The Government of the German Democratic Republic welcomes the proposal of the Government of the USSR that a world disarmament conference should be convened and this question be included in the agenda of the forthcoming twenty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The proposal of the USSR Government, which is in line with the peace programme set forth at the twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, is another impressive manifestation of the USSR's constructive and consistent policy to settle important international problems for the benefit of all peoples.

A world conference on disarmament would be a suitable forum to deal with important questions of nuclear and conventional disarmament and to achieve progress in this field. A world disarmament conference could make a major contribution towards strengthening international security and also open the prospect of releasing for peaceful development considerable material resources still used for armament.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has always held the view that, for the sake of all peoples, every opportunity should be taken in order to find ways and means to end the arms race and make progress towards general and complete disarmament.

Therefore, the Government of the German Democratic Republic supported the materialization of all multilateral treaties concluded by now on the control of the arms race, and has acceded to these treaties.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic strongly supports the proposal to convene a world conference on disarmament. It is convinced that such a conference would have a great significance for ensuring lasting security in Europe. The arms race initiated by imperialist forces has taken particularly dangerous dimensions in Europe, where large quantities of means of mass destruction and conventional weapons are stockpiled. A military conflict on this continent would entail unforeseeable and devastating consequences for the peoples of Europe and the world at large.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic believes that all States should participate on equal terms in this world conference on disarmament because the universality of the conference is an essential condition to its effectiveness for the benefit of all peoples.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic would appreciate it if the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly would consider the question of a world conference on disarmament and take a decision on the early convocation of that conference.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic declares its willingness to help the conference getting under way and making it a success.

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