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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Note verbale dated 21 July 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Czechoslovak reply to General Assembly resolution 42/39 E entitled "Regional disarmament" and kindly requests him to distribute it as the official document of the General Assembly under items 64, 65, 67 and 73 of the provisional agenda.

* A/43/150.

ANNEX

Statement of the Government of Czechoslovakia
on regional disarmament

1. The principal objective pursued by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in talks on disarmament is a comprehensive programme of gradual elimination of both nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction before the end of this century together with substantial reductions in armed forces and conventional armaments.
2. In the context of these efforts, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic attaches a major importance to implementation of regional and subregional disarmament measures, which, although they cannot replace the process of general and complete disarmament, constitute an effective contribution towards global prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and limitation and reduction of conventional potentials. Such measures can play a meaningful role in the process of reduction of the risk of military confrontation and in the building up of confidence and co-operation among States with different political and social systems.
3. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic fully respects the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and supports all realistic proposals for the establishment of new ones in different parts of the world. As a European State, it is eminently interested in establishment of such zones on the European continent. This would be conducive to the strengthening of international security and stability, consolidation of the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and enhancement of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
4. Pursuant to the appeal for opening direct talks on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the European continent which the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty addressed to the NATO States on 9 April 1986, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the German Democratic Republic sent the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on 3 April 1987 a proposal to create a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in Central Europe.
5. The Czechoslovak Government has been highly gratified to hear the statement made by Mikhail Gorbachev in Prague in April 1987 on the Soviet Union's readiness to withdraw from that corridor, on the basis of reciprocity, all nuclear forces and to respect the nuclear-weapon-free status of the corridor.
6. Although the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has been taking, until now, a negative stand to our proposal, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic believes that after the signing and ratification of the historic Soviet-United States Treaty on the elimination of medium and shorter-range missiles implementation of this timely initiative has grown to be of even greater significance. Therefore, Czechoslovakia will continue to pursue it in all respects.
7. In the context of the lengthy protracted work on finalization of a convention on a world-wide prohibition of chemical weapons and on their destruction, the launching by the United States of the manufacture of binary chemical weapons

and the problems concerning their effective control, Czechoslovakia is convinced that the proposal for the establishment of a chemical-weapon-free zone in Central Europe as put forward by the Governments of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the German Democratic Republic in September 1985 is profoundly justified and has not lost any of its urgency and timeliness. On the contrary, further proliferation of chemical weapons, whether along horizontal or vertical lines, and their use in local conflicts pose a grave threat to the other, peace-loving States and their peoples, especially in areas with extremely high concentration of population, industry, troops and technological equipment.

8. Although the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has refused direct negotiations between the parties concerned, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has been gratified at the establishment in February 1986 of a mechanism of trilateral consultations among the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany in Geneva at ambassadorial level. Their agenda covers both global and regional aspects of prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons, with particular attention being paid to possible applications of verification and monitoring measures.

9. With a view to activating the negotiations on global prohibition of chemical weapons and proceeding further towards establishment of a chemical-weapon-free zone in Central Europe, the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has expressed its readiness to start immediately and at any level talks on, as the case may be, removal of chemical weapons from or refrainment from deploying them on the territories of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, as it has been called for by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) in their joint statement on prohibition of chemical weapons of 6 April 1988. Czechoslovakia would welcome it if the other European States, too, considered the possibility of becoming involved in this initiative. Doing so would give them, inter alia, the right to monitor the zone.

10. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is convinced that this timely step of a regional nature might be instrumental in resolving the still open problems relating to the global convention on the basis of practical experience. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the German Democratic Republic have recommended to use the envisaged zone as a "laboratory" for testing of numerous practical measures, especially those concerning verification of refrainment from manufacture of chemical weapons in the civilian chemical industry.

11. At the Vienna talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and its allies have been constantly striving to reach agreement on the basis of equality of obligations and undiminished security for both parties. To this end, they have put forward a number of highly constructive initiatives of a compromise nature suggesting both substantial and partial reductions in the military potentials of the parties directly involved in these talks, including proposals for a symbolic reduction in ground forces and armaments of the Soviet Union and the United States. However, much to our regret, we have to state that 15 years of intensive efforts have failed to produce the expected results as envisaged in the balanced Final Communiqué of 1973.

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12. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is of the opinion that military confrontation between the two politico-military blocs in Europe has become too dangerous. As a State that was exposed to many a European war, including the latest world war, it attaches extraordinary importance to safeguarding lasting security on the European continent. The proposal for the establishment of a zone of confidence, co-operation and good-neighbourly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty States and the NATO States announced on 24 February 1988 by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Miloš Jakeš, is a contribution to further intensification of the all-European security and co-operation process in this very spirit.

13. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is convinced that this comprehensive proposal responds to the aspirations of the peace-loving States and encompasses all the main spheres of relations between them. In addition to the military sphere, where, inter alia, a zone cleared of the most dangerous kinds of offensive weapons might be created, the proposal also envisages building up a mechanism of effective political dialogue, enhancing the contractual basis of relations and broadening the spectrum of mutually beneficial co-operation in the economic and environmental fields as well as in the humanitarian sphere and in the fields of culture, science, education and public health. As far as geographical parameters are concerned, the zone would reach to Northern, Central as well as Southern Europe.

14. In conclusion, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic wishes to emphasize that it intends to put forward in the near future a project containing concrete suggestions on the individual sphere covered by this initiative. These should then become the subject of negotiations.
