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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 8 April 1983 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that at the meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, held at Prague on 6 and 7 April 1983, it was agreed that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic as the host country to the meeting would arrange for the distribution of the final communiqué, adopted at that meeting, as an official document of the United Nations.

Upon instructions of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and on behalf of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, I have therefore the honour to transmit to you the final communiqué of the meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, adopted at Prague on 7 April 1983, and to request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 62 and 66 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Stanislav SUJA
Permanent Representative
of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
to the United Nations

* A/38/50.

ANNEX

Communiqué adopted at the meeting of the Committee of Ministers
for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty

[Original: Russian]

A regular meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance took place at Prague on 6 and 7 April 1983.

The meeting was attended by: 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; S. Olszewski, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic; S. Andrei, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania; A. A. Gromyko, First Vice-President of the USSR Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and B. Chnoupek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

During the meeting there was an exchange of views and information on developments in Europe - in the broader context of the world situation generally - since the Prague session of the Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty. The meeting discussed matters related to the implementation of proposals and initiatives advanced by the Political Consultative Committee with the aims of averting nuclear war, continuing and consolidating the process of détente, solving disarmament problems, buttressing security and developing co-operation on the European continent and throughout the world.

1. During the exchange of views it was remarked that the course of events fully vindicates the assessments of the international situation contained in the Prague Political Declaration and makes the proposals set forth in the declaration still more timely. These proposals have been taken up world-wide as a realistic alternative to a nuclear disaster and as an appeal for extensive international co-operation for the sake of preserving life on earth.

The participants in the meeting emphasized the significance of the view, arrived at during the Prague session of the Political Consultative Committee, that the prevention of war depends first and foremost on the co-operation, cohesiveness and purposeful action of the forces of peace, which are mightier nowadays than the forces of war. They remarked that such action is becoming more and more vigorous. A major contribution in this direction has been made by the seventh Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries at New Delhi.

At the same time, it was emphasized that the international situation remains complex and tense. There is in progress a further escalation of imperialistic policies, primarily the policies of United States imperialism, of force and confrontation, of encroachment on national independence and State sovereignty, of

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consolidating and redividing "spheres of influence", of stirring up old conflicts and sparking off new ones. The continuing proliferation of weapons is likely to have serious repercussions, and especial danger is inherent in the new lap of the nuclear arms race. The economic crisis gripping many States is growing increasingly acute, the gulf between levels of economic development in different countries is widening and the obstacles to overcoming it are multiplying.

The States represented at the meeting drew attention to the adverse effects on the political climate and on détente and co-operation in Europe of the resurgence of revanchist tendencies in the Federal Republic of Germany., It was emphasized that absolute respect for the territorial and political realities of modern Europe is fundamental to the peace and security of the entire continent.

In the light of the prevailing circumstances, the States represented at the meeting consider it the duty of all States to help in every way they can to halt the current dangerous trend, channel events towards détente and mutually rewarding co-operation, find means of dealing with the immediate tasks of limiting and reducing armaments, particularly nuclear weapons, and provide for the peaceful settlement of conflict situations. In this regard, those attending the meeting emphasized the primordial importance of maintaining and developing the political dialogue between States at all levels on the most pressing European and other international problems. In accordance with instructions from the Political Consultative Committee, they discussed further steps to advance the proposals and initiatives contained in the Prague Political Declaration and practical measures relating to negotiations with the States belonging to the North Atlantic alliance and other States on the fundamental problems of consolidating peace, disarmament and security in Europe and world-wide.

2. Particular attention was devoted at the meeting to measures aimed at preventing the proliferation of the nuclear arms race on the European continent, with its inherent dangers for the situation in Europe and the greater threat of war that it implies. This problem is rendered all the more pressing and acute by the fact that there is still no progress at all in the Soviet-United States negotiations on the limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe, while at the same time preparations move ahead to deploy new United States medium-range missiles in Western Europe at the end of this year.

The States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty have, for their part, affirmed their desire for the complete liberation of Europe from both medium-range and tactical nuclear weapons and their readiness to assist in attaining such an outcome. As a major step in this direction, they strongly advocate a radical reduction in medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe based on the principles of equality and equal security.

They recall in this connection the proposals they set forth in the Prague Political Declaration, especially the Soviet proposals of 21 December 1982, and look forward to receiving a reply in a constructive spirit, allowing positive understandings to be reached at the negotiations in Geneva. The outcome of the medium-range nuclear-weapons issue in Europe should be such as to exclude the

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deployment of new United States medium-range missiles and ensure the maintenance of the military and strategic balance at ever lower levels.

3. The ministers considered the question of further steps to bring about the practical realization of the important joint initiative - that of concluding a treaty between the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty and the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty, open to all other countries, on the mutual non-use of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations - advanced in the Prague Political Declaration.

They remarked that this proposal, as contacts and consultations that have taken place between their countries and other States have also shown, has attracted a great deal of attention in many countries around the world, both at the governmental level and in socio-political circles.

The participants in the meeting took note of the fact that the member countries of the North Atlantic alliance, to which the proposal for a treaty is primarily directed, intend to study that proposal. They expressed the hope that those countries would adopt a constructive position with regard to the conclusion of such a treaty.

For their part, the States represented at the meeting confirmed their readiness to facilitate in every possible way the consideration of their proposal and promote an exchange of views on its various aspects with all interested countries. This relates, in particular, to such questions as the content and scope of possible obligations under the treaty; their relationship to obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, and other bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements; and co-operation in ensuring the observance of the treaty obligations.

To that end, the participants in the meeting considered it useful and desirable to continue bilateral contacts with the States members of the North Atlantic alliance and with other countries, also bearing in mind the possibility of considering the relevant questions on a multilateral basis at a level and in a form acceptable to all.

4. An exchange of views also took place at the meeting with regard to the ways and means of implementing the proposal, contained in the Prague Political Declaration, for beginning as speedily as possible direct negotiations between the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty and the States members of NATO on the question of not increasing military expenditures and of subsequently reducing them in percentage or absolute terms. The participants in the meeting favoured achieving such an agreement.

The view that resolving that question would effectively promote the reduction of the arms race and the transition to disarmament, so that the funds freed thereby could be used to meet the needs of socio-economic development, including the needs of developing countries, was confirmed.

The participants in the meeting emphasized that under the conditions of growing international tension, it was particularly important that the States members of NATO should receive their appeal favourably and that negotiations on the freezing and reduction of military expenditures should begin without further delay.

5. In connection with the negotiations at Vienna, the participants in the meeting confirmed the position of their States concerning the need to take effective measures to reduce armed forces and armaments in Central Europe and also their readiness, in accordance with the task set forth in the Prague Political Declaration, to reach agreement on the subject as speedily as possible.

They recalled the proposals of their countries for substantial reduction of armed forces and armaments in that region, including the proposal put forward by the socialist States directly participating in the negotiations of 17 February 1983 and based on a new approach in which the absence of agreement concerning the present size of the armies of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty and NATO in Central Europe would not prevent achieving agreement on such a reduction.

The hope was expressed at the meeting that those efforts would lead to a real reduction in military tension on the continent and that success in the negotiations could be achieved in the near future through the active co-operation of all participants.

6. The participants in the meeting remarked that the initiative set forth in the Prague Political Declaration concerning the removal of chemical weapons from Europe had aroused interest and evoked a positive response in many European countries. Their States continued to believe that the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons on a global scale, negotiations concerning which are being conducted in the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva, would be a radical solution to the problem. At the same time, it would be useful to take parallel steps leading to that goal within the limits of the European continent.

The States represented at the meeting are ready to undertake business-like contacts with other interested States for the joint consideration of practical questions connected with the task of removing chemical weapons from Europe, particularly such questions as the scope and sequence of appropriate measures, the substance of the obligations to be undertaken and the verification of their observance.

7. The participants in the meeting believed that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the European continent, including northern Europe and the Balkans, would be an effective factor in freeing the European continent from the nuclear threat. Another proposal in that direction was the proposal to establish a zone free from tactical nuclear weapons in that part of Europe where the concentration of armed forces and armaments was particularly high. The participants in the meeting noted the growing interest of European peoples in proposals for establishing nuclear-free zones and supported the holding of appropriate negotiations between the interested parties.

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8. During the discussion of the situation at the Madrid Meeting of Representatives of the Participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the ministers noted in particular that at the present crucial stage all efforts must be concentrated on reaching early agreement on a substantially significant and balanced final document. With regard to the specific content of such a document, it was stressed that the States represented at the meeting would continue to act in accordance with their constructive position as it had been set forth in the Prague Political Declaration.

The participants in the meeting expressed the view that at the present time there are possibilities for the successful conclusion of the work aimed at reaching agreement on the final document of the Madrid Meeting, including the question of convening a conference on confidence-building measures and on security and disarmament in Europe. In that connection, they exchanged views concerning the revised draft final document submitted by the neutral and non-aligned States on 15 March 1983.

They confirmed the position of their countries that the next meeting of the representatives of the States participating in the all-Europe conference should take place at Bucharest.

If the work aimed at reaching agreement on the final document of the Madrid Meeting should be successfully completed, the States represented at the meeting would be prepared to view favourably the proposal of certain participants in the meeting that it should be adopted at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

The firm conviction was expressed that in Europe all the necessary prerequisites exist for the States and peoples of the continent to live in conditions of peace, security and co-operation. That result depends above all on the efforts of the European States themselves.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding and a general desire on the part of the States represented there to increase their efforts further in the struggle for peace and détente in Europe and throughout the world. For their part, they are ready, as always, to consider in a constructive spirit proposals from other States designed to achieve those goals.

The next meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty will be held at Sofia in October 1983.
