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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Letter dated 4 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
the German Democratic Republic and the Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you an excerpt from the Joint Communiqué on the working visit of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honecker, to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which was issued in Moscow and Berlin on 29 September 1988.

We request you to circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the forty-third session of the General Assembly under agenda items 64, 72 and 73.

(Signed) Dr. Siegfried ZACHMANN
Permanent Representative
of the German Democratic
Republic to the United Nations

(Signed) Aleksandr M. BELONOGOV
Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to the United Nations

Annex

EXCERPT FROM THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE MEETING BETWEEN
ERICH HONECKER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE OF THE GERMAN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, AND MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, GENERAL
SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY
OF THE SOVIET UNION

On 29 September 1988 a joint communiqué on the results of the working visit to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, was issued in Moscow and Berlin.

As for the international situation, the following was stressed:

"In international affairs the USSR and the German Democratic Republic, along with their Warsaw Treaty organization allies, are true to the idea of a world without nuclear weapons, wars and violence. They are promoting by practical measures the accomplishment of that goal. They stand for truly democratic and civilized relations among all States on the basis of full equality and respect for the social choice made by the people. They are open to all proposals to eliminate the threat of the annihilation of mankind. They are prepared to co-operate fruitfully in this noble cause with all interested countries and socio-political forces on our planet.

"Both sides agree that, despite all remaining difficulties in the world, a turn for the better is emerging; there is a growing awareness of the need to promote new political thinking and to overcome militaristic stereotypes and confrontational attitudes in international relations in general. In this respect, the treaty between the USSR and the United States of America on the elimination of their intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is indeed a historic step paving the way to other far-reaching disarmament initiatives. At the same time, any attempt 'to compensate' for nuclear arms to be eliminated under the INF Treaty are inadmissible, since this would result in a new spiral of the arms race.

"The USSR and the German Democratic Republic stand for the process of disarmament to go on without hiatus on the basis of new agreements and accords, providing for ever more profound and radical reductions of stockpiled arsenals of armaments, including all types of nuclear weapons.

"The two sides note that the attainment of agreements on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive armaments, with the ABM Treaty being strictly observed, on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons tests and the global prohibition of chemical weapons would be of fundamental significance for peace and security.

"They believe that the proposals made at the last July meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty open up prospects for a new breakthrough in disarmament - in cutting armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, and, in a broader context, for the practical elaboration of elements for 'a common European home'. In this respect, the two sides reaffirm their willingness to take an active part in its construction. They believe that, at this crucial stage in East-West relations, a constructive political dialogue as well as agreements contributing to peace and the development of co-operation beneficial for all are of particular importance.

"The sides state their determination to work for an early conclusion of the Vienna meeting of the States members of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe with a substantive and balanced final document which could take the European process to a qualitatively new level.

"The German Democratic Republic fully supports the proposals made by the USSR in Warsaw on 11 July 1988 for the consolidation of security in Europe and the initiatives proclaimed in Krasnoyarsk on 16 September as exceedingly topical for building up confidence, peaceful coexistence and detente in the Asian and Pacific region.

"The Soviet Union pledges once again its support for the proposal put forward by the German Democratic Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, that a nuclear-weapon-free corridor be established in the centre of Europe, and reaffirms the readiness to withdraw, on a reciprocal basis, nuclear weapons from such a corridor and to become its guarantor to the non-nuclear States. It notes the great significance of the initiatives of the Governments of the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia to establish a chemical-weapon-free zone in Central Europe as well as of the proposal put forward by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Social Democratic Party of Germany to set up a zone of confidence and security in that region.

"The USSR and the German Democratic Republic reaffirm once again that the inviolability of frontiers and the unconditional respect for the existing territorial and political realities, for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States, and also for other generally recognized principles and norms of inter-State relations are the most important conditions for the preservation of peace and security in Europe.

"In this context the sides reaffirm their readiness further to develop co-operation with the Federal Republic of Germany. The possibilities opening up here should not be burdened by demands which are contrary to the treaties and agreements concluded between the Federal Republic of Germany and socialist countries. The Soviet Union unconditionally supports the German Democratic Republic's legitimate demand that the relations between the two sovereign German States, which are independent from each other, be geared fully in accordance with the generally recognized norms of international law.

"The USSR and the German Democratic Republic hold that respect for the existing realities and strict compliance with the Quadripartite Agreement of 3 September 1971 as constructive elements of safeguarding peace provide for further improving the situation around West Berlin and for developing good-neighbourly relations with that city.

"The Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the German Democratic Republic declare their determination to strengthen the fraternal alliance and the relations of mutual understanding, close friendship and all-round co-operation between the two Parties, States and peoples and to co-operate actively in the interests of peace, international security and socialism."
