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LETTER DATED 6 JULY 1971 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose the statement of the Government of the  
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic of 24 June 1971 concerning a conference on nuclear  
disarmament.

I would appreciate very much if you kindly arranged its circulation as  
official documents of the Security Council and General Assembly.

(Signed) Dr. Zdeněk ČERNÍK  
Permanent Representative

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\* Also issued under the symbol A/8337.

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC  
CONCERNING A CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

1. At its meeting held on 24 June 1971, the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic considered the proposal of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics relating to the convening of a conference of nuclear-weapon Powers which would deliberate questions of nuclear disarmament.<sup>1/</sup> It believes that the convening of such a conference would be an important step aimed not only at nuclear disarmament, but also at general and complete disarmament constituting the long-lasting desire of all mankind.
2. Such a conference would also greatly contribute to the alleviation of tensions in the world, strengthen confidence among States and thereby uphold the development of an all-round peaceful co-operation among countries having different social systems. We are fully conscious of the devastating consequences which a possible use of nuclear weapons would have for all mankind. Consequently, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic welcomed and immediately signed and ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Together with our allies and many other countries in the world we have been striving for the prohibition of their use, production and storing as well as for the liquidation of their stockpiles. Even if our ultimate objective is the liquidation of nuclear weapons from world arsenals, we likewise support all partial measures conducive towards this end.
3. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic highly appreciates the initiative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics emanating from the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The proposals submitted by the Soviet Government provide significant ideas and encouragement for the efforts of peace-loving nations directed at putting through the materialization of the idea of disarmament, at alleviating tensions and strengthening peace throughout the world. By its positive impact on the situation in the world, the convening of a conference of nuclear-weapon Powers would undoubtedly contribute to attaining positive results also in other disarmament talks under way at the present time.

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<sup>1/</sup> See A/8328 and S/10236.

4. Peoples in all countries of the world call for nuclear disarmament. However, the efforts aimed at its materialization should be made in the first place by those countries which possess nuclear weapons and have the main responsibility for peace and security in the world.

5. The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic expresses its conviction that the convening of a conference of nuclear-weapon Powers is a matter of all peace-loving people and hopes that it will take place within the shortest possible time.

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