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REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS**GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT****GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT****REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION****Letter dated 31 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to have the present letter and the enclosed texts of the Communiqué and the Statement issued by the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Warsaw Treaty Member States on Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance at its Budapest meeting, on 28 and 29 October 1988, circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 62, 64 (d), (j) and 67 (a) of its agenda.

(Signed) Ferenc ESZTERGALYOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
the United Nations

Annex I

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE WARSAW TREATY MEMBER STATES

The Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Warsaw Treaty on Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance held its regular meeting at Budapest, on 28 and 29 October 1988.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bulgarian People's Republic, Petar Mladenov, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Jaromir Johanes, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic, Tadeusz Olechowski, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, Péter Várkonyi, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, Oskar Fischer, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Ioan Totu, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Eduard Shevardnadze.

The Ministers reviewed current developments in the European and international situation. They stated that the assessments of the international situation and its perspectives made at this year's Warsaw meeting of the Political Consultative Committee were still valid. The Warsaw Treaty member States will make every possible effort to bring about a real change in world politics towards strengthening peace, disarmament - nuclear disarmament in particular - and extensive mutually beneficial co-operation, on the basis of respect for equality, independence and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and all other generally recognized principles and norms of international law.

They expressed their readiness to pursue dialogue with every State and with every political and social force to achieve this objective.

On the basis of the inviolability of frontiers and the existing territorial and political realities, the meeting devoted particular attention to issues of strengthening peace and co-operation in Europe. The participants re-emphasized their countries' endeavours for an early conclusion, with substantial results, of the Vienna Follow-up Meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. This would create the conditions for starting negotiations as early as 1988 on the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments and on confidence- and security-building measures in Europe and would give impetus to the expansion of co-operation in the economic, trade, scientific and technological spheres, in the field of ecological security and humanitarian issues, as well as to the implementation of human rights.

A statement on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe was adopted at the meeting (see annex II).

The Ministers noted that developments in settling regional conflicts had a favourable influence on the international situation.

The participants at the meeting expressed their firm determination to develop and deepen co-operation among the allied Socialist countries on international issues.

The meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs took place in an atmosphere of friendship and comradely co-operation.

The next meeting will be held at Berlin.

Annex II

STATEMENT ON CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES
AND DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE

The Warsaw Treaty member States consider that confidence- and security-building measures can serve as a significant means and a stimulating factor for promoting the reduction of military threat and the achievement of real disarmament as well as the strengthening of peace and stability of relations between States.

From the point of view of improving the political atmosphere, the importance of measures adopted at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe in September 1986 is becoming apparent to the extent of their implementation. The Stockholm Document demonstrates that important security issues can be solved by political will and mutual efforts by all interested States in the spirit of the new thinking. The resumption of the work of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe and the further implementation of the provisions of the Stockholm Document will broaden the perspectives for negotiations concerning even more significant confidence- and security-building measures and the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe.

Further improvement in confidence- and security-building measures on the European continent is of particular significance today when the 23 States members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are preparing to enter into negotiations, unique in scope and importance, on armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. In the view of the allied Socialist countries, military confidence- and security-building measures and efforts towards the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments are interrelated. Further steps in the field of confidence- and security-building measures would facilitate progress towards the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe and the solution of other disarmament issues, which in turn would create favourable conditions for increased confidence.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Warsaw Treaty member States believe that the negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures in Europe should be continued as early as 1988. In order to reduce military confrontation and the risk of an armed conflict in Europe, to reduce and avert the danger of a surprise attack and to enhance mutual security, to lend a strictly defensive character to military activities and to increase their openness and predictability as well as to promote the implementation of disarmament measures, the negotiations should make it possible for the measures elaborated ultimately to cover the activity of all elements of armed forces (ground, air and naval forces) of the States participating in the process of security and co-operation in Europe. The creation, on an equal basis, of mechanisms and procedures for contacts and consultations would also serve these objectives.

Confidence- and security-building measures should be applied to all military activities of the participating States that affect European security or form part of military actions taking place within the boundaries of Europe. These measures should be substantial, militarily effective and politically binding.

The military confidence- and security-building measures should be worked out and introduced gradually, taking into account the military and geographical realities in Europe and the level of mutual understanding among States.

The negotiations, being as they are an important element of the all-European process, should be conducted on the basis of the Madrid mandate, including the objectives, principles, subject of negotiations, zone of application of confidence- and security-building measures and rules of procedure contained in the mandate, and should be in accordance with the Concluding Document of the Vienna Follow-up Meeting.

It would be expedient to continue efforts at the negotiations to develop and expand the existing confidence- and security-building measures, and a new set of measures could also be worked out on the basis of proposals by the participating States.

Agreements to be reached in the course of the negotiations by the 23 and the 35 States respectively should be in harmony with each other and should complement and reinforce each other.

In the view of the Warsaw Treaty member States, a new generation of confidence- and security-building measures could be worked out in the following main directions:

1. Constraining measures

These measures would apply to the size and number of simultaneous military exercises and to the duration and frequency of military exercises, would ban large-scale military exercises and would restrict the redeployment of troops and technical equipment. Moreover, they would envisage the limitation of the number of combat-ready (alert) military exercises and the number of troops engaged; would affect the series of large-scale military exercises conceived as constituting a unified military exercise, and would envisage restraint on military activities in the vicinity of the borders of the participating States.

2. New confidence- and security-building measures

These measures would include prior notification of independent activities by air and naval forces, the invitation of observers according to appropriate parameters, inspection of such activities and agreement on restrictive measures, modalities of the exchange of annual calendars of such activities; extension of confidence- and security-building measures to the territories of all the countries participating in the security and co-operation process; creation of zones of

confidence and security in Europe and the adjoining seas and oceans; and also the possibility of working out confidence- and security-building measures that envisage more stringent régime on the basis of closeness to lines of contact between the military-political alliances or other States. Measures to avoid incidents on the seas and oceans adjoining Europe and in the airspace thereof would also be co-ordinated.

Different aspects of military doctrines could be discussed and compared in the course of or in connection with the negotiations. Issues relating to a freeze on and reduction of military budgets could also be considered.

The Warsaw Treaty member States believe that the establishment of a European centre for reducing military threat and preventing surprise attack would signify a qualitatively new step in reinforcing mutual confidence. The task of such a centre would be to exchange information and to maintain contacts as well as to hold consultations primarily for the operative settlement of events which give rise to concern or suspicion.

3. Measures to increase the openness and predictability of military activities: inspection, exchange of information and consultations

These measures would cover regular exchange of data on armed forces and their activities, including forces deployed at military bases around Europe; exchange of information on the structure and substance of military budgets; refraining from building up armed forces and renouncing the establishment of new military bases on the territories of foreign States; setting up observation posts at co-ordinated sites (points) within the zone of application of confidence- and security-building measures; creation of special operative communication links between the countries concerned; improvement of conditions for inspection and widening the scope of work for observers; the use of the latest technical equipment; development of relations between political and military representatives of the participating States; and extension of the present practice of exchange of military-diplomatic representations and military delegations.

Other measures promoting mutual understanding and enhancing confidence and security could also be adopted.

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The ideas and proposals of the Warsaw Treaty member States concerning confidence- and security-building measures are based on the defensive character of their military doctrine. Their implementation is intended to ensure that the military potentials of the States participating in the negotiations become strictly defensive in nature.

In this connection, the States represented at the meeting stand for the elimination of military bases on foreign territories and reaffirm their position concerning the simultaneous dissolution of the military-political alliances.

In the opinion of the Warsaw Treaty member States the convening of an all-European summit meeting to discuss issues concerning the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, with the participation of the United States of America and Canada, would also contribute to the elaboration and implementation of new confidence- and security-building measures.

The Warsaw Treaty member States are ready to consider other possible proposals aiming to enhance mutual confidence and security and to accelerate the process of disarmament in Europe.
