

**COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT**

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LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TRANSMITTING  
EXTRACTS FROM THE COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED AT THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE  
MEMBER STATES OF THE WARSAW TREATY ORGANIZATION ISSUED ON  
7 APRIL 1983 IN PRAGUE

I have the honour to send you herewith extracts from the communiqué adopted  
at the meeting of the Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the  
Member States of the Warsaw Treaty Organization issued on 7 April 1983 in Prague.

I would like to ask you to take the necessary measures for the issuance  
of this text as an official document of the Committee on Disarmament.

(Signed) Miloš Vejvoda  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

GE.83-60844

Extracts from the communiqué adopted at the meeting of the  
Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the  
Member States of the Warsaw Treaty Organization issued on  
7 April 1983 in Prague

A special attention was paid at the meeting to the measures aimed at preventing the intensification of the nuclear arms race on the European continent which entails dangerous consequences for the situation in Europe and increases the danger of war. This problem becomes even more timely and urgent since no progress has been achieved as yet at the Soviet-American negotiations on the limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe and that at the same time preparations are under way for the deployment of the new medium-range American missiles in Western Europe already by the end of this year.

The member States of the WTO confirmed that they strive for a complete elimination from Europe of both medium-range and tactical nuclear weapons and that they are ready to contribute to the achievement of such a solution. They firmly support, as a large step in this direction, the radical reduction of the medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security.

In this connection they recall their proposals contained in the Prague Political Declaration, especially the Soviet proposals of 21 December 1982, and expect answers in a constructive spirit so that a positive agreement could be reached at the Geneva negotiations. The problem of the medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe must be solved in such a way as to exclude the deployment of new American medium-range nuclear weapons and to ensure the preserving of the military -- strategic balance on ever lower levels.

The ministers considered further measures aimed at the realization of the important common initiative proposed in the Prague Political Declaration for the conclusion of a treaty on the mutual renunciation of the use of military force and on the maintenance of peaceful relations between the member States of the WTO and the NATO. They noted that this proposal, as was shown during the contacts and consultations, met with great interest in many countries of the world -- on the level of governments as well as within the political and public circles. The participants in the meeting took note of the intention of the NATO countries, to whom the treaty proposal is addressed in the first place, to study it. They expressed hope that these countries would adopt a constructive approach towards the conclusion of such a treaty. The States represented at the meeting for their part confirm, that they are ready to contribute through all means to the exploration of their proposal and to engage in an exchange of views on its various aspects with all the interested countries. This concerns mainly such questions like the content and the scope of possible commitments under the treaty, their interrelationship with the commitments under the United Nations Charter, under the Helsinki Final Act, under other bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements, the co-operation for the ensurance and compliance of the commitments under the treaty.

An exchange of views took place at the meeting on the ways and means for the realization of the proposal contained in the Prague Political Declaration to start, as soon as possible, direct negotiations between the member States of the WTO and the NATO on a non-increase of military expenditures and on their subsequent cut in percentage or absolute terms. The participants in the meeting spoke in favour of the achievement of such an agreement. A conviction was reiterated that the solution of this problem could contribute effectively to the cessation of the arms race and to the transition to disarmament. The means released thereby could be used to promote economic and social development including that of the developing countries. The participants in the meeting stressed that in the light of the increasing international tensions it is especially important, that their call be positively adopted by the member States of the NATO and that negotiations on the non-increase and the reduction of military expenditures be initiated.

The participants in the meeting noted that the initiative aimed at the elimination of chemical weapons from Europe, proposed in the Prague Political Declaration, met with interest and response in many European countries. The WTO member States continue to maintain that the radical solution of the problem of the prevention of chemical war would be the prohibition and the destruction of chemical weapons on a global scale as negotiated in the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. At the same time it would be useful to undertake parallel measures aimed at this objective within the European continent. The States represented at the meeting are ready to start working contacts with other interested States in order to jointly consider practical questions related to the task of clearing Europe of chemical weapons mainly such as the scope and the chronology of the relevant measures, the content of the commitments and the verification of their observance.

The participants in the meeting consider that an effective factor for the relieving of the European continent of the nuclear danger would be the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in its various regions including in the North of Europe and in the Balkans. The proposal to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this part of Europe where the concentration of armed forces and armaments is particularly high is also directed to this end. The participants in the meeting noted that the interest of European peoples concerning the proposals to create nuclear-free zones is increasing and they spoke in favour of the carrying out of the relevant negotiations between the interested parties.