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Items 61, 63, 64, 66, 72 and 73 of the
preliminary list*

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

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

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 3 March 1989 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a decision of the Council of Defence of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on organizational changes to be made in 1989-1990 to reduce armed forces and armaments and thus to stress the defensive character of the Czechoslovak People's Army (see annex). This decision is a unilateral step of my country to start implementing its own initiative aimed at creating a zone of confidence, co-operation and good-neighbourly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty and the NATO States.

* A/44/50.

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English

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I would be most grateful if you could kindly arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 61, 63, 64, 66, 72 and 73 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Evžen ZÁPOTOCKÝ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Decision of the Council of Defence of the Czechoslovak Socialist
Republic on measures to reduce armed forces and armaments in
1989-1990

By the decision of the Council of Defence of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic made in accordance with the defence military doctrine of the member States of the Warsaw Treaty Organization, organizational changes will be made in 1989-1990 to reduce armed forces and armaments and thus to stress the defensive character of the Czechoslovak People's Army.

Czechoslovakia begins gradually to implement its own initiative aimed at creating a zone of confidence, co-operation and good-neighbourly relations along the line of contact between the States of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO and joins to the proposals of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics announced by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev at the forty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly on 7 December 1988.

It was decided to take the following measures:

1. To reduce by 15 per cent the defence expenses planned for 1989-1990;
2. To reduce the number of soldiers in combat formations by 12,000, and to reinforce the army construction units by at least 20,000 soldiers;
3. To reduce the number of tank and air regiments within the organizational structures of ground and air forces; i.e. to cut and gradually dismantle a total of 850 tanks, 165 armoured personnel carriers and 51 fighter planes;
4. To reorganize three combined combat divisions into stores. Their armaments and combat equipment are to be sealed with only the necessary personnel left for protection and maintenance purposes;
5. To reduce the number of tactical military exercises at division and regiment levels by 50 per cent, the number of shooting exercises by 25 to 30 per cent, and the number of reservists called up for exercises by 15,000.

The above-mentioned measures are based on the principle of defence sufficiency and provide for reliable defence of the State.

These measures are being implemented unilaterally as a concrete contribution of Czechoslovakia to enhance confidence and security in Europe. In case the NATO countries are ready to carry out similar measures in their armed forces, Czechoslovakia will be ready to continue this process.