

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 25 APRIL 1984 FROM THE HEAD OF THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE WARSAW TREATY, HELD IN BUDAPEST ON 19 AND 20 APRIL 1984

I have the honour to inform you that the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty held a meeting in Budapest on 19 and 20 April 1984.

Herewith enclosed is the text of the communiqué of the meeting in the original Russian language.

I shall be grateful if you would have the text of the communiqué circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed)

David Meiszter  
Ambassador  
Head of the Hungarian delegation  
to the  
Conference on Disarmament

GE.84-61709

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE WARSAW TREATY**

The Committee of Foreign Ministers of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, held a regular meeting in Budapest on 19 and 20 April 1984.

The meeting was attended by: P. Mladenov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria; P. Varkonyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic; O. Fischer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic; S. Olszowski, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic; S. Andrei, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania; A.A. Gromyko, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and B. Chnoupek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

1. The Ministers undertook a thorough examination of questions connected with the situation in Europe in the wider context of the general international situation.

It was noted that the assessments and conclusions concerning the dangerous development of events contained in the Prague Political Declaration of 5 January 1983 and the Moscow joint statement of 28 June 1983 are fully borne out by the recent course of events. An already tense situation became still more acute owing to the deployment of United States medium-range nuclear missiles which has begun in certain NATO countries, initiating a new and particularly dangerous stage in the nuclear-arms race on the continent of Europe. This forced the Soviet Union to undertake a number of countermeasures. Negotiations on nuclear weapons in Europe were discontinued.

As a result of the escalation of the nuclear-arms race which is taking place and which is consistently opposed by the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, the threat of nuclear war with all its catastrophic consequences for mankind and for life on earth itself has rapidly increased. Serious damage has been done to European security. Confidence in relations between States has been undermined.

The putting forward of concepts dangerous to peace which call into question existing frontiers between European States and are aimed against their social structure and other territorial and political realities in Europe, is giving grounds for concern. Relations between States are also rendered more difficult by the introduction of discriminatory limitations on economic links and attempts at external interference in the internal affairs of States.

The increasingly dangerous course of events on the European continent and throughout the world is intensifying the alarm felt among broad strata of the population and reflected in mass anti-war campaigns and movements, as well as among political figures, scholars and doctors. They demand the cessation of the arms race and the implementation of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, co-operation between States in the interests of peace and stability, and a return to a policy of international détente. Leading statesmen from various countries are also speaking out against the policy of confrontation, for the curbing of the arms race and against its intensification.

The peoples of Europe and the whole world are protesting against imperialist policies and insisting that relations between States should be based on respect of independence and sovereignty, the non-use of force or threat of force, the inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, equality of rights, and other fundamental principles of inter-State relations.

2. Emphasis was placed at the meeting on the conviction of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty that an improvement of the situation and a return to détente call for a dialogue between States on fundamental problems of the preservation and strengthening of peace - a serious and equitable dialogue permeated with a sense of responsibility.

The participants in the meeting also expressed the firm conviction that there are no questions which could not be resolved by negotiations, provided these were conducted on the basis of a constructive approach and of political will to achieve positive results, taking full account of the vital interests of peoples, the interests of peace and international security. This is also borne out by experience of international relations.

The States represented at the meeting are prepared to conduct such negotiations on all questions of ensuring peace in Europe which are of common interest. The negotiations should have as their aim the achievement of agreements based on the principle of equality and equal security.

As the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty have repeatedly said in the past, they do not seek military superiority and will not allow military superiority over themselves; they are resolutely in favour of ensuring a balance of forces at the lowest levels.

3. The States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty proceed from the fact that questions pertaining to the elimination of the threat of nuclear war and the search of practical ways of putting an end to the arms race and proceeding to disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, should occupy the most important place in the present-day political dialogue.

Not considering the present course of events to be irreversible, they emphasize that the question of the reduction of both intermediate-range and tactical nuclear weapons in Europe until their complete elimination can be resolved by constructive and productive negotiations.

The vital requirement for peace and security in Europe under today's conditions is the cessation of the accumulation of new nuclear weapons on the continent. In this connection, the States represented at the meeting insist on the cessation of the deployment in Western Europe of United States intermediate-range nuclear missiles and declare that if such measures, leading to the withdrawal of missiles already deployed, are adopted, steps for the cancellation of countermeasures will be put into effect simultaneously. This will create a basis for the renewal of negotiations with the aim of reaching appropriate agreements to free Europe from nuclear weapons, both intermediate-range and tactical. Not a single possibility, not a single chance must be missed for a resumption of negotiations.

At the same time, participants in the meeting noted the great responsibility of those States in whose territory the deployment of intermediate-range nuclear missiles has begun or is to take place - responsibility for the fate of their

own and all European peoples, for European and universal peace. It is essential that these States in particular should immediately take steps that will ensure the cessation of the deployment of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in their territory and the withdrawal of those missiles.

Inasmuch as the accumulation of nuclear weapons in Europe touches upon interests of the life and existence of all European peoples, the States represented at the meeting consider it exceptionally important that all European States should consistently speak out for the removal of the threat of nuclear war and should actively assist the attainment of this goal. The way to nuclear war in Europe must be barred, and all European States must contribute towards this in some form.

In this connection, the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty address a special appeal to the States members of NATO to co-operate in the interests of stopping the deployment of new intermediate-range nuclear missiles, the withdrawal of those already deployed, and the implementation of effective nuclear disarmament measures in Europe.

4. Proceeding from the fact that the cessation of the arms race and the transition to disarmament are the fundamental issues of our time, the States represented at the meeting declare their unchanging readiness to conduct negotiations on a wide range of questions which have come to maturity in connection with the curbing of the arms race and the reduction of armaments.

In this context, the participants in the meeting consider it necessary once more to draw attention to the proposal put forward in the Prague Political Declaration of 5 January 1983 for the conclusion of a treaty on the mutual non-use of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations between the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty and the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty. They also recall the appeals addressed recently by their States to the States members of NATO concerning direct negotiations on the question of freeing Europe from chemical weapons and on the question of the non-increase and reduction of military expenditures.

The States represented at the meeting are ready to embark at any time upon a preliminary discussion with the States members of NATO on questions relating to the preparation and holding of negotiations on all these proposals. They expect a positive and, if possible, prompt reaction to these appeals from the States members of NATO.

They also stress that it has become indispensable for the nuclear-weapon Powers which have not yet done so to undertake to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons. They are in favour of embarking more rapidly upon the businesslike consideration and solution of such important issues as the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests; a quantitative and qualitative freeze of nuclear weapons; prohibition of the militarization of outer space and of the use of force in outer space and from space against the Earth; and the complete prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons on a global scale. All the proposals and initiatives on this score put forward jointly or individually by the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty remain in force. A positive response to these proposals by the NATO countries would represent a concrete manifestation of their interest in ensuring constructive relations, as stated in their Brussels Declaration of 9 December 1983.

The States represented at the meeting also reaffirmed their readiness to study attentively, in a positive spirit, proposals by other countries aimed at reducing and eliminating the threat of nuclear war, halting the arms race, proceeding to disarmament and consolidating international security, and to exchange views on such proposals with all interested States.

In examining the situation at the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of forces and armaments in Central Europe, the participants in the meeting again drew attention to the new approach proposed by the socialist countries directly participating in the talks, according to which lack of agreement on the question of the present numbers of armed forces would not stand in the way of reaching agreement on their reduction. Taking due account of this approach, and provided efforts are made by all participants in the talks, agreement on a substantial reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe can and must be reached without further delay. The achievement of such agreement under present conditions would exercise a positive effect on the situation in Europe and on prospects of moving towards the curbing of the arms race and the transition to disarmament.

Considering the creation of nuclear-free zones to be a significant step forward towards freeing Europe of nuclear weapons and strengthening confidence, the participants in the meeting reaffirmed their States' position in favour of the creation of such zones in the Balkans, Northern Europe and other parts of the continent. They actively support efforts undertaken in this direction.

The conviction was expressed at the meeting that agreements of importance to international security can be reached at the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva if all participants work towards this end in a persistent and purpose-oriented manner.

5. Considerable attention was devoted at the meeting to the work of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. It was noted with satisfaction that the opening of the Conference, towards whose convening the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty had made a substantial contribution, had taken place at an appropriate political level commensurate with its importance.

It was further noted that at the first session of the Stockholm Conference an exchange of views was begun on the substance of the problems upon whose solution the work of the Conference should be concentrated, and that proposals and initiatives were put forward. It is important that all participants in the Conference should now make efforts to deepen mutual understanding with regard to those problems and negotiate on specific issues with the aim of reaching effective results. Political will and mutual understanding of this kind are needed if the negotiations are to be as productive as possible.

The States represented at the meeting consider that the Conference should elaborate mutually complementary confidence- and security-building measures which should meet the most acute and urgent needs of present-day Europe and should be directed towards allaying the threat of war and reducing military confrontation. Guided by this, they will, in the course of the work of the Stockholm Conference and in negotiations at the Conference, assist the reaching of agreement on such measures.

They also consider that, following the completion of work on confidence- and security-building measures, the Conference, in accordance with the Final Document of the Madrid Meeting, should proceed without delay to the consideration of measures of disarmament in Europe.

6. The participants in the meeting stressed the unchanging nature of their 'States' principled course towards the elimination of existing centres of tension and armed conflicts throughout the world and the prevention of new such centres, towards the settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means through negotiations. Solidarity was expressed once more with peoples fighting for freedom, independence and social progress, for economic development and against policies of imperialist aggression, colonialism and racism.

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The meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty took place in an atmosphere of comradely mutual understanding and desire to contribute towards a turn for the better in the development of international events.

The next regular meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty will be held in November 1984 in Berlin.