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Items 65 and 68 of the preliminary list*
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 24 April 1984 from the Permanent Representative of
Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of the communiqué on the meeting of the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty, held at Budapest, Hungary, on 19 and 20 April 1984.

Upon instructions from my Government, I hereby request you to arrange that the said communiqué be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 65 and 68 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pál RÁCZ

* A/39/50.

ANNEX

Communiqué of the meeting of the Committee of the Ministers for
Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty

Moscow, 20 April, TASS. The Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance held its regular meeting at Budapest on 19 and 20 April 1984.

The meeting was attended by: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Petr Mladenov; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, Péter Varkonyi; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, Oskar Fischer; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic, Stefan Olszowski; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Stefan Andrei; First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Andrei Gromyko; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Bohuslav Chňoupek.

1. The Ministers thoroughly examined issues related to the situation in Europe in a broader context of the overall international situation.

It was stated that the assessments and conclusions with regard to the dangerous development of the situation, contained in the Prague Political Declaration of 5 January 1983 and the Moscow Joint Statement of 28 June 1983, are fully confirmed by the course of events in recent times. The already tense situation has become even more acute due to the started deployment of American medium-range nuclear missiles in some NATO countries, which has launched another, particularly dangerous phase in the race of nuclear armaments in the European continent. This has compelled the Soviet Union to adopt a number of response measures. Talks on nuclear armaments in Europe have been terminated.

As a result of the ongoing escalation of the nuclear weapons race, which is consistently opposed by the Warsaw Treaty member States, the threat of nuclear war with its catastrophic consequences to humankind, to very life on earth, has sharply increased. Serious damage is inflicted upon European security; trust in relations between States has been undermined.

A source of concern are the concepts dangerous to the cause of peace that are put forward, the concepts that dispute the existing borders between the European States, and are spearheaded against their social system and other territorial-political realities which took shape in Europe. Relations between States are also complicated by the introduction of discriminatory measures into economic relations and attempts at outside interference in the internal affairs of States.

The increasingly dangerous developments in the European continent and all over the world are a source of growing alarm among wide sections of the population, which manifests itself in mass anti-war actions and movements, as well as among

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political figures, scientists and physicians. They demand an end to the arms race and a start to disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, co-operation between States in the interests of peace and stability and a return to the policy of international détente. Leading statesmen in various countries declare against the policy of confrontation, against the course for building up the arms race, and for curbing the arms race.

The peoples of Europe and the whole world denounce the imperialist policy and demand that relations between States be based on respect for independence and sovereignty, non-use of force or threat of force, inviolability of borders, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, equality and other fundamental principles of inter-State relations.

2. The conviction of the States members of the Warsaw Treaty was stressed at the meeting that improvement of the situation, a return to détente, requires a dialogue between States on fundamental issues of preserving and strengthening peace - a serious and equal dialogue permeated with a sense of responsibility.

In so doing, the participants in the meeting expressed the firm conviction that there are no issues that could not be resolved through talks, if they are conducted on the basis of a constructive approach and political will to attain positive results, with due regard for the vital interests of the peoples, the interests of peace and international security. This is also confirmed by the experience of international relations.

The States represented at the meeting are ready to conduct such talks on all issues of ensuring peace in Europe which are of common interest.

These talks should have the aim of reaching agreements based on the principle of equality and equal security.

As was repeatedly declared by the States members of the Warsaw Treaty they do not seek to ensure military superiority and will not permit military superiority over themselves. They are resolutely in favour of ensuring an equilibrium of forces at the lowest level.

3. The States members of the Warsaw Treaty proceed from the premise that questions related to eliminating the threat of nuclear war, a quest of practical ways for putting an end to the arms race and moving towards disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, should occupy the most important place in the present-day political dialogue.

They do not consider the present course of events to be irreversible and stress that the question of a reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe, both of medium-range and of tactical ones, down to their complete elimination, can be resolved through constructive and productive talks.

An urgent requirement for peace and security in Europe under the present conditions is to put an end to the stockpiling of new nuclear weapons in the continent. In this connection, the States represented at the meeting insist that

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an end be put to the deployment of American medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe, and declare that, should such measures leading to the withdrawal of the missiles already deployed be taken, steps will be simultaneously taken to cancel the counter-measures. This will lay the groundwork for the resumption of talks for reaching appropriate agreements on freeing Europe from nuclear weapons, both of medium range and tactical ones. Not a single opportunity, not a single chance, should be missed for a return to the path of talks.

At the same time, the meeting's participants pointed to the great responsibility of the States on whose territory the deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles has begun or is being planned, responsibility for the fate of their own and all European peoples and for European and universal peace. It is necessary that precisely these States immediately undertake steps which would ensure the termination of the stationing of medium-range nuclear missiles on their territories and removal of these missiles.

Since the accumulation of nuclear armaments in Europe affects the interests of life and the existence of all European peoples, the States represented at the meeting deem it exceptionally important that all States in Europe consistently work for averting the nuclear war menace and actively facilitate the attainment of this objective. The road to nuclear war in Europe must be blocked, and all European States should make their contribution to this, in one form or another.

In this connection, the States members of the Warsaw Treaty address a special appeal to the NATO member States, calling upon them for co-operation in the interests of terminating the deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles and withdrawing those already placed, and realizing nuclear disarmament measures in Europe.

4. Proceeding from the fact that the termination of the arms race and transition to disarmament, especially in the nuclear sphere, constitute a vital issue of our time, the States represented at the meeting declare their invariable readiness for talks on a broad range of the urgent issues of restraining the arms race and reducing armaments.

In this context, the meeting's participants deem it necessary to draw attention once again to the proposal set forth in the Prague Political Declaration of 5 January 1983 to conclude a treaty on non-use of military force and on maintenance of relations of peace between the States members of the Warsaw Treaty and the States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance. They also recall the latest appeals of their States to the NATO States members with regard to direct talks on the question of ridding Europe of chemical weapons and on the issue of non-increase and on reduction of military spending.

The States represented at the meeting are prepared to start at any time a preliminary discussion with the NATO States members of the questions related to the preparation and holding of the talks on all these proposals. They expect from the NATO States members a positive and possibly swift reaction to these appeals.

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They stress the urgent need for the nuclear powers to assume, if they have not as yet done so, a pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. They favour the earliest beginning of a businesslike discussion and solution of the following key issues: general and complete prohibition of nuclear weapon tests; qualitative and quantitative freeze of nuclear armaments; prohibition of the militarization of outer space and use of force in space and from space against the Earth; prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons on a global scale. All the proposals and initiatives by the States members of the Warsaw Treaty on this score, which they have advanced jointly and individually, remain in force.

The positive response of the NATO countries to these proposals would constitute a concrete manifestation of their interest in achieving constructive relations, which is stated in their Brussels Declaration of 9 December 1983.

The meeting reiterated the readiness of the States represented to study closely and in a positive spirit the proposals of other countries aimed at lessening and removing the threat of nuclear war, ending the arms race, promoting disarmament and strengthening international security, and to exchange opinion on these proposals with all the interested countries.

Reviewing the situation at the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, the participants in the meeting again drew attention to a new approach proposed by the Socialist countries directly participating in the talks, according to which the lack of agreement on the present-day strength of troops would not hamper accord on their reduction. If this approach is given due consideration and if all the participants in the talks make proper efforts, agreement on a substantial reduction in the armed forces and armaments in Central Europe can and must be reached without further delay. The achievement of such an agreement in the present circumstances could have an auspicious effect on the situation in Europe and on prospects for advancement towards curbing the arms race and a move towards disarmament.

Considering the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones to be a substantial step towards ridding Europe of nuclear weapons and building trust, the participants in the meeting reiterated the invariable position of their States in favour of the establishment of such zones in the Balkans, in the north of Europe and in other parts of the continent. They energetically support efforts made in this direction.

The meeting expressed the conviction that agreements of importance to international security can be reached at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva if all the participants perseveringly and purposefully contribute towards it.

5. Much importance was attached at the meeting to the proceedings 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, to the convocation of which the Warsaw Treaty countries had made their tangible contribution, had taken place, in accordance with its significance, at an appropriate political level.

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It was noted, furthermore, that exchange of opinion had been initiated at the first session of the Stockholm Conference on the substance of the tasks on the accomplishment of which its work should be concentrated and that proposals and initiatives had been formulated. It is now important for all the participants in the Conference to make efforts to deepen mutual understanding on those tasks and to conduct talks on concrete issues with a view to achieving effective results. It takes political will and this kind of mutual understanding for talks to be as productive as possible.

The States represented at the meeting believe that mutually complementing confidence and security-building measures should be worked out at the Conference to meet the acutest and most pressing needs of today's Europe and to aim at lessening the threat of war and scaling down armed confrontation. Guiding themselves by these goals, they will continue during the proceedings of the Stockholm Conference and at the talks within its framework to contribute towards achieving agreements on such measures.

They also believe the Conference should proceed, upon the completion of its work on confidence and security-building measures and in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the Madrid Meeting, without any delay to consideration of disarmament measures in Europe.

6. The participants in the meeting stressed the immutability of the principled course of their States at eliminating the existing centres of tension and armed conflicts all over the world and at preventing the emergence of new ones, and at settling all the international disputes by peaceful means, through talks. They reiterated their solidarity with the peoples fighting for freedom, independence and social progress, for economic development and against the policy of imperialist aggression, colonialism and racism.

The meeting of the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty passed in an atmosphere of comradely mutual understanding with a desire to contribute towards a turn for the better in the development of international events.

The next meeting of the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the members countries of the Warsaw Treaty will take place at Berlin in November 1984.
