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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

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

Letter dated 28 November 1984 from the Permanent Representative of
Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the Final Document of the Conference of Veteran Organizations on Security, Disarmament and Co-operation in Europe, held at Belgrade from 18 to 20 October 1984.

I would be grateful if the text of the Final Document could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 65 and 68.

(Signed) Ignac GOLOB
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of the SFR of
Yugoslavia to the United Nations

ANNEX

Final Document of the Belgrade Conference, 18-20 October 1984

Veterans and War Victims for Security, Disarmament and Co-operation
in Europe

1. Meeting in Belgrade just before the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the establishment of the United Nations, the representatives of organizations of veterans, resistance fighters, prisoners of war, concentration camp deportees, and war victims from the European countries, the United States and Canada, considered what action to take in their countries and on the international level to preserve peace, to curb and eventually halt the arms race, to make progress towards disarmament and to develop co-operation on all the principles of the Final Act of Helsinki, reaffirmed in the final document of the Madrid meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.
2. The veterans and war victims, who have had bitter experiences, whether they fought on the same side or on opposite sides, reached the conclusion that there are no insurmountable hates, irreconcilable differences, or insoluble conflicts. During their previous meetings, in particular in Rome during their 1979 world assembly, they had proposed a new path for achieving progress towards disarmament, towards a more just and peaceful world, with due regard for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the International Declaration on Human Rights, as well as other signed international agreements, guaranteeing the rights of all peoples and the security of all States. They solemnly affirmed a principle which remains the mainspring of their activities, namely that war is not inevitable, since all disputes can be settled by negotiation or by some other peaceful means. All the peoples of the world have a right to peace.
3. Since their 1979 assembly they have become increasingly aware of the serious deterioration of the international situation, a situation characterized by numerous armed conflicts, the existence of blocs, the violation of signed international agreements, the non-observance of human rights and the rights of peoples and by the tragic worsening of the plight of developing countries.
4. The danger of war does not lie exclusively in the excessive armament of the great Powers. The world economic crisis, the disarray in the international monetary system, the economic difficulties of the third world which cause unbearable hardships, especially among young people, nowadays constitute a risk of war as acute as the increase in armaments.
5. The ex-servicemen believe that such a situation cannot continue. They call upon all Governments, in particular those of the industrialized countries, to work together to put the world economy in order and, within the framework of the United Nations, to elaborate a sound development plan for the third world.
6. The situation is aggravated by the steadily rising cost of the arms race, both in qualitative and in quantitative terms, by the deployment, particularly in

Europe, of more accurate and powerful weapons, by the dangers of the development of biological and chemical weapons and by the militarization of outer space.

7. The ex-servicemen and war victims are fully aware that they belong to countries with different social and political systems, and that they have different sympathies. They note that they do not agree on who or what is to blame for the present situation. But they have in common a profound conviction of the need to contribute to the effort towards peaceful settlements, by putting pressure on States, first not to exacerbate the dangers and not to accelerate the arms race. They therefore assert the need to pursue and develop negotiations and to support the action taken by the United Nations and its agencies aimed at the establishment of an international order founded on genuine peace, law and solidarity.

8. They underscore the urgent need to develop and implement practical confidence- and security-building measures. Any proposals to that effect must be considered by the parties concerned. They support the efforts of the Stockholm Conference, which should foster decisions designed to ensure a balance of security at the lowest level of armament, both conventional and nuclear.

9. The resources hitherto devoted to the arms race could be transferred for purposes of implementing economic, social and cultural programmes, both nationally and with international co-operation.

10. Within the framework of the objectives set out above, the national and international organizations of ex-servicemen and war victims taking part in the Conference have undertaken to take the following action:

- 10.1. To take an active part in the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act and the Madrid Final Document.
- 10.2. To demand from Governments strict compliance with the ten principles and all the provisions of the Final Act, as reaffirmed and further developed in Madrid.
- 10.3. To put pressure on Governments to continue, resume or open disarmament negotiations on all types of weapons: conventional, chemical, biological and nuclear, and on the peaceful use of outer space. Conditions could thereby be created for a restoration of confidence. In that context, the development of human relations in social, economic and cultural areas would make a renewal of détente possible.
- 10.4. To help young people in regular and vocational schools to understand the sacrifices made by veterans for the independence of their countries and the defence of freedom, and their legitimate concern not to see past mistakes repeated.
- 10.5. To firmly condemn all acts of terrorism, which have nothing to do with legitimate activities to resist oppression.

11. The Conference held a special information session on the problem of security in the Mediterranean region. It was noted that security in this region could not be dissociated from a consideration of security problems in Europe.

12. The participants have agreed to convene in 1986, in the framework of the United Nations Year of Peace, a world gathering of veterans and war victims to discuss the problems of peace, disarmament and freedom.
