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NOTE VERBALE DATED 13 MARCH 1962 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE ACTING
SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the latter's note of 2 January 1962 requesting the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, pursuant to resolution 1664 (XVI), to express its position as to the conditions under which it, as a country not possessing nuclear weapons might be willing to enter into specific undertakings to refrain from manufacturing or otherwise acquiring such weapons and to refuse to receive in the future nuclear weapons on its territories on behalf of any other country. Upon instructions from the Czechoslovak Government the Permanent Representative wishes to make the following statement on the subject:

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is an active supporter of all effective measures that would be conducive to the solution of the most urgent problem of the present - the question of disarmament. If more than two years ago the fourteenth United Nations General Assembly was fully justified in characterizing of general and complete disarmament as the most urgent problem of the present, it is ever more true today when as a consequence of the continued stockpiling of rocket, nuclear and thermonuclear weapons the danger of war has further increased. Feverish nuclear arms race must be prevented from resulting in a catastrophe that would have unprecedented consequences for the mankind as a whole. General and complete disarmament is the main guarantee of peaceful consolidation of the conditions prevailing in Europe and in the world.

Therefore, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic regards it at present as the most urgent that all countries concentrate their efforts in particular on seeking progress in the solution of the question of general and complete disarmament and on eliminating all obstacles that might stand in the way of the solution.

The attention of the Czechoslovak public is hopefully concentrated on the forthcoming deliberations of the eighteen-nation Committee established by resolution passed by the sixteenth United Nations General Assembly which is to open its work on 14 March in Geneva.

Bilateral negotiations between the USSR and the United States of America resulted in an agreement reached at the sixteenth General Assembly on the composition of this organ so that it represents all the three groups of States existing in the world at the present time.

In its work the Committee should proceed from the principles contained in the joint Soviet-American statement of agreed principles for disarmament negotiations. Given good will and sincere endeavour of all participating countries to achieve progress these new facts create prerequisites for breaking the vicious circle in which the disarmament issue has been moving for years.

Being a member of the Committee, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on its part will do its utmost in order that the talks in the Committee should have positive results and that the noble idea of general and complete disarmament which in our view is the safest way towards relieving mankind from the danger of a nuclear war should be translated into reality.

As concerns the proposal contained in resolution 1664 (XVI), the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic always in the disarmament talks in the past lent its support to all proposals aimed at preventing further spread of nuclear armaments and weapons. It did so in its firm belief that measures of this type would facilitate the easing of international tensions, strengthening of mutual confidence in the relations between States and would thus create favourable conditions for the attainment of general and complete disarmament.

It is well known that some time ago the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic fully endorsed the proposal put forward by the Government of the Polish People's Republic on the formation of an atom-free zone in Central Europe that would include the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. It likewise welcomed similar proposals for the creation of atom-free zones in other parts of the world, for example in the Balkans, in the Far East, in Africa.

The positive views on the realization of these measures were also expressed by the Czechoslovak delegation at the sixteenth United Nations General Assembly when it supported the draft resolution submitted by Sweden and adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 1664 (XVI).

The affirmative position of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on this question has remained unchanged. Under the assumption that the undertakings mentioned in resolution 1664 (XVI) would be made by all States that do not possess nuclear weapons and would be fully implemented by them, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic would be ready solemnly to undertake that it renounces the manufacturing of nuclear weapons and their possession within the meaning of paragraph 4 of the preamble of resolution 1664 (XVI). Realization of such measures would certainly contribute to the improvement of confidence between States and to the creation of conditions that would facilitate the negotiations on reaching agreement on general and complete disarmament.

The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic believes that the proposed measure could, inter alia, play a positive role in ensuring security of Europe if all European countries or countries of some parts of Europe were ready to make and fulfil such undertakings.

However, in order that such measure could be truly efficient, it would have to cover not only the Member States of the United Nations but all countries of the respective area. In Europe this concerns especially the Federal Republic of Germany. Its leaders do not hide their intentions to gain control over nuclear weapons warheads for their army within the NATO which would help them enforce their revenge-seeking designs. There is certainly no need to stress that such policy of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany constitutes an enormous danger for peace and security of nations throughout the world.

Expressing its positive attitude to the proposal contained in resolution 1664 (XVI), the Czechoslovak Government again deems it necessary to point out that under the prevailing circumstances the main objective is to strive for the attainment of general and complete disarmament which would ensure lasting peace for humanity and at the same time solve problems referred to in resolution 1664 (XVI).

The Permanent Representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.