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

Letter dated 2 April 1985 from the Permanent Representatives
of the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith a communication relating to the visit to the USSR of O. Fischer, member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic.

Please circulate the above-mentioned text as an official document of the General Assembly under item 72 of the preliminary list.

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Ambassador

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* A/40/50 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Visit to the USSR by O. Fischer, member of the Central Committee
of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the German Democratic Republic

O. Fischer, member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, paid a friendly visit to the Soviet Union on 19 and 20 March 1985 at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Talks were held, in a cordial atmosphere, between A. A. Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and O. Fischer, during which matters of bilateral relations and several urgent international problems were considered.

The sides expressed deep satisfaction with the fact that the fraternal relations between the USSR and the German Democratic Republic, based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, continued to develop fruitfully in all areas. The Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic were co-operating more and more effectively in matters of building communism and socialism as well as in international affairs, and were successfully implementing the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance of 7 October 1975.

The sides exchanged information concerning preparations in the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic for two important events - the Twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Eleventh Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany - and also for the fortieth anniversary of the victory over German fascism and the liberation of the German people from Nazi tyranny.

The conviction was expressed that friendship and co-operation between the USSR and the German Democratic Republic, motivated by the unbreakable alliance of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, would continue to develop and deepen for the benefit of the peoples of both States and in the interests of peace and socialism.

The sides reaffirmed their determination to do everything necessary to enhance further the economic and defensive might of the socialist community and to consolidate its international position. The USSR and the German Democratic Republic would continue in every possible way to strengthen the Warsaw Treaty Organization, which had for 30 years been successfully performing its historic task of reliably protecting the socialist gains and security of the fraternal socialist States, and had been making an invaluable contribution to safeguarding peace and stability in international relations.

The summit-level meeting of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty held in Moscow on 13 March 1985 had been an important step towards further improving the political, economic and ideological co-operation of the fraternal countries and the co-ordination of their actions on the international scene.

It was stressed that the unity and cohesion of the socialist community took on particular importance in view of the present international tension caused by the actions of certain quarters in the United States and a number of its NATO allies. Their course of seeking military superiority and reliance on a policy of strength destabilized the world situation and exacerbated nuclear confrontation.

The plan for the militarization of outer space announced by Washington posed a serious danger to mankind. Implementation of that aggressive plan would inevitably lead to an uncontrolled arms race in every sphere, would make it impossible to limit and especially reduce offensive strategic weapons, and would sharply increase the threat of nuclear war.

A most important task for all the peace-loving forces and all States, large or small, was to avert such a fatal evolution of events and to prevent outer space from being turned into a springboard for aggression. In that regard, the sides underlined the importance of the resolution concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

Concern was expressed about the fact that, in direct violation of that United Nations resolution, the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and some other countries were displaying a willingness to participate in American so-called "research work" to develop offensive space weapons. In doing so, they assumed a heavy responsibility for the consequences of such actions.

The sides were united in the view that the negotiations which had started in Geneva between the Soviet Union and the United States concerning nuclear and space weapons could open prospects for strengthening strategic stability and reducing the threat of war. On behalf of the Soviet leadership, A. A. Gromyko reaffirmed that the Soviet Union was prepared in good faith to play its part in achieving mutually acceptable agreements aimed at averting an arms race in outer space and at stopping it on Earth. One essential condition for the success of the negotiations was to consider and deal with questions of space-based and nuclear weapons in a comprehensive and interrelated manner, and to observe strictly the principle of equality and equal security.

On behalf of the leadership of the German Democratic Republic, O. Fischer declared full support for the constructive approach of the Soviet Union to the negotiations. Both sides emphasized that it was now up to the United States to do its part towards achieving mutually acceptable agreements.

The Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic resolutely opposed the development of more and more new weapons systems, whether based in outer space or on earth, and advocated a reduction in stockpiles of weapons, including nuclear weapons, and the destruction, as a first step, of a considerable proportion of them. Ultimately, nuclear weapons must be destroyed completely and everywhere on earth.

The parties felt that the present complicated and tense international situation urgently called for such imperative measures as the undertaking, on the

Soviet Union's example, by the nuclear Powers which had not yet done so, of a commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons; the freezing of nuclear arsenals; the cessation of further deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe; and the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon testing.

The USSR and the German Democratic Republic supported the immediate preparation, at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, of a convention which would prohibit and eliminate chemical weapons.

The sides devoted considerable attention to a discussion of European affairs. They noted that the deployment of United States first-strike missiles in the Federal Republic of Germany and a number of other NATO countries was sharply exacerbating the situation on the continent, burdening relations among the European States and creating serious obstacles to the continuation of the all-European process.

The attempts by certain NATO circles, primarily in the Federal Republic of Germany, to call into question the current political and territorial realities on the continent were also having an adverse effect on the political climate in Europe. The USSR, the German Democratic Republic and all the fraternal socialist States had decisively rejected those manifestations of revanchism and would continue to do so. The inviolability of the European frontiers, as defined and confirmed in agreements among the allies concerning the post-war order, in treaties concluded by the socialist countries with the Federal Republic of Germany and in the Helsinki Final Act, was an indispensable condition for ensuring security in Europe.

In that connection the sides stressed the historical significance of the Yalta and Potsdam Agreements, which for four decades had been the foundation of European and world peace. The peoples of the world had paid a very high price for those crucial international instruments and any infringements of them were doomed to failure.

The USSR and the German Democratic Republic were convinced that the peoples of Europe could establish stability and security on European soil, drastically lower the level of military confrontation and shift the development of the continent towards constructive and mutually beneficial co-operation among States with different social systems. A solid basis for such a shift had been created by the initiatives of the socialist countries represented by the Prague Political Declaration, the Moscow joint statement and the documents of the high-level meeting of the member countries of CMEA.

The sides declared their firm resolve to continue to work actively for the realization of those initiatives. They expressed their readiness to co-operate for that purpose with all forces genuinely interested in consolidating European peace.

During the exchange of views regarding the situation at the Stockholm Conference it had been noted that the specific proposals submitted by the delegations of the USSR, the German Democratic Republic and the other Warsaw Treaty countries provided a good basis for reaching agreement on mutually acceptable

political, military and technical measures to strengthen security and confidence in Europe. The socialist States expected that those proposals, including the Soviet Union's proposal entitled "Basic provisions of a Treaty on the non-use of military force and on the maintenance of peace", would be examined in a constructive spirit. That would create possibilities for substantial progress in the work of the Stockholm forum.

Good progress in the Vienna talks on a mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe was also overdue. The hope was expressed that the Western participants in the talks would duly respond to the initiative of the socialist countries of 14 February 1985, which had been prompted by the desire to steer the conference on to a productive course and have it achieve tangible results.

The sides again stressed the need for strict observance of the Quadripartite Agreement on West Berlin, which was one of the essential elements for maintaining stability in Europe.

In the consideration of problems relating to other regions of the world, the sides decisively condemned the policy of State terrorism and diktat pursued by the imperialist Powers, primarily the United States, against independent States and peoples. The USSR and the German Democratic Republic, together with the other socialist countries, favoured an international legal order in which the peoples of all countries, large and small, could independently and freely choose the path of their own development.

The Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic demanded the immediate and complete cessation of interference by the United States in the internal affairs of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean Basin and its acts of aggression against Cuba and Nicaragua. They felt that further activation of international efforts was essential, including the efforts of the Contadora Group, in order to promote a just political settlement in Central America. The recent constructive initiative of Nicaragua to that effect was highly praised.

The sides stated their complete solidarity with the struggle of the people and Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for national independence and sovereignty and in defence of its revolutionary achievements. They condemned the undeclared war being waged by the forces of imperialism and reaction against that non-aligned State.

Concern was expressed about the persistence of the dangerous tension in the Middle East resulting from the aggressive policy of Israel, which relied on the military and political support of the United States. The sides reaffirmed their position that the path to a comprehensive settlement of the question of the Middle East lay in the convening of an international conference with the participation of all interested parties, not in separate anti-Arab deals. A stable and just peace in that region could be achieved only on the basis of the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories, the realization of the lawful national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish their own independent State, and respect for the sovereignty and security of all States of the region.

The sides expressed great concern about the intensification of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq, which was fraught with tragic consequences for the peoples of both countries and represented a growing threat to peace and international security. They reaffirmed the need for an immediate end to military action and for the settlement of contentious questions by peaceful means.

The USSR and the German Democratic Republic expressed their support for the efforts of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea aimed at ensuring security and stability in South-East Asia and at transforming that region into a zone of peace.

Having considered the situation in southern Africa, the sides expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the people of Namibia for freedom and independence, and voiced their support for the people of South Africa in their struggle against the infamous system of apartheid.

The talks again testified to the complete unity of views of the two sides on all questions discussed, to their unanimous desire to strengthen the fraternal and unshakeable friendship between the USSR and the German Democratic Republic, and to their determination to do everything to preserve peace and uphold international security.

On behalf of the Party and State leadership of the German Democratic Republic, O. Fischer conveyed to A. A. Gromyko an invitation to pay an official visit to the German Democratic Republic. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.
