


General Assembly Security Council

 Distr.
GENERAL

A/41/230v

S/17937

24 March 1986

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: CHINESE/ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Forty-first session

 Items 49, 56, 60, 61, 62, 64, 67 and 70 of
the preliminary list*

CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS

PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)

WEAPONS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED

BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH

SPECIAL SESSION

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND

DEVELOPMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-first year

Letter dated 21 March 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the full text of the speech by Premier Zhao Ziyang of the State Council of the People's Republic of China at the Chinese people's rally for world peace on 21 March 1986 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the circulation of this letter and the text of the speech as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 49, 56, 60, 61, 62, 64, 67 and 70 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Luye
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Speech by Premier Zhao Ziyang of the State Council of the People's Republic of China at the Chinese people's rally for world peace on 21 March 1986

Today's rally is held by the Chinese people in response to the call by the United Nations for marking the International Year of Peace. It reflects the profound desire for peace on the part of the Chinese people of all nationalities and their determination to strengthen their unity with the people of other countries in maintaining peace. I wish this programme initiated by the United Nations complete success throughout the world.

During the first half of this century, mankind went through two world wars with untold sufferings. Despite the absence of a new world war in the past four decades since the end of the Second World War, the turbulent international situation indicates that the danger of war has yet to be removed. It is therefore a matter of common concern to the people of all countries whether peace will reign for the rest of this century and whether there will be continued peace in the next.

China needs peace; the Chinese people love peace. In peace lie the fundamental interests of the Chinese people. As a developing socialist country, China can achieve prosperity only through peaceful development. It requires sustained efforts of several generations for a country like ours to achieve socialist modernization and to approach or catch up with the developed countries economically. We need peace not only in this century, but also in the next. As China is a big country in the east with a population accounting for nearly one quarter of the world's total, its position on the question of world peace and its efforts towards this end have a major world-wide impact now as well as in the future. Aware of this important mission entrusted by history, China is ready to make its due efforts and contributions for the sake of world peace and stability.

The Chinese Government pursues an independent foreign policy of peace. The basic objective of our foreign policy is to oppose hegemonism and maintain world peace. Firmly standing by the third world, we will steadily strengthen and increase our solidarity and co-operation with other third world countries. We are actively seeking to establish and develop normal relations and friendly co-operation with various countries in the world on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. We will never enter into alliance or establish strategic relations with any super-Power. We are opposed to interference and aggression against any country and the use or threat of force in international relations. We are in favour of the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means and on a fair and reasonable basis. No matter how the world situation may evolve, we will steadfastly implement these foreign policies, which have been proved correct through practice.

At present, the ever-intensifying arms race between the super-Powers has caused concern among the people of various countries. Although numerous disarmament proposals have been put forward, they have not brought people any sense of security, because disarmament can only be achieved through deeds, not words.

China opposes the arms race and will never take part in such race. The level of our military expenditure and armament is far lower than that of other big Powers, and yet we have taken repeated measures on our own to reduce our military forces and cut our defence expenditure. China's limited nuclear force is for the sole purpose of defence. From the very first day China possessed nuclear weapons, we explicitly undertook not to be the first to use them under any circumstances. China has not conducted nuclear tests in the atmosphere for many years and will no longer conduct atmospheric nuclear tests in the future.

Disarmament is now a question of universal concern. I would like to take this opportunity to outline the Chinese Government's basic position and views on this question.

1. The nuclear arms race constitutes a grave threat to world peace and security. The ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament should be the complete prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons.

2. The United States and the Soviet Union, which possess the largest nuclear arsenals, should take the lead in halting the testing, production and deployment of all types of nuclear weapons and drastically reduce all types of nuclear weapons they have deployed anywhere inside and outside their countries and destroy them on the spot. This will make it possible to create favourable conditions for the convocation of a broadly representative international conference on nuclear disarmament with the participation of all the nuclear-weapon States to discuss measures for further nuclear disarmament and complete destruction of nuclear weapons.

3. In order to prevent the outbreak of a nuclear war, all nuclear-weapon States should undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons in any circumstances and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones. On this basis, an international convention should be concluded with the participation of all nuclear-weapon States, ensuring the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons.

4. There should be a simultaneous and balanced reduction and on-the-spot destruction of the medium-range nuclear missiles deployed in Europe and Asia by the Soviet Union and the United States.

5. Along with nuclear arms reduction there should be a drastic reduction of conventional arms. The conventional arms of all countries should be used only for self-defence, and not to threaten the security of other countries.

6. Outer space should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind. No country should develop, test or deploy space weapons in any form. An international agreement on the complete prohibition of space weapons should be concluded through negotiations as soon as possible.

7. An international convention on the complete prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons should be concluded at an early date. Pending this, all countries capable of manufacturing chemical weapons should pledge never to use chemical weapons and to stop the testing, production, transfer and deployment of such weapons.

8. To effect the implementation of arms reduction, it is essential for disarmament agreements to provide the necessary and effective measures of verification.

9. As the question of disarmament concerns the security of all countries, it should not be monopolized by a few big Powers. Disarmament agreements between them must not jeopardize the interests of other countries. All countries, big or small, militarily strong or weak, should enjoy equal rights to participate in the discussions and settlement of problems related to disarmament.

The above position and views of the Chinese Government on the question of disarmament have taken into account the desire of all the peoples in the world and the viewpoints of all the interested parties. We support all proposals truly conducive to disarmament and are ready to continue our efforts to promote genuine progress on disarmament together with other countries.

Of course, the question of disarmament is not the only issue affecting world peace and security. World peace and national security are closely interrelated. In this sense, encroaching upon a nation's independence and sovereignty means jeopardizing world peace. The Chinese Government wishes to reiterate that in order to relax tension and eliminate regional conflicts, it is imperative to observe strictly the principle of equality among all countries, big or small, in international relations and to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs or encroaching upon the sovereignty of other countries in any form. Only thus will it be possible to contribute to the maintenance of world peace.

The maintenance of world peace is the dedicated goal and sacred duty of the people of all countries. Human destiny must be held in the hands of mankind itself. The factors making for peace are growing faster than those making for war. So long as the people of the world keep up their unremitting efforts, they will certainly win peace.
