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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM
IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION

ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 5 August 1986 from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General

The Governments of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics propose for inclusion in the agenda of the forty-first session of the General Assembly an item entitled "The establishment of a comprehensive system of international security".

The introduction of this proposal is prompted by our grave preoccupation with the fate of the world and our concern about the future of the peoples of the world. At present mankind is going through a new stage in its development that is characterized by extreme responsibility and complexity. It is facing a historic choice: either to allow the descent along the path of confrontation and the arms race towards the abyss of nuclear self-destruction to continue or to adjust its thinking and actions to the realities of the nuclear and space age and to restructure international relations on the basis of co-operation and joint action for the preservation of peace.

The new thinking that requires that statesmen be guided in their conduct by the interests of mankind as a whole and its survival signals the need for a new approach to the problems entailed in ensuring security in the world. In the present circumstances, no State, however powerful, can expect to defend itself solely by military or technological means. The maintenance of security becomes an increasingly political task, the accomplishment of which calls for the realization

that reliable **security for all countries** and peoples and peaceful conditions **for their development and progress can be achieved only by political means and through the joint efforts** of all States, big and small, developed and developing, **regardless of their political or social systems.** This implies **renunciation of the use or threat** of force and peaceful settlement of **disputes between States.** In our complex and contradictory **but interdependent and, in many respects, integral contemporary world, security is indivisible;** it can only be universal and equal for all.

Today, it is more than ever necessary to comply strictly with the principles of respect **for national independence and sovereignty, non-use or threat of force, inviolability of frontiers and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in internal affairs, equality, and other generally recognized norms of international relations.**

We are convinced that the establishment of a comprehensive system of international **security covering not only the military and political but also the economic and humanitarian fields would serve the vital interests of all States and peoples without exception,**

In the military field it is more imperative than ever to take resolute and specific action aimed at ending **the arms race, embarking on genuine disarmament and removing the military threat.** It is vitally important **that nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction should be eliminated completely and universally by the end of this century, that outer space should be kept free from weapons, and that the military capacity of States should be reduced to a level adequate to the needs of defence.**

Practical steps towards arms **reduction and disarmament, accompanied by a corresponding reduction of the military expenditures of States, will release vast material, financial and human resources for peaceful, creative purposes, including the elimination of economic backwardness in many parts of the world.**

In the political field, in order to **ensure universal security, all members of the international community should work for the strict observance of the right of every people to decide its own future and the elimination of hot-beds of tension in the Middle and Near East, South-East Asia, Central America, southern Africa and other regions of the world, should contribute to the just and peaceful settlement of conflicts and disputes between States and should ensure the prevention of international terrorism.**

The economic plight of developing countries and the neo-colonialist exploitation to which they are subjected are fraught with serious consequences for peace and the entire system of international relations. The interests of security **in the world as a whole and in some of its regions require efforts aimed at restructuring the entire system of international economic relations on a democratic basis, establishing a new international economic order with equal economic security for all States, overcoming underdevelopment and finding a global and just solution to the problem of external indebtedness.**

The establishment of a comprehensive system of international security also implies broad co-operation in the humanitarian field. The security of States is inseparable from the struggle for the full implementation of human rights in all fields, in particular the right to life in peace and freedom, based on respect for the sovereignty of States.

The United Nations has done much to shape thinking and conduct that are appropriate to the nuclear and space age and to banish the extremely dangerous notion that wars and armed conflicts are admissible. The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and other General Assembly declarations and resolutions, the decisions taken at the Assembly's tenth and eleventh special sessions, the first and second special sessions devoted to disarmament, the studies prepared by the United Nations on various aspects of international security, together with the constructive proposals of the non-aligned States, the Delhi Declaration and other proposals by the six States from four continents and the Yalme Commission, have played and continue to play a positive part in the struggle for the reduction of tensions and the improvement of international relations. At the same time the present international situation calls for further vigorous efforts by States and peoples and for concrete measures in all spheres of international relations aimed at building a truly positive peace based on a reliable and comprehensive system of international security rather than on the mere absence of wars.

The United Nations, true to the purposes and principles of its Charter must, in our view, take up this challenge of our times and draw up a fundamental document that would spell out the basic principles of the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security and provide guidance for the practical work of endowing that system with material, political, legal, moral and psychological guarantees. This would be consistent with the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security, the promotion of co-operation among all States and the advancement of the principles and norms of international law,

All appropriate considerations and proposals of representatives of States and peoples must be taken into account in the process.

The consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-first session of the question of the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security and the adoption of an appropriate decision would be a concrete step in this direction and would be fully in keeping with the goal of making 1986 - the International Year of Peace - a turning-point, a year in which progress towards a safer world begins. At the same time it would add a new perspective to the efforts of all States to ensure international peace and security, to deliver mankind from all wars, to establish a new international economic order, to overcome underdevelopment and to promote the economic and social development of all peoples.

Please regard this letter as the explanatory note required under the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and circulate it as well as the draft resolution attached as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) **Petŭr MLADENOU**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
People's Republic of Bulgaria

(Signed) Mangalyn **DÜGERSÜREN**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Mongolian People's Republic

(Signed) **Anatoly GURINOVICH**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

(Signed) **Marian ORZECHOWSKI**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Polish People's Republic

(Signed) Bohuslav **CHŇOUPEK**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

(Signed) **Ilie VADUVA**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Socialist Republic of Romania

(Signed) Oskar **FISCHER**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
German Democratic Republic

(Signed) Vladimir **KRAVETS**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

(Signed) **Péter VÁRKONYI**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Hungarian People's Republic

(Signed) a r d **Amvrosievich SHEVARDNADZE**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

ANNEX

Draft resolution

Establishment of a comprehensive system
of international security

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the tense and dangerous situation in the world and the danger of continuing down the path of confrontation and the arms race towards the abyss of the nuclear self-destruction of mankind,

Conscious of the urgent need to strengthen the foundations of universal security, on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and in compliance with the generally recognized norms and principles of international law,

Conscious of the growing interdependence of countries and the fact that the contemporary world has no reasonable alternative to the policy of co-operation and interaction among States pursued on the basis of equality with unconditional respect for the right of each people to make its sovereign choice of the ways and forms of its development,

Reaffirming the important role of the United Nations as an indispensable forum for conducting negotiations and achieving agreements on measures to strengthen international peace, security and co-operation and to democratise international relations,

Having discussed the question of the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security,

1. Calls upon States to focus their efforts on ensuring equal security for all and in all spheres of international relations, and to this end to make their contribution to the elaboration of a document containing basic principles for a comprehensive system of international security;

2. Decides to continue the consideration of this question at its forty-second session.
