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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

Letter dated 22 October 1986 from the Permanent
Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

I have the honour to forward herewith messages sent to Your Excellency by assemblies held at Charles University, Prague, and at the Czech University of Technology, Prague, at the beginning of the academic year 1986/1987.

I would be most grateful if you could have the texts of the two messages circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 21.

(Signed) Jaroslav ČEŠAR

ANNEX I

Message dated 1 September 1986 from the assembly of Charles University, Prague, to the Secretary-General

The representatives of the academic staff of historic Charles University in Prague express their deep respect and send you a message from their assembly held on the threshold of the new academic year convinced that you will receive it with understanding.

The United Nations, which you represent, has declared this year 1986 the International Year of Peace. At a time when the fate of our planet is trembling in its very foundations before the possibility of self-destruction of humankind this declaration is an act that helps unite the will of honest people regardless of race, political affiliation or religious denomination in the united struggle for averting the horrific danger and for the establishment of permanent peace. We have met to support this noble idea. The new international situation shows that the yearnings of ordinary people are finding an ever stronger response among political representatives and thereby also the support of permanent peace initiatives, which in international politics are consistently supported by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Of them we mainly have in mind the comprehensive proposals put forward by its supreme representative Mikhail Gorbachev, especially in January 1986, which have fundamental importance for the maintenance of peace and which have been joined also by the government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

To proceed from the reality of the nuclear and space era and to act accordingly in international relations are at present categorical requirements. Mountains of nuclear and other weapons have been designed, and yet feverish armament has not weakened but is accelerating. "The balance of fear" ceases to be a factor of containment. Old ideas of war as a means of attaining political aims have become obsolescent. At present, it is no longer possible to safeguard one's own security without respecting the security of other states and nations.

We are a country whose history is one of suffering that has been brought upon our people by aggressive wars waged by the European Powers. We are, however, also a country that through the Hussite movement in the mediaeval period raised its voice for swords to be forged into ploughs. This voice, as you yourself recalled in your speech at our University, led to the famous political initiative of King George of Poděbrady to establish an organization of nations for securing peace. The same idea was also expressed by the Teacher of Nations J. A. Comenius at a time when foreign armies ruthlessly exterminated our nation only because it wanted to live independently.

In so far as today we fully and unreservedly support the peace policy of the Soviet Union, in our consciousness the present situation is linked with this tradition. As teachers we are responsible for future generations. We consider it to be our moral obligation to do everything for the implementation of the goals of the peace policy of the countries of the socialist community, for which the progressive people of all continents, the United Nations Organization and you personally are striving.

The **declaration** of the International Year of Peace was undoubtedly a great **endorsement** for the peace movement in the whole world. This **experience** leads us to **express** the demand that the United Nations should turn the Year of Peace into a **decade** of peace. This would be an act that in the **consciousness** of the population of our beautiful "blue planet" would **deepen** the feeling that the **fraternity** of nations, represented by the United Nations, is a powerful moral force that is capable of **concretely** uniting nations for noble aims.

We are sending this message and this proposal in the irrevocable conviction that it will meet with your **understanding**, namely, for your **bravo** and **wise** peaceful political attitude. This conviction is confirmed by the fact that, as **Doctor honoris causa** of Charles University, you will also understand us personally, as we **found** during your visit to our historic University.

Expressing our deep respect we are sending you this message with sincere **collegial** greetings and wishes of full success in the fulfilment of your **responsible** mission.

(Signed) Professor Zdenek CESKA
Rector of Charles University

ANNEX II

Message from the assembly of the Czech University
of Technology, Prague, to the Secretary-General

The ● 88cnbled students, pedagogues and other staff members of the Czech University of **Technology, Prague, state** that **now** as never before resolute, vigorous and **concrete** action is needed on the part of all **States, nations** and people of **different views** and **convictions** in order to **stop** the human race from **falling** into a **nuclear abyss**. There **should** be no **hesitation** since, despite the **desires** and hopes of the **overwhelming** ujority of the population of the Earth, armament has not **declined**; on the contrary, it is being **stepped** up at a dangerous pace **and, as a result** of the **intensified militarization** of the United States and other NATO countries, there is a **real danger** that it might be extended into **outer space**.

The **present** nuclear and **space** era requires that the **leaders** of all countries, especially of those **possessing nuclear weapons**, fully **realize** the extent of the **nuclear threat**, **display far-sightedness** and political **Courage** corresponding to t.he **realities** of this century and do their **utmost** to preserve peace on our planet. Their action must be **based on** ♦⋈⋈⋈ ● warenee8 of their great **responsibility** for the fate of their respective **countries** as well as of all natlons of the world. They **should** accede to the **proposal** of the Union of Soviet **Socialist** Republics put forward on 15 January of **this** year that offer8 a carefully elaborated programme of a fundamental reversal of the current unfavourable development of the international situation and **presents** a **plan** for **elimination** of nuclear **weapon8** **from** the whole world by the year 2000.

The unilateral Soviet **moratorium** on all nuclear **explosions**, which was declared on the occasion of the fortieth **anniversary** of the bombing of Hiroshima with an **atomic bomb**, has been in **effect** for more than a year. All people of **good** will have **welcomed** this ● xagle of the right **approach** to the current **problems** in the hope for liberation **from** the **fear** of a **nuclear catastrophe**. This moratorium has received the support of the United Nations **General Assembly** and of other important world **bodies** and **organizations** because it prove6 the **earnestness** and **sincerity** of the Soviet **programme** of nuclear **disarmament** by means of a deed, not **just** a **suggestion**. It thus constitute8 **an appeal** calling tot a new **policy** - a policy of realism, peace and co-operation. **Actual** halting of nuclear testing is a **simple** and at the **same time** effective barrier blocking the **road** to further nuclear **arms** build-up and to the development and ● ophieticat.ion of nuclear-weapon **systems**.

When repeatedly extending the moratorium, the **General Secretary** of the Central **Committee** of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union appealed to the **good sense** and dignity of the **Americans**, urging them not to **miss** again the historic opportunity to halt nuclear tenting. The **conclusion** of an agreement to this end might become the **most significant** event of the International Year of Peace as a **major** step towards the amelioration of the international **situation**.

This **assembly** of pedagogues, staff ● aber8 and students of the Czech **University** of **Technology** fully **identifies** itself with the noble appeal made by the Union of Soviet **Socialist** Republic8 and requests Your Excellency to use all the

weight of your internationally recognized authority to give continued support to the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions and to strive for preventing further nuclear testing on the part of the great Powers, so that the nuclear test sites may become silent in this year and so that 1986 may enter history as a year worthy of the name "International Year of Peace" and as a starting point for the International Decade of Peace.

Pedagogues, staff members and students of the Czech University of Technology,
Prague

(Signed) The Chairman of the University
Committee of the Communist Party
of Czechoslovakia

The Rector of the Czech University
of Technology

The Chairman of the University
Committee of the Socialist Youth
Union

The Chairman of the University
Committee of the Revolutionary
Trade Union Movement
