



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/41/866
21 November 1986
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Forty-first session
Agenda items 21, 58, 60, 61, 62, 65 and 68

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

Letter dated 20 November 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the appeal for disarmament and peace in Europe and throughout the world launched by participants in the plenary meeting of the National Council for Science and Education, held at Bucharest on 30 October 1986.

I should be grateful if you would have this text distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 21, 58, 60, 61, 62, 65 and 68.

(Signed) Teodor MARINESCU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Appeal for disarmament and peace in Europe and throughout the world launched by participants in the plenary meeting of the National Council for Science and Education

Representatives of scientists, teachers and intellectuals belonging to the National Council for Science and Technology, meeting in plenary at Bucharest on 30 October 1986 to discuss the tasks incumbent on Romania's scientific research community and its schools in order to speed up the country's economic and social development, expressed their firm and unanimous conviction that programmes to guide their activities, and likewise plans for the progress and development of all peoples, can be implemented only in a climate of peace, international co-operation, trust and active co-operation among all States of the world. In the present international situation, the foremost task of our age can be said to be to achieve general and nuclear disarmament and to preserve the supreme right of individuals and peoples to existence, freedom, independence, life and peace.

Realizing the great threat which weapons pose to mankind and the contribution which science and scientists could make to halting the arms race, to ensuring the steady progress of the whole world and to building its future, we scientists and teachers of the Socialist Republic of Romania call on scientists, researchers and intellectuals the world over, heads of State, Governments and all politicians to join their efforts with ours in order to achieve ever closer co-operation in preserving peace, mankind's most precious asset.

As specialists who are able to analyse from a scientific, technical, strategic and political standpoint the effects of four decades of nuclear armament, we believe that the time has come to renounce once and for all the obsolete notion that nuclear weapons can strengthen the defence capacity and the security of nations and help to preserve world peace. We also believe that the United States Government should renounce its Strategic Defense Initiative or "Star Wars" programme which, as many scientists and politicians even in the United States have shown, far from strengthening the security of any country simply heightens insecurity and the risk of a nuclear war and encourages the extension of the arms race to space. We also believe that world problems cannot be solved by the two major Powers but require the active involvement of all States and all peoples, regardless of their size or social system.

As scientists aware of the particular complexity of the issue of conventional and nuclear disarmament and the building of mutual trust among States as a basis for the establishment of a reliable system of equal security, we must work relentlessly for the creation of an international climate of concord and rapprochement among States. The only way to promote the interests of peace is to negotiate in favour of co-operation and for the elimination of nuclear weapons and the reduction of conventional weapons.

Romania's scientists share fully the position of the President of the country, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, that Europe is the only force in the world which can

make a decisive contribution to **settling** international problems. We believe therefore that the scientists of this continent have a noble duty towards **peoples** and towards the whole world to work for increased co-operation and unity among **all** the countries of Europe, regardless of their social system.

In public life and in international co-operation, let us act to ensure that the European States fulfil their role, assume their responsibilities and work resolutely for a solution to the continent's serious problems and to all the problems of international life. Let us at all times support the idea of pursuing negotiations with a view to expediting the conclusion of an agreement on the withdrawal of medium-range missiles from Europe by the United States of America and the Soviet Union, and the idea of pursuing negotiations which might lead to agreements on the elimination of all weapons from our continent.

Many constructive and specific proposals which might lead to disarmament have been put before the countries of Europe and the States of the entire world. In our view, negotiations must be pursued until an agreement is reached permitting, in a first stage, a 50 per cent reduction in strategic weapons. Negotiations on the cessation of nuclear weapons tests and the complete elimination of such weapons should also be stepped up, as should those on prohibiting the militarisation of space. We cherish the conviction that painstaking negotiations could lead to the establishment of an effective system of international monitoring which would ensure that commitments, conventions and agreements on nuclear disarmament and disarmament in general would be complied with fully. Our country believes that reductions should also be made in conventional weapons so that, by the year 2000, there will have been a substantial reduction of at least 50 per cent in weapons, troop strength and military spending.

We have a vast field of action before us. Let us do everything in our power to translate measures to halt the absurd arms race into an international reality, and, in the area of disarmament and the strengthening of confidence and security, to make the transition from declarations to real and specific actions, from words to deeds.

Romania's Parliament, the Grand National Assembly, has just approved by a massive consensus the bill on the unilateral reduction of Romania's troop strength, weapons and military spending by 5 per cent this year and the holding of a referendum which will enable the entire people to state their views democratically on this important problem of our State policy. We who work in the areas of scientific research and education believe that this action is an expression of the desire of the entire **Romanian** people to make a significant contribution to the cause of disarmament and peace in the world. This is why, at the referendum, our answer to this proposal will be a resounding YES.

Strong in the conviction that any step taken in sincerity and **good** faith to reduce arsenals and military forces makes an effective contribution to reducing tension and building confidence among States and to enhancing the security of each nation, we support wholeheartedly the appeal addressed by the president of Romania to all the States of Europe, the United States of America and Canada to each unilaterally reduce their weapons and military spending by **5** per cent. Such a

step, which does not and could not threaten the security and sovereignty of **any** State, will show **each** nation's desire to embark effectively on the task of reducing international tension and promoting disarmament for **the** benefit of peace.

Taking responsibility for the preservation of peace is the foremost duty of scientists, for the fate of all mankind depends directly on the fulfilment of **that** responsibility. This conclusion is based on the perception that problems of economic development, **political** problems and disarmament questions are interdependent in today's world. We must ensure that our activities are geared towards the interests of peace and **that the** necessary conditions are created to enable the tremendous financial resources swallowed up by armament to be used for economic and social development.

Let us work resolutely against the **use** of nuclear power for non-peaceful purposes so that the magnificent achievements of modern chemistry, physics, biology and the other sciences are not used to produce weapons but contribute solely to preserving and developing **the** best that mankind's genius has brought about and to shaping new and important material and spiritual values. Let us use **our** discoveries **to** reduce the gap between rich and poor countries, to eliminate the underdevelopment that afflicts two thirds of the world's population, to eradicate the malnutrition and disease which still take millions of human lives, and to protect the environment and develop its resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Let us strive resolutely to help all peoples to benefit from the magnificent achievements of modern science and technology in order to transform science into a genuine asset of all mankind.

Let us **work** resolutely for new relations among States, governed by the principles of complete equality of rights, independence and national sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, non-use of force or **the** threat of force, and respect **for** the sacred right of each people to choose its own destiny and its own path to **economic** and social development, free from all outside interference.

Under **the** co-ordination of its founding Chairman, Comrade Elena Ceausescu, the **Romanian** national committee "Scientists and Peace" will step up its dialogue and co-operation with all organizations which are striving for peace **in the** world, in order to arouse universal awareness of the ideals of peace and the freedom of peoples.

In today's world, scientists represent a tremendous social force for progress and peace. Let us therefore make known our firm opinion on all international problems.

We are deeply convinced **that**, if we join forces, science will effectively **become** a major and inexhaustible source of life, all peoples will make a growing contribution **to** the fund of universal knowledge which **must serve the well-being of all** peoples and, lastly, peace, security and co-operation will ultimately prevail.
