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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-second session
Items 50, 57, 62, 67 and 74 of the
preliminary list*
CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS
PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)
WEAPONS
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH
SPECIAL SESSION
COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-second year

Letter dated 5 March 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the
German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint statement by the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic (see annex I) as well as the text of a communication on a verbal message dated 1 March 1987 from the Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honecker, to the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Helmut Kohl (see annex II).

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 50, 57, 62, 67 and 74 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Harry OTT
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Deputy Minister of
Foreign Affairs

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ANNEX I

Joint statement by the Politburo of the Central Committee
of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Council of
State and Council of Ministers of the German Democratic
Republic

The Politburo of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), the Council of State and Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) fully and unequivocally support the new trend-setting initiative by the Soviet party and State leadership, which was announced by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and is aimed at concluding without delay a separate agreement on the complete elimination of intermediate-range missiles in Europe, regardless of the stage reached at Geneva in negotiating disarmament issues as a package.

In accordance with the statement given by Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the GDR Council of State, the party and State leadership of the GDR affirms its concurrence with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that, immediately following the conclusion of such an agreement, the enhanced-range tactical missiles, which were deployed there in response to the emplacement of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe will be removed from GDR territory.

Mikhail Gorbachev's statement represents a coherent part of the consistent efforts undertaken by the USSR and its allies to prevent a return to the state of affairs before Reykjavik and to break the stalemate in the negotiations with the United States of America on the whole complex of disarmament issues.

Aware of its responsibility and ready for compromise, the USSR has paid due attention to the wishes and ideas of leading politicians in the West. Now there can be no further excuses. Words must be followed by deeds.

In fact, a finalized agreement had been on the table back in Reykjavik. It is now possible to reach a final agreement on intermediate-range missiles easily and without delay. Such a bold initial step would bring within reach a nuclear-free Europe and the reduction of nuclear arsenals as such.

Like the Soviet Union, the GDR deems it extremely important not to slacken in the search for accords on a substantial reduction, and subsequent elimination, of strategic arms and, in this context, to impose a ban on the deployment of any weapons in outer space.

The new Soviet initiative lends strong impetus to all those forces for whom peace and disarmament are a serious and genuine concern. The Politburo of the SED Central Committee, the Council of State and Council of Ministers of the GDR reaffirm that the German Democratic Republic, shoulder to shoulder with the USSR

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and its allies and together with all those committed to common sense and realism, will play its part in ensuring that this opportunity is seized and a start made at long last on genuine disarmament.

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ANNEX II

Message dated 1 March 1987 from the Chairman of the Council of
State of the German Democratic Republic to the Chancellor of
the Federal Republic of Germany in support of the peace
initiative of the General Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

On 1 March 1987, Ambassador Ewald Moldt, Head of the Permanent Representation of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), conveyed to Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl a verbal message from Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and Chairman of the GDR Council of State, in which he draws Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl's attention to the historic chance which would result from implementing the recent proposal by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev as a step on the road to a world without nuclear weapons.

In his message, Erich Honecker recalls the declaration made by Federal Chancellor Kohl in his letter of October 1986, according to which the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany favoured freeing Europe from intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

Now it has been suggested that this specific issue should be singled out from the package of proposals submitted in Reykjavik. If this suggestion materializes, the GDR will act in accordance with its declared preparedness to agree with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the withdrawal of the enhanced-range missiles systems stationed in the GDR.

Erich Honecker expresses the expectation that the FRG should bring its influence to bear on its allies in favour of implementing these proposals. If this new and far-reaching Soviet proposal were put into practice, Erich Honecker points out, it would naturally have a positive bearing on the safeguarding of peace and the further development of relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany.
