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Item 26 of the preliminary list*

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

Letter dated 27 April 1967 from the Permanent Representatives
Of Austria and Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We have the **honour** to submit to you the Declaration (see annex I and the Final Document (see annex II) entitled: "Acting for disarmament and a world of security, peace, freedom and solidarity", adopted by the second World Meeting of War **Veterans, Resistant and War Victims, held at Vienna from 1 to 3 December 1986**, within the framework of the International **Year** of Peace.

We would **be** most **grateful if you could have this** letter and its annexes circulated **as an official** document **of the General** Assembly, under item 26 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Dr. Karl FISCHER
Ambasaador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary, Permanent
Representative of Austria
to the United **Nations**

(Signed) Ferenc **ESZTERGALYOS**
Ambassador Extraordi **nary**
and Plenipotentiary, Pt **anent**
Representative of Hungary
to the United Nations

* A/42/50.

ANNEX I

Declaration on acting for disarmament and a world of security,
peace, freedom and solidarity, adopted on 3 December 1986 by
the second World Meeting of War Veterans, Resistants and War
Victims, held at Vienna from 1 to 3 December 1986

Since the end of the Second World War, tens of millions of people have met their **death** in more than 150 armed conflicts, some of which, raging still, could lead to widespread war. Violations of human rights, terrorism, mistrust and famine are creating highly dangerous tensions.

With weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, man has created a means of destroying himself. The arms race is consuming research, effort and enormous budgets, seriously affecting the future of all and rendering sterile the possibilities of solidarity for the benefit of peoples suffering from ignorance, hunger and misery.

Adversaries or allies yesterday, we who have experienced the tragedy of war, cannot accept such an absurd situation. Aware of our differences of opinion, but having learned to overcome them, we reject the idea that war is inevitable and join together to build peace, a peace founded on solidarity between nations and peoples, the interdependence of their interests and reciprocal confidence between States.

The international commitments embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the International Bill of Human Rights, and the Helsinki Final Act, and the recommendations concerning the fight against international terrorism, must be fully respected by all States. In their relations with each other, in particular to settle their disputes or conflicts, they must accept negotiation, conciliation and arbitration as provided in the Charter of the United Nations, or apply any other peaceful means.

Thus the conditions for real security in a climate of détente and co-operation will be created, facilitating a halt to the arms race, the reduction of Overall arms strength to the lowest possible level, conventional weapons included, the exclusively peaceful use of outer space, and progress towards general, balanced and controlled disarmament.

Science and technology must not lead to a world burnt to ashes, but, on the contrary, contribute to economic and social advancement and enhance individual human development.

The world veterans community, conscious of its duty to youth, has multiplied its warnings and developed its action. It knows that peace must be won and must be struggled for, and that it demands lucidity, courage and perseverance. It intends to pursue its efforts for the success of all international meetings and negotiations, in particular those that bring together the two great Powers whose first responsibility is to halt the arms race.

At the dawn of the third millenium, we are at the **crossroads** of **anguish** and **hope**, between the threat **that hangs heavily over the world** and the enormous potential⁶ of **progress**. May men and women of all **nations**, aware that it is **necessary** to **act**, join their **efforts** with **ours** and **strongly urge** all **Governments** in the world to **take** concrete **action** to **establish** a new order of security, peace, freedom and solidarity ,

European Confederation of War Veteranr
International Confederation of **Former** Prisoners of War
International Federation of **Resistance** Movementr
world Veteranr Federation

ANNEX II

Final document of the **second** World Meeting of War
Veterans, **Resistants and** War Victims, held at
Vienna from 1 to 3 December **1986**

International **Year** of Peace

Acting for disarmament and a world of security, peace,
freedom **and** solidarity

1. In the framework of the International **Year** of Peace, proclaimed by the United Nations, we are meeting again at Vienna, **seven years** after the **first** World Meeting in Rome, still more firmly determined to act for disarmament and a world of security, peace, freedom and **solidarity**.

2. Nearly 100 million people **have perished** during the conflicts that have raged **since the** beginning of this century, dying in the fury of battlefields, in the horrors of torture, prisons, executions, **concentration** camps and **camps of** extermination. Wars have left families and populations decimated, millions of refugees and **countries** devastated and impoverished.

We have fought side by side **or** in opposed **camps** in harsh armed battle.

Today, we, the **survivors**, **are** aware of **our** differences of opinion in many fields **but**, turning towards **the** future, we have put into practice our determination **to rise above them and to bring out our reasons for action in common, with** reciprocal respect **and** confidence.

3. By reason of our painful experiences, we intend to be in the forefront of those who **work** for peace. We maintain **that** war is **not** inevitable **and that peace must be won and must be** struggled for.

We do not accept the possibility of self-destruction by humanity and **the disappearance** of all life on **our** planet.

We maintain that it is both necessary and possible to halt the arms race.

We maintain that it is both **necessary** and possible to reverse **the current process**, achieve balanced arms reduction, and **move progressively** on towards general and controlled disarmament.

4. Although another world war **has been** avoided since 1945, over 150 **armed conflicts have** stained the world with **blood**, causing tens of millions of **deaths**. **Some** of these conflicts could escalate to widespread war, leading to the use, which could extend beyond control, of **weapons of mass** destruction.

5. In the present state of **the** world and its technology, war **can solve nothing**. Dangers are mounting **constantly** with **the** development and diversification of mass

destruction weapons, the growing number of countries that possess them, and the risk that the arms race might extend into outer space, grow out of control, placing mankind at the mercy of a technical failure.

The staggering and ruinous accumulation of weapons, by fostering reciprocal fear and mistrust, far from ensuring the independence and integrity of States, is increasing the danger of conflict,

6. Science and technology, advancing with rapid strides, which should mainly serve cultural, economic, and social goals and contribute to the reduction of inequalities through solidarity, are on the contrary being diverted to the allocation of an increasing share of national resources to armaments.

7. The distress in which millions of human beings suffer from misery and famine find themselves is unacceptable. It is, moreover, a source of conflict and trouble. The same is true of the situation of peoples who are deprived of their right to independence and of the victims of all forms of discrimination, apartheid, oppression contrary to human rights and deinformation.

8. The mounting violence and threat or use of force, brutality and the frequency of terrorist acts, which should be condemned in all their forms, have tragic consequences and are contributing to creating dangerous tensions in international relations.

9. The maintenance of peace, in a framework of freedom, security, and progress, which we want for everyone, implies or requires:

That each country may enjoy its independence, each nation may freely decide its own future, and each human being may be guaranteed all the rights and freedoms set forth in the International Bill of Human Rights;

Respect by all States for their international commitments embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the International Bill of Human Rights, and the Helsinki Final Act;

That, in their relations for the settlement of their disputes or conflicts, the States accept negotiations, conciliation, and arbitration as provided in the Charter of the United Nations, or apply other peaceful means;

Strengthening of the United Nations, and in particular the role given to the Security Council;

Development of international co-operation in all fields, in particular through the specialized agencies of the United Nations;

Co-operation in the fight against terrorism in accordance with the terms of the resolution adopted by consensus by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1985;

True and **sincere** negotiation⁶ between all **States**, contributing to building confidence, in particular **between** the two Powers which **are the most** heavily **armed** and which, for that very reason, have a **special** responsibility.

10. We welcome and **support** all **initiatives** in that direction, **especially bilateral and multilateral meetings**.

We hope that the negotiations carried on at the summit meetings at Geneva and Reykjavik will speedily lead to concrete **results**.

We **welcome** the agreement reached at Stockholm in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and express the hope that the **Vienna meeting** Of 35 States will develop and intensify the **Helsinki** process.

11. We call upon all the nuclear **Powers** to **recognize that a nuclear** conflict would have neither a winner nor a **loser** and could mean the end of the human species, as the Union of Soviet **Socialist** Republics and the United States of America have declared at **Geneva** on November 1985.

In view of their special **responsibility**, the two major Powers should **agree** rapidly to stop all testing of nuclear weapons, thereby curbing their improvement and the production of new **ones**. They would thus **pave** the way for the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty on nuclear **weapons** open **to all States**.

The deployment of **weapons** in outer space, which should be used exclusively for peaceful **purposes**, should be given UP.

The escalation **of weaponry** should be brought to a halt, **especially** in the nuclear field.

Balanced nuclear and conventional weapons reductions must be **arrived** at rapidly, and chemical and biological **weapons** eliminated, in order to **progress** towards disarmament under **conditions** guaranteeing **security** for **all**.

It is **essential** that all measures taken are accompanied by the appropriate monitoring and control, in order to build up the confidence **indispensable** for the implementation of arms limitation Plans.

12. Halting the **arms** race and progressing towards disarmament should make it possible to redirect the world's human, material, and financial **resources** towards waging a more effective fight against famine, **disease**, unemployment, illiteracy, natural and man made **disasters**.

International **relations** and co-operation in the economic and **social fields** more favourable to individual human development could thus be **established**.

13. States have different political **systems**. Some belong to **alliances**; others do not. They are at different stages of development.

But men **and** women, made aware of their vulnerability and their interdependence, **must** work together to define and build foundations for active solidarity.

At a time when modern communications technology **makes it possible** for everyone to keep abreast of the development of events **as** they take place wherever they **may** be, lasting **boundaries** barring the flow of **ideas** stemming from the need for peace, justice **and** liberty are no longer possible.

As long as ignorance and misery persists, no one can feel really free and worthy.

TO **ensure** everywhere education for peace and human rights, to develop a spirit of solidarity through concrete action, **is** to invest in the future of humanity.

14. In conveying the rationale of our motives of vigilance, commitment **hope** and confidence in mankind, we **are addressing a message** to all our fellow citizens, particularly the new **generations**, the millions of men and women for whom the right to live in dignity **is** a fundamental right. We are at the **crossroads** of anguish and hope. To march forward in the right direction, let **us** together **take action with Governments** and all **those** who **have** the **power** to persuade, to **act** and to decide.

Now, at the end of the twentieth century, it **is** our common wish to contribute with all our power to open that new road through appropriate action against violence, oppression, **and** war, to achieve full human development in a world of greater justice, greater freedom, greater solidarity **and** greater brotherhood.

European Confederation of War Veterans
International Confederation of Former Prisoners of War
International Federation of **Resistance** Movements
World **Veterans** Federation

Mandate

The **second** World Meeting mandates the four international **organizations** mentioned **above and** their Co-ordinating Committee to draw up **all measures** with a **view** to giving the greatest impact to **this** text, and to promote common action for the implementation of the recommendations it contains.