



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/214

14 March 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session

Items 12, 64, 67, 72, 73 and 137 of the
preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

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

COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS
BETWEEN STATES

Latter dated 11 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you a letter from Mr. Bohuslav Chloupek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, concerning a new Czechoslovak initiative on the gradual establishment of a zone of confidence, co-operation and good-neighbourly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty States and the NATO States as put forward by Mr. Miloš Jakeš, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, in Prague on 24 February 1986.

* A/43/50.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 12, 64, 67, 72, 73 and 1.37 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Evzen ZÁPOTOCKÝ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 25 February 1998 From the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Czechoslovakia to the Secretary-General

In the context of the lasting endeavours exerted by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic towards the safeguarding of international peace and security, which is also the principal goal of the United Nations, I wish to inform you of a new Czechoslovak initiative envisaging gradual establishment of a zone of confidence, co-operation and good-neighbourly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty States and the NATO States which was put forward by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Mr. Miloš Jakeš, in his statement delivered in Prague on 24 February 1988 on the occasion of the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the victory of the Czechoslovak working people,

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is convinced that the Problem of European security, co-operation and confidence requires new creative approach that will be increasingly conducive to the strengthening of peaceful relations in Europe, which is an urgent, imperative demand corresponding with the interests of world peace, détente and development of all countries and nations.

With the view of attaining these goals, my country has been consistently striving for an intensification of constructive international dialogue on the ways and means of consolidating guarantees of peace in all spheres of international relations, at both the global and the regional levels. In so doing, it proceeds on the basis of full awareness of the irreplaceable role of the United Nations as a universal guarantee of international peace and security, being determined to contribute to its enhancement in all respects.

Guided by the aforesaid ideas, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is putting forward the above-mentioned proposal relating to the entire complex of the highly topical issues concerning strengthening of Peace, co-operation and confidence on our continent, which reads as follows:

"We Live in the heart of Europe interlaced by innumerable historical, cultural, economic and national ties. At the same time, we are on the borderline between the two most powerful politico-military groupings, in an area oversaturated with weapons. Our priority objective is good-neighbourliness and good partnership in a common European home! To this end, we have been exerting constant efforts with a view to developing a all-round dialogue, especially within the framework of the all-European process. Its potential is already beginning to make itself felt. With the aim of moving further ahead the horizons of co-operation, we are striving for a speedy conclusion of the CSCE follow-up meeting at Vienna by the adoption of a substantial and balanced final document. Beside progress in the economic and humanitarian fields, we accord priority also to opening already during this year talks on disarmament in Europe.

"Nowadays, especially broad opportunities are offering themselves for all European countries, large and small alike, to contribute their respective shares to the consolidation of the positive tendencies of the present time. They all bear responsibility for peace and **understanding**, for the fate of our **continent**.

"Reliable peace and security cannot be **safe guarded** only through measures in the military sphere. Impulses emerging from dialogue on disarmament **should** be utilized **so** as to promote **progress** in all fields of co-operation. We therefore suggest that a **zone** of confidence, co-operation and **good-neighbourly** relations be gradually built up along the Line of contact between the Warsaw Treaty and the **NATO** States. We believe that these States might set an **example** in broad **implementation of the** provisions of the all-European process *in* their relations, especially in **neighbourly** relations, and that they **might** chart and Put into practice new courses **of** co-operation. Understandably, we advocate a comprehensive approach **involving** in equal measure the military, **pol itical**, economic, **ecological** and humanitarian fields.

"In the **military** field, this could **mean forming gradually** a sort of 'diluted' zone where the level of military confrontation would be reduced, from which the most dangerous types of **offensive** weapons would be eliminated and where **significant** confidence-building measures would be adopted. Such an approach is in full harmony with the already **submitted** proposals for nuclear- and chemical-weapon-free zones as well as with the intentions aimed at **dealing** with the various aspects of disarmament and **building** of confidence between **groups** of European States, at the all-European or at the global level.

"In the other spheres, there is a **no less extensive room** for activity in the pursuit of political dialogue, all-round and mutual **ly beneficial** co-operation and elimination of obstacles and persisting long-term **problems**, including the **ecological** ones. It is necessary to do away **with** distorted ideas of one another's objectives and intentions, to expand contacts and to enhance mutual knowledge.

"We Propose to convene at a certain **stage** of elaboration of this initiative a meeting of representatives of the concerned and other **interested** countries at the political level for the purpose of **considering** the possibilities of **building** up confidence and **developing** co-operation in all **fields**."

We are profoundly convinced that the present proposal of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, stemming from the desire to make a constructive contribution to the **strengthening** of peace and **security**, **progress** in disarmament and expansion of mutually beneficial ties of co-operation and confidence both in Europe and **throughout** the world, is in full harmony with the objectives and principles of the United Nations as enshrined in its Charter. Therefore, I **should** like to express my conviction that its presentation will become an impulse **prompting** response in the form of constructive steps in the same direction on the part of **those** States which

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it concerns directly and give a new impetus to • ativation of the efforts of the United Nations towards the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

(Bohuslav CHVOUPEK
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
