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LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 1962 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ROMANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE ACTING
SECRETARY-GENERAL

In reply to your letter PO 134 of 2 January 1962, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from Mr. Corneliu Manescu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Romanian People's Republic, setting forth the Romanian Government's views on the possibility of implementing resolution 1664 (XVI), adopted by the General Assembly at its 1070th meeting of 4 December 1961.

I should be obliged if you would have the text of this letter circulated as an official United Nations document.

(Signed) Mihail HASEGANU
Permanent Representative of the Romanian People's
Republic to the United Nations

ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

15 March 1962

Your Excellency,

In reply to your letter PO 134 of 2 January 1962, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

The Government of the Romanian People's Republic is firmly convinced that general and complete disarmament - the paramount problem of the international situation - is the surest means of realizing the peoples' deepest aspirations and of eliminating the danger of war, and tension and suspicion between States.

The achievement of general and complete disarmament would fulfil the peoples' aspirations for the start of a new era in international life, marked by the final elimination of wars and by the development of peaceful relations and fruitful co-operation among States.

In the Romanian Government's frequently expressed opinion, the most important task incumbent upon States is to conclude a treaty of general and complete disarmament as soon as possible. The solution found to this problem will decide, in the last analysis, whether mankind is to experience the infinite suffering of atomic war or is to be preserved from it.

The Romanian People's Republic, for its part, has always championed general and complete disarmament, has always advocated the conclusion of the treaty of general and complete disarmament proposed by the USSR, and has always made every effort, both in the United Nations and in the Ten-Nation Disarmament Committee in 1960, towards the attainment of that goal.

At the current proceedings of the eighteen-nation Disarmament Committee, the delegation of the Romanian People's Republic, acting in accordance with the Romanian Government's instructions, is determined to make its full contribution to the joint efforts for the conclusion of the treaty of general and complete disarmament.

His Excellency U Thant
Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

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Campaigning actively for the achievement of general and complete disarmament and the conclusion of an appropriate treaty, the Government of the Romanian People's Republic further considers that no effort should be spared for the implementation of all other measures designed to help reduce international tension and strengthen confidence among States. The continuance of the armaments race, and especially of the atomic weapons race, and an increase in the number of States possessing such weapons would create new obstacles to general and complete disarmament and would poison international relations, contrary to the hopes of the peoples who wish to ensure lasting peace throughout the world. The adoption of specific measures against the spread of nuclear weapons would undoubtedly restrict the armaments race, facilitate the solution of the problem of general and complete disarmament as a whole, and reduce the danger of plunging mankind into the abyss of a new war.

In this respect agreements at the regional level, including the establishment of atom-free zones, would contribute greatly to the settlement of the disarmament question and the elimination of the danger of a new war.

Believing that the Governments of all States, regardless of their political system, have a duty to contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere of mutual trust, the Romanian Government, taking as a basis its 1957 proposal regarding the conclusion of an agreement between the States of the Balkan region, put forward in its statement of 7 June 1959 its views concerning the need to transform the South-Eastern region of Europe into an atomic-weapon-free zone.

In view of the world-wide importance of such agreements, the Romanian Government proposed that the General Assembly should consider at its fifteenth session an agenda item entitled "Action on the regional level with a view to improving good neighbourly relations between European States having different social and political systems".

As Gheorge Gheorghiu-Dej, Chairman of the Romanian delegation to the fifteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly, stated:

"We put forward our proposals with the conviction that the Balkan region could be turned into a zone of peace, free of atomic weapons, of rocket launching pads and of foreign military bases. This would correspond in the highest degree to the fundamental interests of the peoples of the Balkan countries. Its importance would extend far beyond the limits of that geographical area."

The Governments of certain countries of that region having repeatedly declared their willingness to contribute to the establishment of such a zone in South-East Europe, the translation of this idea into fact depends on the accord of the other States of the region which would have to participate in such an agreement.

The Romanian People's Republic supported and continues to support the proposals of the Polish Government to establish an atom-free zone in the centre of Europe and considers that the adoption of similar measures in other regions of the world would contribute appreciably to the strengthening of international security and the maintenance of peace.

The adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of its resolution 1664 (XVI) and of the resolution concerning the transformation of the continent of Africa into a zone free of atomic weapons constitutes implicit recognition of the importance of such measures.

With regard to resolution 1664 (XVI), it is well known that the delegation of the Romanian People's Republic voted with most of the delegations of States Members of the United Nations in favour of the proposal of the Governments of Sweden, Cambodia, Ceylon, Ethiopia, Libya and Sudan - co-sponsors of the resolution of 4 December 1961 regarding the conditions under which States might enter into appropriate undertakings to refrain from manufacturing or otherwise acquiring atomic weapons and to refuse to receive, in the future, in their own territory such weapons belonging to other States.

Obviously, the provisions of the said resolution cannot be implemented unless all States Members of the United Nations - including the principal NATO Powers and the other States which voted against the resolution - solemnly undertake to prevent the dissemination of nuclear weapons and take appropriate measures to that end.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Corneliu MANESCU
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Romanian People's Republic
