



General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS
CENTRE FOR DISARMAMENT
DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS
— Reference Library —

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CN.10/39
9 May 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE ARMS RACE, PARTICULARLY
THE NUCLEAR-ARMS RACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, IN ORDER TO
EXPEDITE NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT EFFECTIVE ELIMINATION OF THE
DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY
ISSUES ENTITLED "COMMON SECURITY" THAT RELATE TO DISARMAMENT AND
ARMS LIMITATION AND TO SUGGEST, IN A REPORT TO THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, HOW BEST TO ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP THERETO
WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OR OTHERWISE

Letter dated 9 May 1983 from the Deputy Minister for Foreign
Affairs, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the Permanent Mission of the German Democratic Republic
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary of the
Disarmament Commission

The delegation of the German Democratic Republic to the Disarmament Commission has the honour to forward herewith the texts of two letters by the Government of the German Democratic Republic related to the Swedish proposal on the establishment in Central Europe of a zone free of battlefield nuclear weapons and to request that the documents be circulated as official documents of the Disarmament Commission referring to items 4 (a) and 7 of the agenda.

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

Annex I

LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1983 FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN

The Government of the German Democratic Republic shares the concern of the Swedish Government over the high concentration of nuclear weapons on this continent. It concurs with its view that every possible effort must be made to reduce and, indeed, completely eliminate nuclear weapons in Europe. The Swedish proposal affords an opportunity to move closer to this goal and to scale down military confrontation in Europe substantially. At the same time, it conforms to the belief of the German Democratic Republic and the other signatory States of the Warsaw Treaty that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of Europe may lessen the danger of nuclear war and give fresh impetus to détente and mutually beneficial co-operation.

The German Democratic Republic attaches special importance to creating such a zone on both sides of the dividing line between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty organization because in its immediate proximity is to be found the State with the densest concentration of nuclear weapons and because plans exist to deploy further nuclear weapons. However, if one takes into account the principal military parameters (range, speed, etc.) of the nuclear weapons already existing, the proposed nuclear-weapon-free zones of 150 kilometres on each side of this line would appear to be not wide enough. A wider zone would be required in order to obtain a real increase in security for the participating States and for Europe as a whole. As far as the German Democratic Republic is concerned, it is prepared to make available its entire territory for such a zone provided the principle of equality and equal security is observed.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic is interested in continuing to discuss with representatives of the Swedish Government all questions connected with the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Europe. It would welcome it if the Swedish Government would provide information on the reactions of other European Governments and would elaborate the ideas put forward to date.

Annex II

LETTER DATED 4 FEBRUARY 1983 FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Permit me to inform you that the Swedish Government has requested the Government of the German Democratic Republic to set forth its views on the proposal to create a "zone free of battlefield nuclear weapons extending from Central Europe to the outermost northern and southern flanks of the two alliances". The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic, having closely studied this Swedish proposal, have arrived at the conviction that the creation of such a zone could be a useful move to strengthen peace in Europe and to advance détente.

Accordingly, it was resolved to support the Swedish initiative. Meanwhile, the Swedish Government has been officially informed that the German Democratic Republic, going beyond the Swedish proposal, is ready to make available its entire territory for such a zone if the principle of equality and equal security is observed.

Considering the importance of the Swedish initiative as well as the responsibility of both German States for peace and the concomitant obligation to assist actively in preventing a nuclear catastrophe, it would be of great significance if the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, too, supported this initiative.

I should be very much obliged to you, Chancellor, if you would notify me of the decision of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Enclosed please find the note of the Swedish Government and the reply of the Government of the German Democratic Republic. a/

Notes

a/ These communications are not reproduced in the present document.
