DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

LETTER DATED 11 MAY 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the proposal by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty addressed to the member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) concerning negotiations on the freezing and the reduction of military expenditures, of which the Russian text is the original and the English and French texts are unofficial translations. I should be grateful if you would arrange for them to be issued in the form in which they are submitted to you as a document of the Disarmament Commission.

(Signed) Teodor MARINESCU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Annex

PROPOSAL BY THE STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE WARSAW TREATY TO THE NATO MEMBER STATES FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NON-INCREASE AND REDUCTION OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are deeply concerned with the continuation at an ever higher rate, of the arms race, which has particularly dangerous consequences for international peace and security. The States participating in the Warsaw Treaty stand for halting this race and for moving towards disarmament, first and foremost nuclear disarmament. They stand for the conclusion of agreements conducive towards an effective reduction of armed forces and armaments in strict compliance with the principle of equality and equal security, and in order to ensure the balance of forces at the lowest possible level.

The arms race is being fed by the military expenditures which have been spiralling at a terrible rate and become for peoples, regardless of the level of economic development of various countries, an ever heavier burden, hampering their economic and social development. The reduction of military expenditures, first of all by the States possessing nuclear weapons and the other heavily armed States, would effectively contribute to the halting of the arms race and moving to disarmament; the means thus released are to be used in order to meet the needs for social and economic development, including the development of the developing countries. In view of the ever increasing international tension, taking measures to freeze and reduce military expenditures acquires special significance.

All the States and primarily the States with a powerful military capability should participate in the efforts to freeze and cut down military expenditures. Moreover, taking such measures by the States participating in the Warsaw Treaty and the NATO member States would have a special significance, taking into consideration these States' big share of the military expenditures.

The States participating in the Warsaw Treaty, in their Political Declaration adopted on the 5th of January 1983, at the Prague Conference of the Political Consultative Committee, proposed to start, without delay, direct negotiations between the States participating in the Warsaw Treaty and the NATO member States with a view to achieving a practical agreement on the non-increase of military expenditures and on their subsequent reduction in percentage or absolute terms. This call was reaffirmed and put in a concrete form at the Moscow meeting of the 28th of June 1983 of the Party and State leaders of the PRL, the CSR, the HPR, the GDR, the PPR, the SRR and the USSR who once again addressed the NATO member States with the call to start without delay direct negotiations with a view to achieving an agreement on freezing military expenditures from January 1st, 1984, and taking practical measures for their mutual reduction in the following period.

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The proposals of the States participating in the Warsaw Treaty for the non-increase and a substantial reduction in military expenditures tabled jointly or separately remain valid.

Presenting their proposals for these negotiations, the States participating in the Warsaw Treaty have in view the conclusion, in the shortest period of time, of concrete agreements regarding the freezing and subsequent reduction of the military expenditures, the means thus released to be used in order to meet the needs for social and economic development, including the development of the developing countries. The reduction of the military expenditures should contribute to the halting of the arms race and to the moving towards disarmament. The proposed negotiations for freezing and reduction of military expenditures would constitute a component part of the joint efforts directed towards the accomplishment of this aim.

The States participating in the Warsaw Treaty express their readiness to make, together with the NATO member States, efforts, on a reciprocal basis, in seeking realistic solutions, on a mutually acceptable basis, making it possible to overcome the difficulties which arose during the examination of the problem of freezing and reducing military expenditures. They call the NATO member States to act in the same spirit.

In addition to the proposals contained in the Prague and Moscow Declarations, the States participating in the Warsaw Treaty propose the following possible measures aimed at solving the problem of reducing military expenditures:

- the making of a single, limited symbolical reduction of military budgets by the States participating in the Warsaw Treaty and the NATO member States on the basis of mutual example (each State having to decide alone the amount of the reduction), followed by the freezing of these budgets for a period of approximately 3 years. This proposal is meant to facilitate moving towards more radical reduction of the military budgets, by subsequent negotiations;

- a single reduction, as a first step, of the military budgets of the States participating in the Warsaw Treaty and the NATO member States possessing nuclear weapons by a total amount to be agreed in advance; the concrete share of the reduction for each of these countries within the agreed amount should be established in relation with their Gross National Product;

- the reduction of the military budgets of the States participating in the Warsaw Treaty and of the NATO member States in connection with implementation of concrete measures of disarmament which could be worked out during various disarmament talks (each of the participants in various disarmament talks would, after reaching adequate understandings, announce the amount by which it will reduce its military budget);

- the setting up of agreed maximal ceilings of military budgets, at a level below the existing ones.
The States participating in the Warsaw Treaty are ready to examine other proposals, too, regarding measures of freezing and cutting down military expenditures.

The States participating in the Warsaw Treaty start from the fact that the agreements concerning the reduction of military expenditures should be implemented in such a way as to give all the participants to the respective agreements the certainty that they would be carried out.

With a view to accomplishing concrete understandings, it is necessary to spare no effort, to conduct negotiations in a positive and working spirit, to take steps conducive to the creation of an atmosphere apt to help the progress of negotiations and not to undertake actions apt to complicate them. Exercising self restraint with respect to military expenditures, as well as undertaking similar measures, on a reciprocal basis, could also play a positive role.

One has in view that these negotiations will take place with the direct participation of all the States participating in both alliances. The States participating in the Warsaw Treaty start from the idea that those negotiations could commence as soon as possible. They propose to hold preparatory consultations with the same attendance, at working level, in order to agree on the aim, date and place of negotiations, as well as on the participating level a.s.o. The date and the place of the preparatory consultations could be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

The States participating in the Warsaw Treaty hold the opinion that the carrying out of the proposed negotiations would contribute to the improvement of the political climate in Europe and all over the world and would meet the vital aspirations of the peoples which are worried about the continued worsening of the international situation and the intensification of the arms race.

We express our hope that a positive answer to this proposal will be received as soon as possible.