DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

LETTER DATED 29 MAY 1984 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINA, GREECE, INDIA, MEXICO, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

The enclosed Joint Declaration issued on 22 May by our respective heads of State or Government deals with matters closely related to those included in the agenda of the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

We are therefore requesting that it be reproduced as a document of the Commission. It is our conviction that its members will find in the Declaration many ideas which may prove of particular value in our common struggle for ensuring human survival through disarmament and peace.

(Signed) M. DUBEY
Ambassador, representative of India

(Signed) Alfonso GARCIA ROBLES
Ambassador, representative of Mexico

(Signed) Asterius M. HYERA
Ambassador, representative of the United Republic of Tanzania

(Signed) Rolf EKEUS
Ambassador, representative of Sweden

(Signed) Alexis STEPHANOU
Ambassador, representative of Greece

(Signed) Julio César CARASALES
Ambassador, representative of Argentina
Annex


TODAY, THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANKIND IS IN JEOPARDY. The escalating arms race, the rise in international tensions and the lack of constructive dialogue among the nuclear-weapons States has increased the risk of nuclear war. Such a war, even using part of the present stockpiles, would bring death and destruction to all peoples.

AS LEADERS OF NATIONS, Member States of the United Nations, we have a commitment to take constructive action towards halting and reversing the nuclear-arms race. The people we represent are no less threatened by nuclear war than the citizens of the nuclear-weapons States. It is primarily the responsibility of the nuclear-weapons States to prevent a nuclear catastrophe, but this problem is too important to be left to those States alone.

WE COME FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE GLOBE, with differences in religion, culture and political systems. But we are united in the conviction that there must not be another world war. On this, the most crucial of all issues, we have resolved to make a common effort in the interests of peace.

AGREEMENTS WHICH MERELY REGULATE AN ARMS BUILD-UP are clearly insufficient. The probability of nuclear holocaust increases as warning time decreases and the weapons become swifter, more accurate and more deadly. The rush towards global suicide must be stopped and then reversed. We urge, as a necessary first step, the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as the United Kingdom, France and China, to halt all testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, to be immediately followed by substantial reductions in nuclear forces. We are convinced that it is possible to work out the details of an arrangement along these lines that takes into account the interests and concerns of all, and contains adequate measures for verification. This first step must be followed by a continuing programme of arms reductions leading to general and complete disarmament, accompanied by measures to strengthen the United Nations system and to ensure an urgently needed transfer of substantial resources from the arms race into social and economic development. The essential goal must be to reduce and then eliminate the risk of war between nations.

WE WILL DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER to facilitate agreement among the nuclear-weapons States. We will continue to keep in touch with one another about the best ways and means of achieving this objective. We will be consulting with the leaders of the nuclear weapons States and with other world leaders as well as pursuing discussions through United Nations channels.
WE AFFIRM OUR BELIEF IN DETENTE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, with broad international co-operation and respect for the right of each State to a peaceful, secure and independent existence and the right of each people to organize its life according to its own aspirations. There can be no assurance of safety for one side only. That is why we attach such importance to a halt in the nuclear-arms race that allows for renewed talks on nuclear disarmament.

ALL PEOPLE HAVE AN OVERRIDING INTEREST IN COMMON SECURITY and the avoidance of a nuclear war which threatens human survival. Citizens throughout the world are expressing, as never before, their concern for the future; this public discussion of peace and disarmament must continue and increase. The support and encouragement of an informed public will greatly strengthen governmental action to reverse the nuclear-arms race.

WE HAVE FAITH IN THE CAPACITY OF HUMAN BEINGS to rise above the current divisions and create a world free from the shadow of nuclear war. The power and ingenuity of the human race must be used, not to perfect weapons of annihilation, but to harness the resources of the earth so that all people may enjoy a life of security and dignity in an international system free of war and based on peace and justice.

TODAY, THE WORLD HANGS IN THE BALANCE BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE. We hope that our combined efforts will help to influence the outcome.

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