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DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

LETTER DATED 9 MAY 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement by the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Polish People's Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the United Nations Disarmament Commission in connection with the fortieth anniversary of the victory over nazism and fascism in the Second World War of 9 May 1985. I should like to request Your Excellency to have this statement circulated as an official document of the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

(Signed) Jaroslav CESAR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATIONS OF THE BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS IN THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OVER NAZISM AND FASCISM IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

[Original: Russian]

[9 May 1985]

Today is the fortieth anniversary of the victorious conclusion of the battle, unprecedented in its scale and violence, against the most reactionary strike force of imperialism - Hitlerite fascism, whose aim was to turn back the course of history and to establish its "new order". Forty years ago, the dark night of Fascist enslavement and genocide ended for the peoples of Europe and of all countries of the world. The future of world civilization, progress and democracy had been saved from the plague of fascism.

The ensuing decades have demonstrated even more vividly and fully the world-wide historical significance of the great victory over nazism and fascism. It exerted the most profound influence on the entire course of world development and created favourable conditions for the peoples' struggle for their social and national liberation. As a result of the victory, the positions of the progressive, democratic and peace-loving forces were strengthened, the world socialist system emerged and flourished and the process of the disintegration of the colonial system of imperialism, culminating in its complete collapse, was accelerated. The most important result of the victory was the creation of the United Nations, with the primary purpose of saving mankind once and for all from the scourge of war.

The Soviet Union played a decisive role in the attainment of victory. In the course of the Great Patriotic War, the Soviet people and its armed forces, under the leadership of the Communist Party, defended the freedom and independence of their socialist fatherland. They also brought freedom to a large number of other States. An important factor promoting the great victory over fascism was the efforts of all the States and peoples in the anti-Hitler coalition. A significant contribution to the struggle against the forces of fascism was made by the participants in the resistance movement and in the anti-fascist underground. The Communists, as true sons of their peoples and ardent internationalists, were in the vanguard of the liberation struggle.

The most bloody and destructive war in the history of mankind took a heavy toll of the peoples of the world. It caused over 50 million deaths and unprecedented material damage to peoples and States. In a handful of Third Reich concentration camps, nearly 11 million people were tortured - men, women, old people and children of dozens of different nationalities.

The communiqué concerning the recent meeting in Warsaw of party leaders and statesmen of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty devoted particular attention to the great significance of the victory of the freedom-loving peoples over fascism. "High was the price of that victory", the communiqué states. It also stresses that "In memory of the fallen, and as a duty to present and future generations, the lessons of the war must not be forgotten". The most important lesson is that we must fight against war before it begins.

The experience of history teaches that, if peace is to be defended, all peace-loving forces must take united, agreed and active measures to combat the aggressive, adventurist policy of imperialism and to preserve peace. War is a worthless, unacceptable method of solving disputes. In a nuclear war, as in the arms race, it is impossible to win on a course of confrontation. It is therefore more important today than ever before for all States, regardless of differences in their social system and ideology, to unite in the struggle against the danger of a new world war which, if it is not averted, would be incomparably more destructive than past wars. This is the sacred duty to the memory of tens of millions who gave their lives in the struggle against fascism and nazism in the Second World War and the only alternative for the preservation of life on earth.

It should not be forgotten that, in our day too, there are still advocates of fascist ideology. They are again rearing their heads here and there and proclaiming their sinister plans on an international scale. Reactionary forces are again thinking about how to rearrange post-war Europe and are receiving encouragement in various quarters. These are dangerous trends, which must be decisively opposed.

The socialist States consistently advocate the removal of the threat of war, the curbing of the arms race and the preservation of peace. They are doing everything possible to defend peace, to avert nuclear catastrophe and to prevent the disturbance of the prevailing military and strategic balance of forces. They are in favour of developing comprehensive, equitable and mutually profitable international co-operation. They never supported the division of Europe and of the world into opposing military blocs. Now too, they advocate the simultaneous dissolution of their union and of the North Atlantic bloc and, as a first step, of their military organizations.

The socialist countries emphasize, however, that, as long as the NATO military bloc exists and the threat to European and universal peace persists, the brotherly union of peoples and armies of the Warsaw Treaty countries will reliably serve the cause of the maintenance of peace.

The socialist countries will continue in the future to fight to remove the threat of nuclear war from the world, to halt the arms race and particularly the nuclear arms race on earth and to prevent such a race in outer space, to progress to disarmament and to revive the process of détente and co-operation in international relations. With these aims, they are prepared to develop a peaceful dialogue with other States in a spirit of good will and confidence and to initiate broad international co-operation in the interests of guaranteeing universal peace and security.

Today, on this solemn fortieth anniversary of the victory of the progressive forces over nazism and fascism, the socialist States appeal to all States Members of the United Nations to direct their efforts towards the achievement of practical results in the work of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. They reaffirm their readiness to agree on and adopt balanced, constructive and far-reaching recommendations on all questions on the Commission's agenda, in order without delay to reach an understanding on this basis on substantial measures to limit the race in conventional and naval as well as nuclear arms and on the freezing and reduction of military budgets and to adopt other realistic and practical measures to avert a nuclear war. The socialist States urge those nuclear Powers which have not yet done so to follow the example of the Soviet Union and to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons. They draw attention to the particular danger inherent in the plans to extend the arms race to outer space and emphasize their determination to do everything in their power to reach immediate agreement on measures to ensure that outer space is ultimately used exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the good of all mankind. The socialist countries also urge that the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament be strengthened in accordance with the decisions of the first and second sessions of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament and strongly advocate the full implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade.

Peace is the supreme blessing, but peace does not come by itself: one has to fight actively for the preservation and strengthening of peace. In this connection, the socialist countries hope that the work of the United Nations Disarmament Commission will make its contribution to the elimination of the danger of a new world war and to the revival of détente in international relations. This is the imperative of the time and this is what we are called upon to do in memory of those who gave their lives in the cause of the victory over fascism.
