Ad Hoc Committee on the World
Disarmament Conference

Letter dated 20 June 1974 from the Permanent Representative
of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

In conformity with the invitation contained in General Assembly resolution
3183 (XXVIII) concerning the world disarmament conference, I have the honour to
inform you and, through you, the Ad Hoc Committee established by the same General
Assembly resolution, of the views of the Hungarian People's Republic as regards
the convening of, and the preparation for, the world disarmament conference.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, in his
letter of 5 September 1972 addressed to you, contained in document A/8817, set out
in detail the views and observations of the Hungarian Government, as well as its
practical suggestions on various aspects of the preparations and the holding of a
world disarmament conference. Similarly, Hungarian delegates at the United Nations
General Assembly sessions and the meetings of the Conference of the Committee on
Disarmament held during the last three years, stated time and again their
Government's positive stand on the question; for example, most recently at the
632nd meeting of the CCD on 2 May 1974 and at the closing meeting of the Ad Hoc
Committee on the 10th of the same month.

The most characteristic feature of international politics in the last decade,
especially in recent years, has been the gradually growing process of the practical
realization of the principles of peaceful coexistence among countries of different
social systems. The peoples of the world have come to go along with international
détente, the lessening of tension, the strengthening of mutual understanding and a
suitable climate for the settlement of disputes by peaceful means. The steady
deepening and broadening process of détente has already been having a favourable
effect on the system of international relations and resulted in the conclusion of
a whole series of treaties and agreements which, in turn, also influenced
beneficially the development of détente itself and the chances of international
peace. One must not forget, however, that neither peace nor détente will come about
by itself, only as a result of steady and unflaging efforts. One must not neglect
the fact that even in the atmosphere of the relaxation of tensions the arms race is
continuing and even quickening.

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The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, therefore, believes that if détente and peace are to be made sound and lasting, the arms race must be stopped. The present trend of political détente must be further strengthened, must be made irreversible and must be reinforced by military détente. The present healthy atmosphere must be used to promote the stopping of the arms race, the reduction of armed forces and armaments, the achievement of measures which will ultimately lead to general and complete disarmament. We believe that the two trends, when developing simultaneously, can complement and stimulate each other and can create the conditions for the solution of other pressing problems. In this latter respect the Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs found it necessary to emphasize the following in his statement before the sixth special session of the General Assembly: "Strengthening international peace and security and the termination of the arms race would free considerable material means which might be utilized to solve the economic and social problems of the developing countries" (A/FV.2213, p. 27).

The Hungarian Government shares the common opinion of the majority of Member States that, in order to evaluate the possibilities of various disarmament measures better to learn and understand the views and aspirations of others, it is necessary to have the broadest possible exchange of ideas among all the States of the world. Therefore, we come out for international co-operation on the basis of the principle of equal security for all and the inadmissibility of unilateral advantages, for which a world disarmament conference could provide the ideal framework.

The proposal to convene a world conference, originally put forward in 1971 by the USSR Government, received from the very beginning a positive response and the support of the overwhelming majority of States. That is why, at the last General Assembly session, the Hungarian delegate, like those of many other countries, had every reason to express dissatisfaction over the lack of progress in the preparation of such a conference. As a matter of fact, hardly any country could now deny that the time has already come to convene a truly universal forum, where a discussion of all the urgent matters of disarmament could take place. It is similarly a fact that all the conditions are given for the successful work of the Ad Hoc Committee which was established to prepare the world disarmament conference.

Consequently, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic feels justified to hope that steps will be taken without delay for the convening of the world disarmament conference in a short time. For its part the Hungarian Government will do everything to that end and has instructed, in this spirit, the Hungarian delegates working in the Ad Hoc Committee and in Geneva at the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.