International Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development
24 August–11 September 1987
New York

MESSAGE FROM ARGENTINA, GREECE, INDIA, MEXICO, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the message sent today to the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development by the leaders of our six countries.

We should be grateful if that text could be circulated as a document of the Conference.

(Signed) Marcelo E. R. DELPECH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations

(Signed) Mario Moya PALENCIA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

(Signed) Costas D. ZEPOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

(Signed) Anders FERM
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

(Signed) Chinmaya Rajaninath CAREKHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

(Signed) Wilbert Kumalija CHAGULA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations
Annex

MESSAGE DATED 24 AUGUST 1987 ADDRESSED TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

1. In our Organization's Charter, the peoples of the United Nations undertook a commitment to preserve succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to safeguard fundamental human rights based on the dignity and worth of the human person. They agreed to maintain international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources. They also decided to join efforts in promoting social progress and achieving better standards of life for the inhabitants of our planet.

2. Unfortunately, the commitments undertaken at that time have not been satisfactorily fulfilled. Today we live in a world of precarious peace menaced by the spectre of a final war which could destroy human civilization. No less important has been our inability to create the conditions for the welfare of all human beings on our planet. Hunger, poverty, illiteracy and disease are the deplorable realities facing a large part of the world's population today. Glaring economic disparities also constitute a distinctive characteristic of contemporary international relations.

3. For these reasons, and as representatives of States Members of the United Nations and peoples with varying histories, we the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania, united in the initiative of the six for peace and disarmament, have on several occasions since our first joint declaration in May 1984 reiterated our deep conviction about the indispensable need to guarantee peace and development in the community of nations.

4. We hold the firm belief that, to attain peace, urgent efforts towards disarmament and development are essential.

5. Peace cannot be achieved through increasing and constantly perfected weaponry. This represents a misconception which, in an interdependent world, fails to take into account the existence of non-military threats to international security, such as misappropriation of natural resources, especially non-renewable ones, lack of food, disease, illiteracy and environmental degradation. Peace must be conceived as an integral objective to be reached jointly by all humanity.

6. We must not allow ourselves to waste the planet's limited resources on the manufacture of constantly more sophisticated and powerful weapons of destruction conceived by man to destroy his fellow man. We must renew our efforts to free resources for effective disarmament measures, specifically nuclear disarmament measures, so as to channel them to satisfy the economic and social development needs of all peoples, especially those of the least developed countries.

7. Man's capacity and intelligence must not be used to build and perfect means by which our lives are constantly threatened. On the contrary human creativity
should be channelled towards solving problems which lead to uncertainty and international conflict. Disarmament and development are the most important challenges faced by contemporary civilization. We hope that the International Conference on Disarmament and Development will constitute an important step towards fulfilling the commitment the peoples of the United Nations undertook towards future generations 42 years ago.

(Signed) Raul ALFONSIÑ
President of Argentina

(Signed) Miguel DE LA MADRID HURTADO
President of Mexico

(Signed) Andreas PAPANDREOU
Prime Minister of Greece

(Signed) Ingvar CARLSSON
Prime Minister of Sweden

(Signed) Rajiv GANDHI
Prime Minister of India

(Signed) Julius NYERERE
First President of the United Republic of Tanzania