Message from the President of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria addressed to the President of the Conference

I have the honour to transmit to you, enclosed herewith, the text of a message of greetings that the President of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Todor Zhivkov addressed to the President of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

I shall be grateful if this letter and the attached message be circulated as a document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

(Signed) Ivan GARVALOV
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

1. On behalf of the Council of State and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and on my own behalf, I would like to convey our most heartfelt congratulations to you, the participants in the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

2. The Conference is taking place in a complex and contradictory time of particular responsibility for all of us. The very existence of mankind is now at stake. The arms race, precipitated by the aggressive forces of imperialism, is relentlessly driving mankind towards the nuclear brink. The arms race is consuming colossal human, material, financial and scientific resources and constitutes an impediment to social and economic progress in the world as well as to the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis.

3. That is why the very fact of convening this International Conference is a success for all those who view in a sober-minded way the realities of the nuclear age and are convinced of the inherent relationship existing between disarmament and development. On one hand, disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, is the most reliable way of avoiding a nuclear catastrophe. On the other, only through real arms reductions and disarmament can vast resources be released for the elimination of economic underdevelopment, foreign indebtedness, hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy in various regions of the world, for environmental protection, etc.

4. The People's Republic of Bulgaria has consistently approached the problems of our complicated time from the standpoint of the new realities and the new political thinking. Bulgaria regards international economic relations as a key integral part of global security for all mankind. We are firmly convinced that the dangerous militaristic principle of "rearmament instead of development" should be replaced by the lofty principle of "disarmament for development". This is the very objective of the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the other States members of the Warsaw Treaty calling for general and complete disarmament and for building a world free from weapons and violence, a world where every people can freely determine its own road to development and way of life.

5. I sincerely believe in the desire of the delegates to the Conference to contribute towards resolving the universal task of preserving life on our planet as well as the task of furnishing the conditions for promoting the equitable development of all countries and for addressing the urgent problems confronting the world today.