Letter dated 14 April 1977 from the Permanent Representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, H.E. Mr. Bohuslav Chňoupek, regarding resolution 31/189 B of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly on the convocation of a special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament.

I respectfully request you to have the letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 51 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Dr. Ladislav ŠMÍD
Permanent Representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations
Letter dated 8 April 1977 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic addressed to the Secretary-General

In connexion with the resolution adopted at the thirty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly on the convening of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, I have the honour to inform you of the position of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

An effective and far-reaching solution of the problems of disarmament and the establishment of lasting peace in the world are unquestionably the most urgent requirement of the present day. Czechoslovakia consistently strives for general and complete disarmament and supports all steps which are realistically directed towards that goal. The tendency in recent years towards the relaxation of international tension has made it possible to activate disarmament negotiations on a broader basis and to adopt certain partial measures aimed at halting the arms race and lessening the danger of a military confrontation. However, there are still influential forces in the world which are constantly seeking new channels for feverish armament and dragging more and more countries into the arms race, thus threatening to take mankind back to the brink of nuclear disaster. If timely, vigorous action is not taken to oppose those forces, a serious threat will arise to the further positive development of international relations.

It is therefore all the more urgently necessary for the efforts of all States to be concentrated on solving the problems of disarmament, to ensure the universality of disarmament negotiations and to achieve a decisive breakthrough in the entire area of disarmament. In the opinion of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the proposal by the Soviet Union for the convening of a world disarmament conference, which has won the support of an absolute majority of States Members of the United Nations, fully responds to these tasks.

The special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament should constitute an important stage in the preparations for convening the conference. Czechoslovakia therefore reaffirms its full support of the proposal made by the non-aligned countries at their 1976 summit conference in Colombo that the question of a world disarmament conference should be placed on the agenda of the special session of the General Assembly. The special session should formulate specific measures for the practical preparation and conduct of the world disarmament conference at the earliest possible time.

The special session should at the same time assist existing bodies engaged in multilateral disarmament negotiations by undertaking the broadest possible exchange of views on the entire range of disarmament problems and charting the main directions for a co-ordinated effort by States in this field for the purpose of bringing general and complete disarmament nearer. Within this framework, the special session could also discuss the most urgent partial problems connected with halting the arms race and bringing about disarmament, thus facilitating the task of reaching a political agreement for their solution. In this connexion, due attention

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will surely be given to the memorandum of the Soviet Union of 28 September 1976 on questions of ending the arms race and disarmament, which provides a practical starting point for solving the most urgent problems of disarmament.

The work and the decisions of the special session must proceed from the common interest and joint responsibility of all States, and particularly all the major Powers, in dealing with disarmament questions. The special session should fully endorse and develop the principles of universality in disarmament negotiations and, above all, of unimpaired security for all the parties concerned. The results of the special session should be summed up in a final document, which could, for example, take the form of a political declaration reflecting agreed positions on the matters discussed.

The organizational and substantive preparation of the special session is of great importance for achieving real progress in its deliberations. That fact should be fully reflected in particular in the structure of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session, in which the actual role of States in the disarmament field must be projected in an equitable manner.

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