Twenty-sixth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 34

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERATIONAL SECURITY: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Letter dated 24 September 1971 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee*

I have the honour to send you a Statement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic on the question of strengthening international security asking you to circulate it as an official document of the General Assembly on the agenda item "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) p.p. (Illegible)
Otto WINZER
Minister of Foreign Affairs

* Circulated at the direction of the Chairman of the First Committee.
STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE
TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE
AGENDA ITEM REGARDING THE QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

The Government of the German Democratic Republic welcomes the intention of
the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly to deal with all
aspects of the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of
International Security / Resolution 2734 (XXV) / in order to discuss and lay down
practical steps for its further realization. It values the renewed deliberations
of these problems as an important step serving to maintain international peace
and security, prevent acts of aggression and remove situations of international
conflict. The German Democratic Republic feels fully committed to the fundamental
demand of this Declaration calling upon all States to contribute to the efforts to
secure peace and security for all nations and, in accordance with the Charter,
establish an effective system of universal collective security. Participation in
such a task serving the interests of all peoples is in line with the principles
and aims of the German Democratic Republic's foreign policy.

The Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International
Security adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-fifth
session will undoubtedly contribute towards consolidating international peace and
improving the international situation. The continuation of the imperialist policy
of aggression with undiminished strength, in particular the abominable United
States war against the peoples of Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia, as well as Israel's
continued aggression against the Arab States underline the topicality and urgency
of an active security policy and the necessity of strengthening the United
Nations as an instrument of safeguarding peace all over the world. The
Government of the German Democratic Republic considers the removal of these two
main hotbeds of war as an urgent task to strengthen international security.

The universal and successful implementation of the United Nations' peace
mission undeniably calls for the strict observance of the principles of the United
Nations Charter, above all the consistent application of the principle of
sovereign equality of States. This leads necessarily to the principle of
universality of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. According to the
principle that peace is indivisible, each State must have the possibility to
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exercise its right of participating in the activities of the United Nations Organization on an equal footing and in the interests of security, détente and peaceful international co-operation. It is an anachronism and impairs the United Nations effectiveness when, more than 25 years after the Charter of the United Nations was adopted, a number of States, including the German Democratic Republic, are still barred from membership in the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Since the German Democratic Republic's policy is in line with the aims and principles of the United Nations, it has the legitimate right to equality-based membership in the world Organization.

History has provided sufficient proof that the questions of safeguarding security in Europe are of particular importance for the maintenance of world peace. The situation in the world is largely influenced by how relations develop between the European States. After two world wars started from Europe in this century, the situation on this continent also today gives reason for concern. The German Democratic Republic, a European State, therefore regards as its foremost task to contribute towards creating the prerequisites for a system of collective security and universal peaceful co-operation in Europe as essential elements of international security.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic actively works for the final recognition of the results of the Second World War which were brought about in the sacrificing struggle of the peoples of the anti-Hitler coalition, in particular the recognition of the territorial status quo and the existing frontiers, as a basic requirement for the safeguarding of European security. In accordance with the programme for peace and international co-operation adopted by the Twenty-fourth Party Congress of the CPSU, the Eighth Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany developed for the German Democratic Republic a constructive concept corresponding to the interests of peace and international security. This concept reaffirms, as the main direction of its political efforts, the German Democratic Republic's preparedness

- to actively work for the early convocation of a European security conference and to co-operate in it as a participant with equal rights;
- to become a member of the United Nations Organization and its specialized agencies;

/.../
- to establish diplomatic relations with all States on the basis of sovereign equality;
- to establish normal relations also with the Federal Republic of Germany according to the principles of international law;
- to normalize the relations between the German Democratic Republic and West Berlin thus contributing to détente in the centre of Europe.

Realizing that the fulfilment of these tasks would promote détente and peaceful co-operation and would thus serve to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, the Government of the German Democratic Republic will consistently continue its efforts to this end.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic welcomes such steps as the signing of the treaties of the USSR and the People's Republic of Poland with the Federal Republic of Germany, steps which are of significance for the improvement of the situation in Europe. It emphatically stands up for the early ratification of these treaties.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has noted with satisfaction that the USSR, France, Great Britain and the United States of America succeeded in bringing about an agreement on the problems of West Berlin, which is suited to ease the situation in the centre of Europe. The results of these negotiations are of great importance for all forces in Europe and all over the world, advocating peace, détente and international security. They fully correspond to the letter and spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. The German Democratic Republic, together with the USSR, has actively contributed towards bringing the negotiations on West Berlin to a successful end. The Government of the German Democratic Republic stresses its preparedness by constructive proposals and negotiations to contribute to the coming into force of this agreement.

With its policy the Government of the German Democratic Republic supports the appeal contained in the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security to increase the efforts aimed at restricting and halting the arms race. Its preparedness to act accordingly is clearly demonstrated by the fact that the German Democratic Republic has signed and ratified all treaties on questions of arms limitation and that it pays utmost attention to the work of the Conference of the
Committee on Disarmament and other competent bodies. The German Democratic Republic supports the comprehensive programme of action of the USSR for arms limitation and disarmament which is above all aimed at nuclear disarmament of all States possessing nuclear weapons, at the reduction of foreign and national military forces and arms in areas where military confrontations are of particular danger, especially in Central Europe, and at general and complete disarmament.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic declares its readiness to the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly to work together with all States advocating peace and détente for the implementation of the aims and tasks laid down in the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and to actively support all world-wide and regional steps which serve to strengthen international security and safeguard international peace. It expresses the hope that the United Nations General Assembly will give new impetus to these issues at its twenty-sixth session.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic on its part gives the assurance that also in future it will do everything it can for the liquidation of the centres of conflict and for the maintenance and safeguarding of world peace.

Berlin, 7 September 1971.