Thirty-seventh session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 59

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 27 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the communiqué adopted at the
meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to
the Warsaw Treaty, held in Moscow on 21 and 22 October 1982.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this communiqué circulated
as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly under agenda item 59
of the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled
"Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of
International Security".

O. TROYANOVSKY
Annex

COMMUNIQUE

of the meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty

Moscow, 22 October (TASS). The regular meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance was held on 21 and 22 October 1982 in Moscow.

The meeting was attended by: P. Mladenov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria; F. Puja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic; O. Fischer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic; S. Olszewski, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic; S. Andrei, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania; A. Gromyko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and B. Chhoupek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The meeting considered the questions of the strengthening of peace and security in Europe, the continuation of the process of détente and the development of international co-operation, particularly in connection with the forthcoming resumption of work at the Madrid Meeting of Representatives of the Participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. An exchange of views also took place on certain other urgent problems of international security.

1. The participants in the meeting noted with considerable concern the further complication of the international situation resulting from the intensification of the dangerous activities of imperialist circles, and primarily of United States imperialism, from their policy of force, threats and diktat, from the strengthening and redistribution of "spheres of influence", from the interference in the internal affairs of independent States, and from the acceleration of the arms race with the aim of disturbing international stability and achieving military superiority. This policy is destroying the only real basis for a settlement of the accumulated international problems - the method of negotiations based on mutual respect for independence and sovereignty, equal rights and the legitimate interests of all countries. Serious concern was also expressed about the outbreak of new military conflicts and crisis situations in various regions and the aggravation of the economic problems currently confronting the world.

All this is greatly intensifying the threat to the cause of peace, peoples' independence, détente and co-operation between States. Attention had already been drawn to this growing threat in the Warsaw declaration of 15 May 1980 by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty.

The participants in the meeting also noted the peoples' determination to expand still further the struggle for peace and the cessation of the arms race, for independent development and progress and for international co-operation on the basis of equality of rights.

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On behalf of their countries, they announced that the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty would continue to make maximum efforts to halt the process of exacerbation of tension in the world, to avert the military danger and to make progress in limiting and reducing weapons, especially nuclear weapons.

In this connection, the States represented at the meeting, being convinced that the adoption by all the nuclear Powers of the obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons would in today's circumstances be extremely important for the prevention of nuclear war, welcomed and supported the assumption of such an obligation by the Soviet Union, as announced in the message from L. I. Brezhnev to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. They believe that a similar obligation should be assumed by all those nuclear Powers which have not yet done so.

It was emphasized at the meeting that the interests of peace and security urgently require that all States display a strong sense of responsibility and political will to achieve constructive understandings on urgent international issues, renounce any attempt to obtain unilateral advantages and strictly observe the generally recognized principles and norms of international law and the treaties and agreements concluded.

2. In considering the situation in Europe, the participants in the meeting noted the intensification among certain forces in the West of the trend towards confrontation, in current conditions when a huge amount of troops and weapons, including weapons of mass destruction (particularly nuclear weapons), are concentrated on that continent. In this context, they again drew attention to the particular danger created by the decision of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) concerning the deployment in Western Europe of the new United States medium-range nuclear missile, preparations for which have already commenced in a number of countries.

They firmly opposed any actions aimed at undermining the value of the treaties and agreements concluded which define territorial and political realities in Europe, at violating the Helsinki Final Act, the inter-European political dialogue and contacts and the ties in the trade, economic, scientific and technological areas established and expanded over the past decades, and at interfering in the internal affairs of the socialist countries and adopting discriminatory measures against them.

The States represented at the meeting decisively condemn any forms of outside interference in the internal affairs of the Polish People's Republic and the "sanctions" adopted against it by the United States and certain other Western countries, and reject attempts to use that country's internal problems to exacerbate the international situation and jeopardize co-operation in Europe. Poland alone has the sovereign and inalienable right to decide Polish affairs. On behalf of their countries, the participants in the meeting again confirmed their support for socialist Poland.

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The participants in the meeting expressed the conviction that the common interest of the European countries and peoples, of progressive and democratic parties and organizations and of all realistic and thinking circles in lasting peace and security, in the preservation and deepening of détente and in good-neighborly co-operation will prevail over the policy of force and confrontation. The States parties to the Warsaw Treaty will in the future continue to promote this by their policy, their peace-loving initiatives and their specific proposals.

3. Particular attention was given at the meeting to the forthcoming resumption, on 9 November 1982, of the work of the Madrid Meeting of Representatives of the Participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

It was noted with satisfaction that, despite the serious difficulties encountered from the outset at the Madrid Meeting, the European countries accord it an important role in the improvement of the situation in Europe along the lines laid down in the Final Act of Helsinki, and are greatly interested in its success. The participants in the meeting stressed the particular significance that the Madrid Meeting should have, under present conditions, for improving the political atmosphere in Europe and throughout the world.

The States represented at the meeting advocate the prompt conclusion of the Madrid Meeting with the adoption of a pithy and balanced final document that would reaffirm the serious obligation of the States participating in the all-European meeting to comply strictly with all the principles and provisions of the Final Act and carry them out, and would include an understanding on its further implementation. Particularly important would be the adoption by the Madrid Meeting of a decision to convene, within the framework of the all-European process, a conference on measures to strengthen trust and reinforce security and disarmament in Europe, and it was also essential to agree on its terms of reference. Such a decision, by fostering the formulation of specific measures in this regard, would represent a substantial contribution to the lessening of tension and the strengthening of security on the European continent.

The participants in the meeting also suggested that the final document of the Madrid Meeting should embody provisions on the development of economic and humanitarian co-operation and on ensuring the continuity of the all-European process initiated by the Helsinki Meeting. The final document should in that connection provide for agreement on the time and place of the next meeting of the representatives of the States participating in the all-European meeting. The participants in the meeting confirm their support for the proposal by the Socialist Republic of Romania that that meeting should be held at Bucharest.

The participants in the meeting feel that the draft final document proposed by the neutral and non-aligned States on 16 December 1981 provides a basis for such a conclusion of the meeting and that what is now needed is the political will of all the participants. For their part, they express their readiness to consider in a constructive spirit, and within the framework of that draft, the questions still unresolved and to assist in solving them.
Speaking out in favour of continuing the process of strengthening security and developing co-operation in Europe in opposition to the intention of the forces inimical to détente to discredit and thwart that process, which corresponds to the basic and long-term interests of all European States and peoples, the socialist countries will keep pursuing their efforts to ensure that the Madrid Meeting will mark and outstanding and fruitful stage of progress. They anticipate that the other States participating in that Meeting will also realize that its success has virtually the same significance for all participants.

4. The States represented at the meeting attach great importance to the reduction and limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe in the interests of reinforcing the foundations of European and world peace. That would bring closer to realization the objective, vital to European States and peoples, towards which the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty are consistently striving, namely, the complete deliverance of Europe from nuclear weapons - both medium-range and tactical - and from the threat of nuclear conflict.

In this context, an exchange of views took place at the meeting with regard to the stand to be taken on the Soviet-United States negotiations on nuclear weapons in Europe. The general opinion expressed was that the success of the negotiations depends on whether they lead to an agreement based on the principle of equality and equal security, which would ensure a radical reduction and an effective limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe at the lowest possible levels. The Soviet Union is endeavouring to achieve such an agreement.

The participants in the meeting noted that the decision by the Soviet Union to halt the development of medium-range missiles capable of reaching targets in the countries of Western Europe and to reduce to a considerable degree the number of such missiles creates conditions favourable to the progress of the Soviet-United States negotiations on nuclear weapons in Europe.

The participants in the meeting at the same time expressed strong opposition to anything that might complicate matters in those negotiations. They appeal once again to the NATO countries to renounce plans for deploying new medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. To do so would bring about an improvement in the political atmosphere, a strengthening of trust and the development of good-neighbourly relations on the continent.

It was also reaffirmed that a solution to the question of nuclear weapons in Europe would be impossible under conditions that would impair strategic stability in Europe or would give NATO a unilateral military superiority detrimental to the security interests of the socialist countries. The States parties to the Warsaw Treaty, for their part, will never attempt, and are not now attempting, to gain a unilateral military superiority to their advantage.

Considering that the reduction and limitation of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe is vitally important for all European nations, the participants in the meeting express the hope that all European States will contribute to the progress and successful outcome of the Soviet-United States negotiations on this question.
5. The participants in the meeting take note of the positive implications of resuming the Soviet-United States negotiations on the reduction and limitation of strategic weapons. It is, at the same time, essential for those negotiations to take a constructive turn and lead to an understanding based on the principle of equality and equal security. That would be conducive to a gradual lowering of the level of strategic parity and to a lessening, and eventually the elimination, of the threat of a nuclear holocaust. That, in fact, is the direction being taken by the Soviet Union in the talks.

6. Turning their attention to the status of the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of forces and armaments in Central Europe, the participants in the meeting observed that, notwithstanding the persistent efforts of the socialist countries to arrive at an understanding on those matters, the talks had dragged on for many years without any real progress being made.

They none the less believed it possible for progress to be made in the Vienna talks, since there was a basis for arriving at the stage of practical preparation of the relevant agreement. In that connection, they stressed the importance of the draft agreement submitted by the socialist countries directly participating in the discussions of 18 February 1982.

The States represented at the meeting anticipate a constructive approach to that draft by the Western countries, which would open the way to arriving at an understanding. The proposal submitted by the Western States on 8 July 1982 has already been the subject of a critical appraisal by the socialist countries in the course of the talks.

The importance of avoiding any increase in forces and armaments in Central Europe and of refraining from any other actions that would complicate the achievement of mutually acceptable decisions in the Vienna talks was stressed.

7. An exchange of views also took place at the meeting with regard to the entire range of questions on limiting and reducing weapons in the light of the results of the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament and of the consideration of these matters at the General Assembly's current thirty-seventh session.

It was noted that the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations, as well as broad areas of the world community and the world's peoples, were calling for the adoption of effective measures for the prevention of nuclear war, the intensification of negotiations on halting the arms race and making the transition to disarmament, and the urgent achievement of practical results in such negotiations, including those being conducted in the Geneva-based Committee on Disarmament. A wide range of proposals had been submitted to that Committee by the socialist countries on a broad spectrum of questions relating to disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament.

Among those questions, the participants in the meeting consider it essential to single out the question of a complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapons tests in view of its importance for the cessation of the nuclear arms race and the
fact that the negotiations on that question were approaching their culmination. The States represented at the meeting strongly support the immediate resumption of the negotiations on that question that were broken off by the Government of the United States of America and urgently call on all interested parties, acting in a spirit of good will and political responsibility, to work towards the prompt conclusion of the relevant treaty.

The participants in the meeting similarly reaffirmed the importance their Governments attach to the establishment of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace and co-operation in the various regions of the world, including Europe, and more particularly northern Europe and the Balkans.

8. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic conducted an exchange of views on other pressing international questions, particularly with regard to the areas where military conflict was continuing and dangerous tensions persisted.

In that connection they expressed the serious concern of their countries over the current situation in the Middle East. The States represented at the meeting strongly condemn Israel's invasion of Lebanon, Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the brutal extermination of the civilian population of West Beirut. They noted that Israel had been encouraged to act in the way it had because of aid and support from outside sources. They reaffirmed the stands taken by their countries for the immediate and complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and for respect to be given to the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

The States represented at the meeting expressed the conviction that a truly durable, just and generally acceptable peaceful settlement in the Middle East requires the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, including the eastern part of Jerusalem, recognition of the lawful rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to establish their own independent State, protection of the right of all States of that region to a secure and independent existence, cessation of the state of war and establishment of peace between the Arab States and Israel, and the formulation and acceptance of international guarantees of such a settlement. They call for the urgent convening, for the solution of these matters, of an international conference at which all interested parties would be represented, including the Palestine Liberation Organization as the only lawful representative of the Palestinian Arab people. A useful and important role in this matter would devolve on the United Nations.

The Ministers emphasized the strong conviction of their countries that regardless of how complex the issues in dispute between countries might be, there was no justification for attempting to find a solution to those issues through resort to the use or threat of force. All international disputes should be resolved solely by political means, by way of negotiation, in accordance with the principles and norms of international law.

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9. With a view to fostering a general lessening of international tension, the States represented at the meeting, recalling their position of principle in favour of simultaneously dismantling the two military-political alliances - NATO and the Warsaw Pact - express their opposition to the activities of those two alliances being extended to additional areas, particularly Asia, Africa and Latin America. It was reaffirmed at the meeting that the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty have no intention of extending the sphere of activities of their alliance and that they expect a similar stand to be taken by the States members of NATO.

10. The dominant feature of the work carried out at the meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs was the general determination of their States to pursue consistently a policy of peace, détente and international security. That policy was aimed at eliminating the threat of a nuclear holocaust, improving relations between States, developing constructive dialogue, mutually advantageous commercial and economic, scientific and technical, and other peaceful relations corresponding to the hopes of all peoples.

The meeting was conducted in an atmosphere of comradely understanding and close co-operation.

The next meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty will be held at Prague. The exact date will be determined by mutual agreement.