Seventeenth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 90

QUESTION OF GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 20 November 1962 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose the letter of H.E. Dr. Lothar Bolz, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, together with the statement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic concerning the problems of general and complete disarmament, and to request you to arrange the circulation of the letter, as well as of the statement, as a document of the United Nations.

I avail myself, etc.

(Signed) Prof. J. HAJEK
Permanent Representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations
Letter dated 6 November 1962 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement by the Government of the German Democratic Republic concerning the problems of general and complete disarmament and request you to bring it to the notice of all States Members of the United Nations in connexion with the discussion of item 90 of the agenda of the General Assembly.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) Lothar BOLZ
Statement by the Government of the German Democratic Republic on Item 90 (Question of general and complete disarmament: Report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament) on the Agenda of the Seventeenth Session of the United Nations General Assembly

The Government of the German Democratic Republic considers general and complete disarmament under strict international control to be the most effective step towards securing world peace. That is why it has very attentively observed the discussions of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee of the United Nations.

Considering that the arms race increasingly endangers world peace, the Government of the German Democratic Republic supports the efforts made by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other Governments to arrive at an agreement, within a short period of time, on general and complete disarmament under strict international control. It subscribes to the view that such an agreement must ban the danger of nuclear warfare from the initial stage of its implementation. This basic necessity for safeguarding peace would be ensured by the destruction of all nuclear weapon carriers in the first stage of disarmament, combined with the dismantling of all foreign military bases and the withdrawal of armed forces from foreign countries.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic holds that the cessation of all kinds of nuclear tests would be a major step towards ending the nuclear arms race. The proposals of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee and the memorandum of Eight Neutral States of 16 April 1962 provide an appropriate basis for reaching speedy agreement on this problem. It is from this angle that the Government of the German Democratic Republic supports the Mexican proposal that no further nuclear tests be made as from 1 January 1963.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic regards it as one of its most pressing tasks to make an active contribution of its own towards averting nuclear warfare. It is governed by the German people's solemn obligation to ensure that after two world wars unleashed by German imperialism no war can ever again start from German soil against other nations. That is why the Government of the German Democratic Republic feels that the two German States, pending an international disarmament agreement, should come to terms on a German initiative for disarmament, especially on the renunciation of nuclear weapons.
In a memorandum to the fifteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly (A/4504, dated 23 September 1960), the Government of the German Democratic Republic expressed its conviction that general and complete disarmament in the two German States and their military neutrality would be a major step towards lasting peace in Europe and general and complete disarmament. In that memorandum the demand was made that the two German States renounce the acquisition, manufacture and stationing of nuclear weapons.

To help ban the menace of nuclear warfare it is pressing and absolutely necessary for the two German States to renounce nuclear weapons of any kind, to join a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe and to oppose the further spread of nuclear weapons.

On behalf of the Government of the German Democratic Republic, Dr. Lothar Bolz, Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressly stressed, in a letter to the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant (DC/201/Add.3, dated 2 April 1962), and in a memorandum to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee of the United Nations (FNDC/16, dated 27 March 1962), its readiness to take such measures if the Government of the Federal Republic were also ready to do so. The Government of the Federal Republic rejected these proposals. It did not even deem it necessary to present its point of view on General Assembly resolution 1664 (XVI) dated 4 December 1961 asking all countries possessing no nuclear weapons under what conditions they were willing to enter into specific undertakings to refrain from manufacturing or acquiring nuclear weapons. This attitude of the Federal Government has hitherto made it impossible to establish a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe and to reach agreement between the two German States on renouncing nuclear weapons.

In this connexion the Government of the German Democratic Republic places on record for the Member States of the United Nations that the Government of the Federal Republic is making overt efforts to obtain control of nuclear weapons, which are already stockpiled in large numbers on West German territory. That is flatly contradictory to the resolutions of the sixteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly on preventing an increase in the number of States possessing nuclear weapons (A/RES/1664 (XVI) and A/RES/1665 (XVI)), and constitutes a danger to the German nation and to world peace. In this context it is necessary above all to recall that large armed forces of the two opposed
military groupings now stand face to face on German soil, that the Western Powers have made West Berlin a NATO outpost used for systematic, aggressive provocations against the German Democratic Republic and other Socialist States. Under these circumstances any incident could trigger off a nuclear world-wide war. This danger is all the more grave as the West German Government is opposed to recognizing the borders of the German Democratic Republic and other European countries and makes revanchist claims for their revision. This position, which is in contradiction to the United Nations Charter, has in fact led to serious border incidents.

The elimination of acute danger spots - attributable to the existence of vestiges of the Second World War which are contrary to international law and endanger peace - is therefore absolutely necessary if any progress towards international disarmament and détente is to be achieved.

Under these circumstances the Government of the German Democratic Republic regards it as its most urgent task to do away with the vestiges of the Second World War, to conclude a German peace treaty on the basis of which the NATO outpost West Berlin, a threat to peace, will also be removed and West Berlin made a neutral Free City without an occupation regime.

Determined to spare no efforts to pave the way for lasting peace in Europe and to support the endeavours of all nations for disarmament;

In view of the fact that the Federal Republic has not deigned to reply to the inquiry by the United Nations under what conditions it was willing to enter into specific undertakings to refrain from manufacturing or acquiring nuclear weapons or to the German Democratic Republic's initiative proposal for the renunciation of nuclear weapons by the two German States;

The Government of the German Democratic Republic avails itself of this opportunity to place the following on record with the United Nations General Assembly:

The German Democratic Republic renounces the possession, manufacture, acquisition, acceptance, stationing and use of nuclear weapons, as well as control of such weapons in any other form, and renounces participation in nuclear tests if the Federal Republic enters into the same undertakings.
The German Democratic Republic is prepared to admit strict international supervision of this renunciation, exercised by a commission composed of equal numbers of representatives from the Warsaw Treaty States and the NATO States or other international bodies set up in co-operation with the United Nations.

The German Democratic Republic is willing to join a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe which includes the two German States and could possibly be broadened by the entry of the Northern European countries.

It places on record its agreement with all efforts to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons, and supports all proposals aimed at establishing nuclear-free areas in the various geographic regions.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic expresses the hope that the seventeenth session of the United Nations General Assembly will help solve the problem of general and complete disarmament. It will do everything in its power to co-operate to this noble end. It takes the liberty of pointing out that a German peace settlement and the consequent normalization of the situation in West Berlin would considerably facilitate international détente and improve conditions for an agreement on disarmament.