QUESTION OF CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Letter dated 23 October 1969 from the Permanent Representative of Hungary addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Upon the request for my good offices by His Excellency Mr. Otto Winzer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, I have the honour to forward his letter addressed to Your Excellency together with the Statement of his Government which contains the views of the Government of the German Democratic Republic on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Storage of Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) weapons and their Destruction.

Since these important documents here annexed are directly connected with Agenda item 104, I request Your Excellency to circulate them as official documents of the General Assembly.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Károly CSATORDAY
Ambassador
The President of the
Twenty-fourth Session of the
United Nations General Assembly
Her Excellency Angie Brooks
United Nations Headquarters
New York

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit to you a Statement of the Government of the
German Democratic Republic on agenda item "Convention on the Prohibition of the
Development, Production and Storage of Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological)
Weapons and their Destruction".

I request you, in connexion with the discussion about the above-mentioned
agenda item, to circulate the Statement as an official document among the Member
States of the United Nations.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my high consideration.

(Signed) Otto WINZER
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the German Democratic Republic

Statement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to the XXIV Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Agenda Item "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Storage of Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and their Destruction"

The Government of the German Democratic Republic welcomes the decision of the United Nations Organization to deal very urgently with questions of a comprehensive prohibition of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons.

The Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on "Questions of Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of their Possible Use" emphatically discloses the tremendous danger of B and C weapons for the life and health of the people and the continuance of civilization. It is the merit of this report to give an accurate description of the effects of the use of B and C weapons to the international public, which will undoubtedly contribute towards strengthening the movement for a comprehensive prescription of these destructive means of mass annihilation. The urgent call on all States contained in the Report to accede to the 1925 Geneva Protocol, to accept its validity unreservedly for all B and C warfare agents which exist at present and will be developed in future and to agree upon the prohibition of the development, production and storage of these weapons, is very much in line with the vital interests of all peoples. The Government of the German Democratic Republic for these reasons welcomes and supports the Draft Convention on "the prohibition of the development, production and storage of B and C weapons and their destruction" jointly submitted by nine socialist States to the XXIV session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Government of the GDR declares its readiness to take part in the conclusion of such a convention. When the GDR parliament approved the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 24 September 1969 it sent a message to the XXIV Session of the United Nations General Assembly in which it said that the GDR was all out for this Draft Convention. The conclusion and implementation of this Convention would be a significant step towards a comprehensive prescription of the dreadful weapons of mass annihilation and would free mankind from the nightmare of a war waged with B and C weapons.
The Government of the German Democratic Republic expresses its hope to the XXIV Session of the United Nations General Assembly that the Draft Convention will be dealt with by the bodies of the United Nations as an important and urgent priority item of the Agenda so that concrete results for the comprehensive ban on B and C weapons can be reached as soon as possible. The special urgency and necessity of a comprehensive ban on B and C weapons and their destruction is emphasized by facts which have recently come out about the development and storage of these dreadful weapons of mass annihilation in West Germany.

In the West German Federal Republic, more than 80 institutes are working on the development of the most dangerous B and C warfare agents by order and under supervision of the defence ministry. The West German Bundeswehr is provided with B and C weapons supplied from the United States or produced already in West Germany. Methods are being tested of using biological and chemical warfare agents for instantaneous and long-term contamination of large areas. Devastating effects on the health and lives of millions of people are unscrupulously taken into account. Moreover, on the basis of arrangements between the United States and the West German Federal Republic, B and C means of mass annihilation of the United States are stored on West German territory. After the envisaged withdrawal of such weapons from Japan as a result of massive protests of the Japanese public, West Germany will be the only country in which such American weapons of mass annihilation are stored outside the United States. The West German Government is the only one in the world to support the chemical warfare of the United States in South Viet-Nam by ceding patents and supplying poisonous substances to South Viet-Nam and the United States.

The development of B and C weapons, the storage of these means of mass annihilation in West Germany and West German support for applying weapons of mass annihilation by the United States are not only a grave danger to peace and security in the world but also an open breach of the rules of valid international law. The attitude of the West German Government towards this question is incompatible with the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. This attitude and the West German Federal Republic's striving for control over nuclear weapons are strikingly at variance with the Potsdam Agreement and other post-war agreements of the anti-Hitler coalition and, moreover, an open affront towards the United Nations decisions and recommendations.

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The alleged renunciation of ABC weapons announced in 1954 to which the
Government of the West German Federal Republic always refers, has been nothing
but an attempt to evade the comprehensive Allied bans on armament in order to
remilitarize West Germany and integrate it into NATO. While Law No. 43 of the
Control Council prohibits the "Production, Import, Export, Transport and Storage"
of ABC weapons for the then four occupation zones of Germany, the "renunciation"
of 1954 applies only to the production of these means of mass annihilation in
West Germany. The alleged renunciation left many possibilities to gain access
to ABC weapons, for instance:

- production abroad;
- production of parts or substances in West Germany and their final
  assembling or mounting abroad;
- purchase of ABC weapons abroad;
- possession or joint possession of ABC weapons;
- control or joint control over ABC weapons; and
- scientific and technological preparation of production of ABC weapons.

Facts prove that the West German Federal Republic has not even observed
"the renunciation" qualified this way. Doing so it makes use of the fact that,
according to open confessions by West German politicians and bodies of the
Western European Union, the observance of the ban on producing ABC weapons on
West German territory has never been checked up.

The West German Government's striving for B and C weapons is closely
related to its refusal, to which it sticks now as before, to sign the Treaty
on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. About 90 States have meanwhile
acceded to this Treaty and thus acknowledged that it does conform with their
own interests. Nonetheless, the West German Government, which has already
stubbornly resisted the achieving of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear
Weapons, keeps trying to prevent the Treaty from becoming effective for West
Germany. That admits of one conclusion only: that the West German Government
rejects this Treaty because a ban on the proliferation of nuclear weapons bars
the desired access to nuclear weapons.

The development and storage of B and C weapons in West Germany, West
German support for the United States poison war in Viet-Nam and the resistance
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are all the more
alarming as the Government of the West German Federal Republic is the only one in Europe not to recognize the status quo and to seek to change the existing frontiers. The West German Government apparently wants to establish a comprehensive arsenal of weapons of mass annihilation in order to reach these aims. Such a policy threatens peace and security in the world most gravely. In the note of 29 August 1969, the Government of the German Democratic Republic has therefore again called upon the West German Government:

- to sign without delay or reservations the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to create all conditions for the Treaty to become effective soon and without restrictions in West Germany;
- to remove the B and C weapons stored on West German territory;
- to stop developing and producing these weapons of mass annihilation in West Germany and in West German subsidiary companies abroad;
- to observe strictly and without restriction the 1925 Geneva Protocol and especially to discontinue immediately West German support for the United States poison war in Viet-Nam;
- to support the conclusion of an international agreement to put a full ban on the development, production and storage of B and C weapons in order to free mankind forever from these horrible weapons of mass annihilation.

The conclusion of a convention on "the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Storage of B and C Weapons and Their Destruction" would contribute towards fulfilling these reasonable demands in the interest of peace and security.

The German Democratic Republic which was one of the first States to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, declared the reapplication of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and strictly adheres to the provisions of this document, in accordance with its peace policy supports the conclusion of a convention prohibiting the development, production and storage of B and C weapons without reservation and freeing mankind forever from these horrible weapons of mass annihilation.

Berlin, 25 September 1969