Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE TWELFTH
SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 9

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Letter dated 7 June 1982 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Hungary to the Secretary-General

It gives me great pleasure to forward to you herewith a document entitled
"Message from the Hungarian Peace Movement to the second special session of the
United Nations General Assembly on disarmament" (annex I) as well as a letter
(annex II) and an appeal (annex III) adopted by Hungarian intellectuals at their
recent meeting.

I have the honour to request that these texts be circulated as official
documents of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly under agenda
item 9.

(Signed) Frigyes PUJA
ANNEX I

MESSAGE

from the Hungarian Peace Movement
to the second special session of the United Nations
General Assembly on disarmament

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In our days the possibility of the outbreak of
a nuclear war, the most devastating ever, is looming
over the peoples of our globe as a specter of final
destruction. At one with other peoples we, Hungarians,
want to prevent this from happening. The past centuries
of our history, abounding as they did in sufferings,
have given ample evidence that war means loss of human
lives and of values created by man over the span of
hundreds of years and never-to-be-forgotten afflictions
visited on survivors.

Here in the middle of Europe we, Hungarians, are
a small people, but our historical past, our patriotism
and our sense of responsibility for the destiny of
mankind entitle us to give voice to our desire for
peace also at the second special session of the United
Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. To
do so is not only our right but also our duty!

We want to live in security and peace in the
future too. This is what we are working for and this
is why we are ready to cooperate with all peoples
of the world, this is why we demand governments to get
down to talks and to find reasonable solutions to
disputed issues.
Europe, our larger world, is enjoying today the longest period of its history free from a devastating war. Yet we are deeply concerned in the face of an arms race that is threatening more than four billion inhabitants of the Earth with a new conflagration.

With the present trend continuing, upsurge in armaments and procrastination in negotiations will have an impact on all walks of life, hampering relations between peoples, retarding economic competition as a leverage for the future progress of us all and for the creation of genuine human values, impeding the attainment of an atmosphere of mutual trust and preventing the spirit of mutual assistance and understanding from prevailing.

We are convinced that, no matter how complicated and difficult the world situation may be, there is a way out of the long-existing state of uncertainty. It is an elementary duty of every responsible government to negotiate, to give up seeking unilateral advantages and to reach general agreement on maintaining a balance of military power at ever lower levels of armaments. This is the only possible basis of equal security.

What is needed are negotiations conducted in good will and in quest for agreements, for which there are appropriate points of departure such as revival of the SALT process, creation of a Europe really freed from all nuclear weapons as the result of a
genuine zero option, and elimination of chemical and neutron weapons from the arsenals of states. All this would combine to open new promising vistas for the relaxation of tension.

The National Peace Council, in common with the entire people of our country, considers the ending of the arms race to be in our fundamental interests, national as well as individual.

We are certain that this view of ours is shared by all nations and all sober-minded people.

The time to act in common has come. It is in this spirit that we convey the present message of the Hungarian peace movement and peace-loving public opinion to the world forum of the United Nations for disarmament.

The Hungarian people is prepared to contribute, to the best of its ability, towards constructing the edifice of peace, détente, understanding and fruitful relations.

ANNEX II

LETTER

from the Meeting of Hungarian Intellectuals
to the President of the Second Special Session of the
United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament

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Mr. President,

We address this letter to you on behalf of the artists, writers, scientists, physicians, teachers, engineers, lawyers, theologians and other intellectuals of a small country in Europe. It has been our intention to formulate this letter in a way to reflect and express all shades of opinion voiced by Hungarian intellectuals in the course of an extensive discussion. For this purpose we have convened a national meeting of intellectuals, which was held in the Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on 27 May 1982 with the participation of delegates, including prominent personalities, professors, researchers, writers, artists, and young people not yet renowned, from Budapest and nine towns with a university or college. The discussions covered a truly wide spectrum of aspects and took place in an informal and completely frank atmosphere.

Most speakers have recalled that public opinion in all countries is now aware of the fact that the weapons of mass destruction accumulated on our globe are not only enough to destroy adversaries, real or
supposed, but have reached such proportions as to jeopardize the very existence of mankind as a whole. Hungarian intellectuals believe that the utmost importance of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament can be expressed in its endeavour to explore and find ways and means of preventing a nuclear war.

Particular emphasis has been placed on the realization of two aspects. First, the idea of the so-called limited nuclear war is either self-deceit or demagogy. Second, Europe, our larger world enjoying peace for 35 years, has now been confronted with an extremely dangerous situation.

Mr. President:

We appeal to you as Europeans, as representatives of the intelligentsia of a nation which had to suffer the ravages of two world wars in this century alone.

We know full well that the government or public opinion of a small country can have no decisive say in issues of world politics. However, it has also been expressed at our Meeting of Intellectuals that we, Hungarians, are equally able to contribute a share, commensurate with our modest means, to the effort being expended on the complex task of preventing a nuclear war. What we have on mind is that the advocates of confrontation and of stepping up the arms race have conducted an intensive propaganda against the socialist
countries, particularly over the past one and a half years. We do believe that authentic presentation of Hungary's socialist society, prevailing and successfully advancing despite its difficulties and worries, can be a weighty argument against the cold-war psychosis aggravated by the nuclear threat. While our difficulties and preoccupations have also been voiced at this Meeting of Intellectuals, with arguments and counter-arguments advanced in accordance with the nature and style of the socialist society of Hungary, there has been common ground among all the 600 participants on one question, the key word of which is disarmament designating the special session of the United Nations General Assembly held under your presidency.

The road to disarmament is one of negotiations at all levels, in Geneva and Vienna, and at the summit.

In the absence of mutual trust there can be no realistic programme for preventing and perhaps even outlawing nuclear war. We, therefore, ask you, Mr. President, and the delegates to the special session on disarmament to deliberate in such a way as to contribute thereby to removing international distrust and reviving mutual trust. This letter of ours is intended to help that endeavour.

We thank you for your attention. Let us add that this letter is signed, on behalf of the National Meeting of Intellectuals, by two persons. One is a physician,
the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The other is a writer, a Deputy Chairman of the Hungarian Peace Council.

Wishing you energy and perseverance in your momentous duty, we remain

respectfully yours,

/Signed/ János Szentágothai          Iván Boldizsár

ANNEX III

APPEAL

by the Meeting of Hungarian Intellectuals

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The world is in danger. Mankind is in danger. There has accumulated an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction sufficient not only to destroy adversaries, real or supposed, but also to eliminate our entire planet from the universe. All that has been created by civilizations over thousands of years, by the ingenuity and respectable work of succeeding generations, may disappear from the face of the earth for ever.

The world cannot resign itself to this.
The nuclear inferno must be prevented.
The lives of our children and grandchildren, our loved ones and friends, and also our opponents polemizing with us, as well as hundreds of millions of people born to be happy in all continents must be saved.

Here in the middle of Europe we, Hungarians, who have shed our blood, have been reduced in numbers and have always started afresh in the trials of a thousand years, have suffered for the past as well as the future. In all epochs the best of our intellectuals have always fought, often at the cost of their lives, to uphold the cause of progress, freedom and peace.
The contemporary Hungarian intellectuals - scientists, teachers, physicians, engineers, writers and artists - do not want to become unworthy of their predecessors.

In this century alone this small country of ours has given the world artists and scientists of a universal significance. Suffice it to refer to Bartók, Kodály, György Lukács, János Neumann and Leo Szilárd.

However small we may be in the great family of the world's peoples, our past struggles for progress, freedom and peace, the present reality of our socialist society, which is advancing successfully, and our sense of responsibility for the destiny of our homeland and the world at large entitle us to have a say in world affairs.

To do so is not only our right but also our duty.

We agree with those demanding negotiations on the basis of equal security, and also with those demanding a freeze on the number of weapons for the duration of talks, because we are aware that continuing accumulation of weapons of mass destruction may plunge mankind into the abyss of self-destruction, while negotiations may result in saving the present and the future.

We agree with those striving for the limitation and reduction of strategic weapons and for the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles.
We agree with those thinking that Europe cannot afford to pile up any more nuclear weapons and that even the existing stockpiles must be removed.

Banish nuclear weapons from Europe!

We know how much patience and self-restraint are required even for tackling a task lesser than this.

We are asking everyone bearing a responsibility for peace and the fate of the world to show patience and self-restraint.

That is impossible in the absence of mutual trust.

Let us then do our utmost to eliminate mistrust.

After a lapse of 18 years we shall start a new century and at the same time a new millennium. On behalf of the Hungarian intelligentsia we express our earnest desire to see our children and grandchildren enter a world free from nuclear weapons in the year 2000.

Let us do our best and let us support those making consistent efforts to uphold peace and to save mankind.

We do believe that, with common sense prevailing, peace can be preserved by sober action.