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 11 June 1982 from the Permanent Representative
of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I would be grateful if you would arrange for the circulation of the attached
Message of the Deputies of the Czechoslovak Group of the Interparliamentary Union
addressed to the participants of the second special session of the United Nations
General Assembly devoted to disarmament, as an official document of the twelfth
special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Stanislav SUJA
Permanent Representative
Message of the Deputies of the Czechoslovak Group of the Interparliamentary Union Addressed to the Participants of the Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

All the Deputies of the Federal Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic associated in the Czechoslovak Group of the Interparliamentary Union turn to you with the urgent appeal to exert every effort in order to achieve as concrete results as possible in your deliberations.

We are deeply concerned by the current development of international relations which is marked by crisis situations, military conflicts in various parts of the world - the most recent one being Israel's aggression against Lebanon - and, in particular, by a new round of the arms race. Especially the further senseless stockpiling of nuclear weapons leads the world into an extraordinarily serious situation. There are statesmen who proclaim the doctrine on the use of nuclear weapons as a means to resolve international disputes, on the feasibility of a limited nuclear war, and they express the view that there are more important values than peace. Nothing less is at stake than the survival of mankind and the future of the civilization on this planet.

We are of the view that under these conditions an immense responsibility rests on parliaments and governments, on nations, to arrest this dangerous development. That is why the Czechoslovak Deputies, along with parliamentarians from all continents who took part in the 68th Conference of the Interparliamentary Union in Havana, supported the programme of effective disarmament measures adopted unanimously in a resolution of that Conference.

The problems of the current world cannot be resolved either by intimidation, threat of force or attempts at disturbing the existing balance of forces. The International community cannot do without an honest and serious dialogue as the only means to
resolve disputed issues between States. This dialogue must lead to growing confidence, to the strengthening of the process of détente, to concrete measures for curbing the arms race and to mutually advantageous co-operation among nations, to lasting peace throughout the world.

Armaments consume huge material and intellectual resources which instead should be used for the solution of global problems facing mankind, for economic development, elimination of hunger and illiteracy in the world, improvement of the environment, securing sufficient energy and raw materials, health care and general assistance to developing countries. These are realistic goals and it is the duty of the United Nations to encourage effectively their implementation. Action must be taken without delay, practical measures must be adopted, because the further stockpiling of weapons entails the danger that developments may get beyond rational control.

We, the Deputies of the Federal Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, expressing the opinion and the feelings of our constituents, the entire Czechoslovak people, take an active part in a number of important disarmament initiatives and proposals by the socialist States and warmly support the noble ideas of the comprehensive peace programme of the Soviet Union.

We live in the center of Europe. On this very day we recall the 40th anniversary of the Lidice tragedy. Hundreds of thousands of our people lost their lives in the two world wars waged for aggressive, predatory interests. Let us do everything to prevent a world catastrophe that would have unimaginable consequences. There is no task more urgent than to halt the race in accumulating weapons of mass destruction, limit the arms arsenals and eliminate the threat of a nuclear war. Let us jointly preserve peace for mankind - the most sacred of human rights in the current world.