Tenth special session
Items 9, 10 and 11 of the provisional agenda


ADOPTION OF A DECLARATION ON DISARMAMENT

ADOPTION OF A PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 10 May 1978 from the representatives of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué on the meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty held at Sofia on 24 and 25 April 1978.

We would be obliged if the text of the communiqué were circulated as an official document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly under items 9, 10 and 11 of the provisional agenda.
ANNEX

Communiqué on the meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty

A meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty on Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance was held at Sofia on 24 and 25 April 1978.

Attending the meeting were: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, P. Mladenov; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, B. Chnoupek; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, O. Fischer; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, F. Puja; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic, E. Woitaszek; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, S. Andrei; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, A. A. Gromyko.

The Ministers noted that the development of the situation in Europe and the general course of international life confirm the correctness of the appraisals contained in the Declaration of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty "For new horizons in international détente, for building security and developing co-operation in Europe", adopted at the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee held at Bucharest in November 1976. a/

Confirmed was the unbending resolve of the States represented at the meeting to exert further efforts to deepen and expand the relaxation of international tension, to turn it into an irreversible process of universal scope.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the USSR exchanged views on questions of disarmament and on preparations for the forthcoming special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

It was stressed that at present no task was more important and urgent than that of curbing the arms race, of transition to real measures of actual disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and of advancing towards general and complete disarmament.

In this connexion the special session of the General Assembly should become an important forum for the extensive discussion of questions of ending the arms race and of disarmament and lead to a breakthrough in the attainment of agreements on practical measures in this direction. It is called upon to play a substantial role in mobilizing the efforts of all States to attain the aims of disarmament, to

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a/ A/31/431-S/12255, annex I. For the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1976.

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express the political will and striving of States to raise the effectiveness of negotiations in this field.

The Ministers stated the firm resolve of their States to make a constructive contribution to the work of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and to press for the attainment of concrete positive results in this work.

They also stated that their countries came out for the convocation of a world conference on disarmament with the participation of all States of the world.

At the meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, views were exchanged on questions of strengthening security and developing co-operation in Europe.

The participants in the meeting noted that the efforts and practical steps taken by their countries to realize the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe were an important constructive contribution to the strengthening of peace and security and developing co-operation in Europe. Also noted was the positive contribution to the strengthening of European security and development of co-operation made by other peace-loving States, communist and workers’ parties, all democratic and progressive forces, the working class and the broad popular masses.

The States represented at the meeting proceed from the need to multiply efforts for a still more effective implementation, by all States that signed the Final Act, of the principles and agreements adopted by the European Conference held at the highest political level.

At the same time it was stressed at the meeting that at present it was particularly important to intensify the struggle against the imperialist policy of interference into the internal affairs of States, of stepping up the arms race and aggravating military confrontation in the European continent.

In full conformity with the provisions of the Final Act on the mutually supplementing nature of the political and military aspects of security, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs declared on behalf of their countries for the speediest adoption of concrete and effective steps directed at lessening military confrontation and facilitating disarmament and at strengthening trust in Europe.

It was noted that the known proposals set forth in the November 1976 Declaration of the Political Consultative Committee accorded with these aims and that the States represented at the present meeting had also made other proposals towards this end. On behalf of their States, the participants in the meeting declared for a study, from the practical aspect of both these proposals and proposals by other States in this field in accordance with a procedure to be determined by the consensus of the participating States in the European Conference.
The Ministers for Foreign Affairs confirmed the striving of their countries to facilitate the realization of proposals to create a long-term and firm basis for developing mutually advantageous co-operation in the economic, scientific, technical, cultural, humanitarian and other fields on the scale of the European Conference in accordance with the provisions of the Final Act.

In the context of the questions connected with the implementation of the multilateral process that was started at Helsinki, the participants in the meeting exchanged views on the results of the Belgrade meeting of representatives of participating States in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. It was noted that the main positive result of the meeting in Belgrade was the confirmation by all participating States of their readiness to continue this process, although consensus was not reached at the meeting on a number of substantial constructive proposals of a practical nature, including proposals related to the military aspects of security.

The meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, co-operation and fraternal friendship.