

Djuranovic speech

Madam Prime Minister,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Comrades,

It gives me particular pleasure to greet you in our country and to wish you a cordial welcome and a pleasant stay. You have already had the opportunity of visiting Yugoslavia and I hope that this time again you will be able to convince yourself of the sentiments of friendship which the peoples of Yugoslavia cherish towards the people of Britain and your country.

We view your visit as a proof of your preparedness to further strengthen the existing friendly relations forged during the Second World War, relations which we have been building up successfully for many

years, on the basis of the principles of equality, non-interference, mutual respect and mutual benefit. The visits to your country by President Tito and the visit to Yugoslavia by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II have given a special impetus to such development of our relation.

I consider it important to point out that the different socio-political systems and specific international positions of our two countries have never been an obstacle to the successful development of our relations. Numerous contacts and the expanding co-operation between all the structures of our two countries, as well as developed human contacts have broadened the bases of these relations and given them an even richer content.

I believe you will agree with me, Madam Prime Minister, that highly important for the further development of mutual co-operation is to exert joint efforts in the field of economic relations - to which we attribute major importance in our aggregate co-operation - in order to overcome certain setbacks and problems and to open new prospects for co-operation. I am referring to Yugoslavia's negative trade balance over a number of years and the insufficient use so far of the advantages offered by the more advanced forms of economic co-operation such as joint investments, long-term production co-operation in industry, joint ventures on the markets of third countries, etc. I am convinced that upgrading the economic co-operation would also contribute to a more balanced trade, which is in the interest of both sides.

Notable results have also been achieved in the fields of cultural, educational, scientific and technical co-operation, as well as in the co-operation in tourism and in other fields. However, not all the possibilities have been fully utilized.

We feel that outstanding questions, as well as problems arising in our co-operation from time to time, can be solved in the same spirit, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and in open dialogue. This would no doubt lead to a further reinforcement of relations and the enhancement of the climate of mutual trust and overall co-operation, which, I am confident, is in the mutual interest.

It is in this context that we also view the role of mass media, which can contribute a great deal to a better mutual acquaintance and rapprochement of the peoples of our two countries. Furthermore, a problem which should by no means be passed over in silence are the activities of the hostile emigrés who abuse the hospitality accorded them in your country, damaging thereby the good and friendly relations existing between Yugoslavia and Britain. I believe that it should be our common concern to constantly and carefully protect our relations from such attempts.

Madam Prime Minister,

We are concerned over the present grave situation in the world. The ever more frequent recourse to the use of force,

interference and pressure, and even outright intervention, has led to a very serious aggravation of international situation, the deterioration of relations between the blocs and big powers and to the further intensification of the already dangerous arms race.

All the foregoing threatens in particular the independence and security of many countries and weakens the stability of international relations and the foundations of peace in the world at large.

Our attention is particularly attracted by the fact that the focus of crises and escalated rivalry is increasingly being transferred to the areas of non-aligned countries, while attempts are being made, at the same time, to take advantage of unsettled or controversial issues between those countries. We consider that such a situation in international relations makes it incumbent on all countries and on the entire international community to exert intensified efforts with a view to eliminating the existing crises and outstanding problems through patient dialogue and by political means,

in the spirit of the principles of peaceful co-existence, which also constitute the basis of the policy of non-alignment. We believe that Iraq and Iran, proceeding from the same principles and objectives, will halt the present armed conflict and proceed to the search of solutions to controversial issues by political means.

Our lasting orientation to pursue the policy of non-alignment as an independent non-bloc factor in international relations, reflects our firm conviction that its principles and goals represent a universal value and that it is no longer possible to deal successfully with any major world problem without the participation of non-aligned countries. Along with other non-aligned countries we are endeavouring to contribute actively to overcoming the present crisis in international relations, to strengthening détente as a world process and to resolving the acute problems of the world, which is increasingly becoming a task which brooks no delay.

We are keenly interested in achieving genuine progress towards eliminating the existing hotbeds of crisis on the

basis of relevant United Nations resolutions and the positions adopted at the summit conferences of non-aligned countries. We consider that only just, lasting and comprehensive solutions to those crises, based on the rights of peoples to independence, self-determination, equal security and autonomous internal development, can ensure stability and peace in those regions and beyond. In this connexion, the constant strengthening of the United Nations, which remains an irreplaceable forum for coping with vital problems of mankind must be the continuous concern of all its Members.

The arms race is threatening to get out of control and is endangering the stability of international relations and peace in the world. This calls for an urgent opening of dialogues that would be conducive to the initiation of a genuine process of armaments reduction and disarmament. We support all initiatives and proposals in that direction.

We are especially concerned at the present very difficult situation in international economic relations and the non-solution of the problems of development in particular. We feel that the problems in this sphere are a major source of danger to the stability of international relations in general. It is in the interest of world peace, and of all the countries, to initiate without further delay the process of genuine solution of these problems, particularly those related to the situation of developing countries, on the basis of partnership and international solidarity. The limited results achieved at the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on global negotiations and development have once more warned of the acute nature of those problems and of the necessity to exert additional efforts.

As a European and non-aligned country, Yugoslavia attaches great importance to the Madrid Meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We expect the meeting to contribute to the strengthening of the process of relaxation and co-operation in Europe and beyond, and to transcending the present crisis in international relations. We think that the work of the meeting should take place in a constructive atmosphere, that implementation of all the parts of the Helsinki Final Act should be reviewed in a comprehensive and balanced manner, that progress should be made towards strengthening the military aspects of security on our continent and that the continuity of the work of the CSCE should be ensured. In our opinion the unfavourable situation in the world makes even greater the political responsibility of all the participating States to exert efforts for the success of the Madrid Meeting.

The fruitful results achieved in all areas of our bilateral co-operation are encouraging. This indicates that we are going the right way, but at the same time makes it incumbent on us to continue exerting joint efforts to further develop our relations and to enrich them with new contents of co-operation in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and confidence.

I now invite you to join me in raising this glass to the health of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, to your personal health, Madam Prime Minister, to that of your husband, and your associates, to the progress of your country and to the further successful development and strengthening of all-round co-operation between the peoples of Yugoslavia and Great Britain.