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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
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Dear Madame Prime Minister,

I found it necessary to approach you on the most pressing problems created by the present situation in the world. The Congress of our party paid the paramount attention to its analysis, assessment and practical conclusions. The question was about what should be done to preserve peace, to ensure the primary right of every man - the right to live for the present and future generations. This is the essence of the adopted decisions which determine the course of the Soviet Union in foreign policy for years ahead.

We are realists, and certainly we understand that the improvement of international situation, the diminishing and elimination of military threat depend not only on us, but on the will of other states. It also depends on whether it would be possible to create the proper mutual understanding and effective co-operation on the bilateral and multilateral basis in solving vital problems of the present time.

We are convinced that the attitude towards the existing military - strategic balance between the USSR and the USA, between the Warsaw Treaty states and NATO is of a principled importance. The Soviet Union was not seeking and is not seeking military superiority. But we would not permit to create such superiority over us.

The attempts of that sort as well as the attempts to speak to us from the position of force have absolutely no perspective.

The existing military-strategic balance objectively serves to preserve peace on Earth. We are standing for the consistent decreasing of this balances' level without tipping

it. To try to win in the arms race, to rely on the victory in the nuclear war - is a dangerous folly. It is necessary to realise that the endless competition in accumulating newer and newer weapons, the existing tension in the world - that is the real source of the military threat which hangs over all countries. We are ready to act hand in hand with all states in the resolute struggle against this threat.

We would like to express hope, Mrs. Prime Minister, that by joint efforts the present stagnation in Anglo-Soviet relations will be overcome and they will get a new positive impetus in the interests of the peoples of our countries and of the cause of strengthening peace.

We believe that, in spite of the aggravated international situation, there still remain real opportunities to preserve and to strengthen peace so that all nations can live in security and develop mutually advantageous co-operation. In particular, this can be referred to the situation on the European continent where, despite the efforts of the enemies of detente, peaceful co-operation among the countries with two different systems is developing not badly on the whole and where we manage to find common language on a number of major foreign policy issues. Of significant importance - both as such and for strengthening the political dimension - is the fact that the ties among European countries in various fields are widening and assuming new qualities.

As never before, in contemporary conditions consistent advancement is needed along those lines of principle which were defined by joint efforts during the last decade. Vital interests of peoples demand that Europe should follow the path laid down in Helsinki.

It is necessary to continue and to strengthen the process initiated by the European conference. Every form of talks - multilateral, bilateral - should be used to resolve the problems of concern for its participants. From these positions the Soviet Union approaches the Madrid meeting. The adoption in Madrid of a decision to convene the European conference to discuss and resolve the military detente and disarmament issues in Europe would be of a particular importance.

It is known that in recent years the Soviet Union put forward a number of proposals, aimed at diminishing military threat, strengthening international security, many of which had been approved by the UN and other representative forums. All of them remain valid and we will strive for their implementation.

However the situation today is such that it is necessary to increase further the efforts in order to radically improve the international situation, to give people the certainty of a reliable future. Guided by this urgent necessity the Soviet Union is advancing new major initiatives imbued with the deep concern in containing the arms race, deepening detente, strengthening peace.

I found it necessary to draw your personal attention, Mrs. Prime Minister, to these proposals, made, as you know, at the Congress of our party. Apart from the scope and far-reaching character of these initiatives I would like to emphasize particularly their realistic nature, the fact that they take into account both our own and our partners' interests.

The experience shows what a difficult and complex task it is to eliminate hot-beds of military conflicts. It is important therefore to do the preventive work, to forestall the emergence of such hot-beds.

In this context a positive role in Europe is played by the confidence-building measures in military field, undertaken by decision of the European conference. The Soviet Union made proposals to expand considerably the range of such measures.

Now we propose to extend considerably the zone of application of such measures as well. We are prepared to apply them to the entire European part of the USSR, provided the Western states too extend the confidence-building measures' zone accordingly.

We also think that the elaboration and the application of confidence-building measures could be useful in the region of the Far East too. Here it would be necessary to take into account the specifics of this region.

The view is expressed in some countries that our recent proposals concerning Persian Gulf could not be taken apart from the question of the stay of the Soviet military contingent in Afghanistan. Our position is as follows: being prepared to reach an agreement on Persian Gulf as an independent problem and to participate separately in a settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, we at the same time have no objection either to the matters connected with Afghanistan being discussed together with the questions of Persian Gulf security. Such discussions naturally can concern only the international aspects of the Afghan problem and not the internal affairs of this country. The sovereignty of Afghanistan as well as its status as a non-aligned state must be fully protected.

Proceeding from the extreme importance of the strategic armaments limitation issue not only for the USSR and USA, but for other countries as well, we on our part are prepared to continue without delay relevant talks with the United States preserving all the positive elements that have so far been achieved in this field. Such talks understandably can be conducted only on the basis of equality and equal security of both sides.

Trying to prevent the dangerous stockpiling of nuclear-missile weapons in Europe and to contribute to a speedy decision on such weapons, we propose to reach an agreement that as of now a moratorium should be set on the deployment in Europe of new medium-range nuclear-missile weapons of the NATO countries and the USSR, that is to freeze the existing quantitative and qualitative level of these weapons, naturally including the US forward-based nuclear weapons in this region. The moratorium could enter into force as soon as the negotiations begin on this score and could be in force until a treaty is concluded on limiting or, still better, reducing such nuclear systems in Europe.

We believe that the knowledge by the wide public, all people of those consequences that nuclear war is fraught with, would be of major importance also from the point of view

of additional influence on governments with a view to achieve agreements, aimed practically at preventing such a war. For this end we propose that an authoritative international committee should be set up, which would demonstrate the vital necessity of preventing a nuclear holocaust. The committee should be composed of the most eminent scientists from different countries. Probably appropriate part in implementing this goal could be played by the UN Secretary General. The whole world should be informed about the conclusions the committee draws.

Furthermore. To resolve numerous international problems, existing today a far-sighted approach, political will and courage, authority and influence are needed. That is why, in our view, it would be useful to call a special session of the Security Council with the participation of the top leaders of its member-states - both permanent and non-permanent - in order to look for ways of improving the international situation and preventing war. If they so wish, leaders of other countries could evidently also take part in the session. Certainly, thorough preparations would be needed for such a session to achieve positive results.

Coming back to the hot-beds of tension and the task of their elimination, I would like to single out the question of the situation in the Middle East. No matter what one's attitude is to what has been done up to now in this region, it is clear that the political settlement there has been recently pushed backwards. The present situation urgently demands the return to the collective search for a comprehensive settlement on a just and realistic basis, which could be done, say, within the framework of the specially convened international conference.

The Soviet Union is prepared to participate in a constructive spirit in such a work and to do it together with other interested sides - with the arabs, including, of course, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and with Israel. We are ready to search together with the United States, with whom we had in the past a certain experience on this score, we are prepared to co-operate with European countries, with every one

who is sincerely striving for a lasting and just peace in the Middle East. Presumably the United Nations Organization can continue to play a useful role here.

These are the questions which I would like to raise in this message. We hope that you, Mrs. Prime Minister, will treat our proposals with all attention. As you can see they cover the wide range of problems, envisage measures of political and military nature, concern different types of arms and armed forces, touch upon the situation in different areas of the world.

We understand of course, that it will take some time to study and to analyse them. Obviously a necessity will be arising in some consultations, in exchanges of opinions - in short in various forms of dialogue. We are prepared for it.

Yours sincerely,

L. BREZHNEV

6 March, 1981