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UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF LETTER ADDRESSED
BY PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU TO THE RT HON MARGARET
THATCHER MP, PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Esteemed Madam Prime Minister

In the name of the Romanian people and of the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania and in my own name, I address myself to you in connection with the opening of the negotiations at Geneva between the Soviet Union and the United States of America on stopping the deployment of and withdrawing medium-range missiles in Europe.

The Romanian people, like other European peoples, are profoundly concerned about the situation in Europe where an immense arsenal of conventional and nuclear weapons has been built up. The plans to deploy new medium-range nuclear weapons have greatly underlined the danger of a destructive war which would destroy the entire material and spiritual treasures of Europe, and would imperil the very existence and life on earth.

The vital interest of the peoples of the continent, the defence of their existence, makes it imperative that there should be no nuclear missiles and weapons in Europe.

The peoples say decisively NO to the deployment and development of new medium-range missiles and firmly demand a substantial reduction - on both sides - of nuclear weapons of all types with a view to ridding our continent of atomic weapons, so that the atom may be used exclusively for peaceful purposes in the interest of the progress and well-being of the peoples.

In these conditions the Soviet/American negotiations at Geneva, which are of the highest interest to all the peoples of Europe, acquire a special importance.

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In debating these problems the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania, at its meeting on 23 November 1981, authorised me to address myself to the leaders of states which signed the Helsinki Final Act, calling for every effort - particularly at the present time - to develop confidence and bring about disarmament and the building of security on our continent.

Romania welcomes the opening of the Soviet/American negotiations in Geneva and hopes that, on the basis of the proposals formulated by the Presidents of these two countries, concrete agreements will be reached on stopping the deployment and development of new weapons of mass destruction and on the withdrawal of medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe. In this sense, charged by the Grand National Assembly, I addressed a personal appeal to the President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, and the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, to do everything in their power to ensure that these negotiations meet the legitimate demands of the peoples and lead to a cessation of the arms race and to substantial measures on disarmament in the nuclear field.

The Romanian people expect, as do the other peoples, that from the beginning of these negotiations, and for their duration, there will be agreement to renounce the implementation of the NATO decision to deploy new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and the development of existing ones on both sides, while the Soviet Union, as President L I Brezhnev has declared, unilaterally reduces part of its missiles of this type stationed on the European territory of the USSR. We wish the Geneva negotiations to conclude with an agreement which would lead to reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe to the lowest possible level, and with agreement on measures for the total elimination of nuclear

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weapons, both medium-range and tactical, so that Europe may become a continent without nuclear weapons.

Having in view the fact that the problem of nuclear weapons in Europe is of interest to all peoples of the continent, I consider it is necessary for all European states to show a special and permanent concern and interest, to express their point of view and to participate in one form or another - at the very least as observers - in the negotiations concerning nuclear missiles and armaments in Europe, and to strive for their success. I am confident, esteemed Madam Prime Minister, that your Government will act and will do everything in its power to contribute to the complete success of the Soviet/American negotiations in Geneva, so that they respond to the expectations and interests of the peoples to live in a Europe of peace and collaboration, without nuclear weapons. So far as she is concerned, Romania is ready and willing to work together with Great Britain, and with all European states, to ensure the success of the Geneva negotiations.

I think you will agree with me, Madam Prime Minister that before the missiles are launched, before the atomic bombs are dropped on the continent, now before it is too late, while we are alive and can take action, we should do everything to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons from Europe, in order to defend the fundamental right of mankind to life, liberty and peace.

A European presence at these negotiations would have a positive influence and would help their development to a good conclusion, because, after all, the problems of Europe cannot be resolved without the states of the continent. Romania is ready to take an active part in these negotiations and to make a complete contribution to their successful conclusion.

Romania considers that the creation of a de-nuclearised zone on the continent is a part of the

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process of establishing security in Europe. In this sense we are determined to continue to work for the development of bilateral and multilateral relations in the Balkans and to transform the Balkans into a zone of peace, good-neighbourliness and collaboration, free of nuclear weapons.

I take this opportunity, esteemed Madam Prime Minister, to express my confidence that we will continue to act in the spirit of the conversations we have had together to develop Romanian/British relations, and work together in the international field for a policy of peace, detente, collaboration and security in Europe and in the world.

We want to work closely with Great Britain to conclude the Madrid meeting with substantial measures which will lead to a deepening of the process of building security and developing cooperation in Europe, and to agreement on calling a conference on confidence and disarmament in Europe, and assuring the continuity of the multilateral process begun at Helsinki for holding new all-European meetings. As you know, Romania has proposed that the next meeting should take place at Bucharest and I would welcome it if Great Britain would support this proposal.

I wish us to work together for a united Europe in which independent sovereign states, regardless of their socio-political systems, their membership of military blocs and economic groupings, can develop wide relations of collaboration, and can work together for the maintenance of peace and security on the continent, and in which each nation can develop freely in conformity with its own interests and aspirations, without any danger of war or aggression.

In conclusion I express my conviction, esteemed Madam Prime Minister, that the traditional relations of friendship between the Romanian and British peoples will

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continue to develop in the mutual interest of peace and
collaboration in Europe and throughout the world.

With special consideration

N Ceausescu

4 December 1981

BUCHAREST

5 FEB 1982



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