

Bonn, 27 September 1985

I have noted with interest your letter of 12 September 1985 proposing that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany enter into negotiations on chemical weapons with the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Government of the German Democratic Republic. As you know, the Federal Government is resolutely working in the appropriate forum, namely the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, for a treaty establishing a comprehensive ban and has presented a number of concrete proposals which have received much attention; in particular, it introduced a comprehensive verification model into the negotiations in 1982. In 1979 and 1984, it held international seminars on the subject of verification, which were attended by diplomats and experts of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. In 1985, the Federal Government continued its efforts for a treaty establishing a comprehensive, world-wide ban on chemical weapons. It is convinced that there is no expedient alternative in the continuation of these efforts.

In conformity with the policy of the Federal Government to achieve, through negotiations, co-operative solutions in the field of disarmament and arms control serving to safeguard peace with lasting effect, I suggest that our delegations enter into talks within the framework of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament in order to discuss the still unresolved questions concerning a treaty for a world-wide ban on chemical weapons. By jointly working for a solution to this central problem, our Governments can make a valuable contribution to promoting the ongoing Geneva negotiations.