

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/644

21 October 1985

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LETTER DATED 16 OCTOBER 1985 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TRANSMITTING THE IDENTICAL REPLIES OF MR. HELMUT KOHL, CHANCELLOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The Conference has been apprised of the contents of letters to Mr. Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, by the Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, respectively (cf. document CD/643). In the letters, negotiations on the establishment of a limited zone free of chemical weapons were proposed.

Mr. Kohl replied to these letters on 27 September 1985. The substantive portion of his letters of reply - identical in both cases - is attached. I would be grateful if the text could be circulated as a Conference document.

In his letters Chancellor Kohl underlines the overriding significance the Federal Government attaches to the ongoing negotiations on a comprehensive world-wide ban on chemical weapons, and holds the view that all unresolved questions relating to the proscription of chemical weapons should be discussed within the framework of these negotiations. In the view of the Federal Government, the current threat emanating from chemical weapons relates not only to specific regions - as, for instance, Europe - but to other parts of the world as well, making it imperative that all efforts be concentrated on the rapid conclusion of a world-wide chemical weapons ban, not least in the interest of neutral and non-aligned countries outside of the proposed zone.

(Signed) Henning Wegener
Ambassador