

DECLARATION-APPEAL

by Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Todor Zhivkov, President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, concerning the creation of a chemical-weapon-free zone in the Balkans

The President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, and the President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov,

Having surveyed the development of the international situation and particularly the problems concerning the strengthening of peace and security in Europe, and expressing deep concern regarding the serious tension which persists on this continent and throughout the world,

Observing the grave dangers entailed by the continuance of the arms race and the testing, production and deployment of new nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction,

Emphasizing the need to make every effort to free Europe from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction,

Reiterating the determination of their countries to work resolutely towards the transformation of the Balkans into a nuclear-weapon-free zone, a zone of peace and co-operation, and expressing themselves in favour of the initiation and development of new activities and initiatives to that end,

Conscious of the fact that research upon and the testing and production of chemical weapons have, in recent years, continued to expand and in the belief that this further increases the danger of the destruction of civilization and life on Earth,

Considering that the conclusion of an international, effective and verifiable convention would contribute to the total ban of chemical weapons, affirming that their countries are willing to participate in the preparation thereof and welcoming all efforts to establish a chemical-weapon-free zone in central Europe,

Desiring to contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in the Balkans,

Declare that Romania and Bulgaria are strongly opposed to chemical weapons as a means of mass destruction;

Solemnly appeal to the Heads of State and Government of the Balkan countries, to unite and combine the efforts of all the States of the region with a view to transforming the Balkans into a chemical-weapon-free zone;

Propose that negotiations be undertaken without delay for the establishment of an agreement among the Balkan countries banning the testing, production, acquisition and storage of all chemical weapons on their territory.