

JOINT STATEMENT

Three years ago, on 22 May 1984, we demanded that humanity's survival should not be jeopardized by the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. Today we make an appeal not to jeopardize the opportunity to start a process of nuclear disarmament.

Since our first appeal, we have welcomed the resumption of the dialogue on nuclear and space issues. At the Geneva summit in November 1985 President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev declared that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought". At Reykjavik, there was clear demonstration that, given political will, far-reaching agreements on nuclear disarmament measures could be achieved.

Disarmament negotiations are now at a crucial point. There is a real possibility for an agreement in at least one important area. A breakthrough on the issue of nuclear arms in Europe appears to be within reach.

An agreement to eliminate all intermediate nuclear forces from Europe would be of considerable significance and would constitute the crossing of an important psychological threshold, since, for the first time, it would lead to mutual withdrawal and destruction of fully operational nuclear weapon systems. We, therefore, urge the United States and the Soviet Union to conduct their current negotiations with a view to bringing them to a successful conclusion during 1987.

However, an agreement on intermediate nuclear forces would be only the first step towards our common goal: the total elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere. In the Delhi and Mexico Declarations, we had called for two important measures - a halting of all nuclear testing and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We reiterate the crucial importance of these measures.

In Mexico, we made a concrete offer on verification of a halt to nuclear testing. That offer remains.

For too long, fear and mistrust have prevented progress in disarmament. Arms and fears feed on each other. Now is the time to break this vicious circle and lay the foundation for a more secure world. The present momentum should not be lost.

We urge President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev to live up to this challenge so that future generations are spared the nightmare of a nuclear holocaust.

Raúl Alfonsín  
President of Argentina

Andreas Papandreu  
Prime Minister of Greece

Rajiv Gandhi  
Prime Minister of India

Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado  
President of Mexico

Ingvar Carlsson  
Prime Minister of Sweden

Julius Nyerere  
First President of Tanzania