

Reply of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic  
to the letter of Mr. Helmut Kohl of 27 September 1985

The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic took notice of the letter of the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Helmut Kohl of 27 September 1985 on the question of chemical weapons.

As it is known to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has always actively promoted and consistently stood for elaborating and adopting at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva in the shortest possible time, of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons as well as for destroying them on a global scale.

In accordance with it the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is ready to accede to the proposal made in the letter of 27 September 1985, that a delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic have, at the Geneva Disarmament Conference, talks on the problem of chemical weapons. Here the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic proceeds from the fact that mutual connection between a global and regional agreement on chemical weapons should be discussed primarily. At the same time the solution of open question of the convention on complete and general prohibition of chemical weapons might be sought.

The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is however, firmly convinced that owing to the danger of the production of a new kind of chemical weapons - the binary weapons - and to their threatening deployment in the middle of Europe - even all possibilities for regional measures must consistently be used. It therefore proposed together with the Government of the German Democratic Republic to create a zone without chemical weapons in Central Europe. Such a measure would not only support the global prohibition of chemical weapons but it would correspond to the interest of strengthening security and would be a constructive contribution to détente disarmament and strengthening of confidence in Europe.

The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic suggests that the representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs authorized by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the German Democratic Republic start paralelly with the Geneva talks proposed by the Federal Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl, consultations for discussing the questions connected with the creation of a zone without chemical weapons. The place and the time of these consultations might be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany the assurances of its highest consideration.