Message

of

The President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, NICOLAE CEAUŞESCU

To the Participants in the International Symposium "Scientists and Peace"

The Symposium "SCIENTISTS AND PEACE" which opens its Proceedings in Bucharest today is a pleasant opportunity for me to adress you, all the participants, outstanding personalities of contemporary science and technology, cordial greetings and wishes of success in the proceedings, so that they should give a fresh impetus to the struggle of the advanced forces everywhere for progress and peace in the world.

The Socialist Republic of Romania attaches primordial importance to scientific activities, lays the achivements of science and culture at the basis of the building of the new, socialist system, considering that this is a fundamental factor of progress and civilization.

We live an epoch of highest upsurge of scientific thinking mankind has ever known over millennia, of the greatest revolution in science and technology marked by momentous discoveries that have radically changed man's representations about nature and society, about universe, influenced all facets of human existence.

We witness, under the direct influence of science, a continuous change in the conditions of material production, the deciphering of the mysteries of matter and the ever more efficient capitalization of the riches of nature, the growth of the peoples' creative capacity. No nation can improve its forces of production and develop thinking and spiritual creation without the contribution of modern science and technology and mankind's very future can no longer be conceived outside the great achievements of scientific thinking.

We must openly say that many of the great discoveries made by scientific research and technical creation are used today for the production of most sophisticated mass destruction weapons, starting with the atomic weapon. We witness today a tremendous escalation of the arms race, an increase in military arsenals able to destroy the entire planet, to endanger mankind's existence. We are witnesses to heightening tension in the world arena as an outcome of the imperialist policies of domination, strength and dictate, of the strong tendency towards consolidating and redividing the zones of influence, to sharpening contradictions among states and groups of states.

At the same time, the peoples' will is more strogly asserting itself to live free, to develop self-reliantly, to put a definite end to colonialism and neocolonialism, to any form of oppression, to ensure the democratic, progressive

renewal of society, the welfare of the broad working masses of people, to establish genuinely new relations of full equality among countries, of detente, collaboration and peace.

Socialist Romania most firmly works for developing relations with all the states, whatever their social system. We ground our relations with all countries on the principles of fully equal rights, unflinching observance of national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in the domestic affairs of others, renunciation of the use and threat of force. We consider that everything possible should be done to prevent the deterioration of the world situation, to solve all interstate issues through negotiations alone, to resume and further the policy of detente and peace.

Under the current serious international circumstances, the men of science have a high responsibility for mankind's present and future. Nobody knows better than scholars and researchers how destructive modern weapons are, how dangerous the escalating atms race is for the cause of civilisation, for peoples' security, for mankind's very existence.

It is a matter of conscience today to choose between the policy of intensifying the arms race, of manufacturing new nuclear mass destruction weapons and the policy of disarmament, detente and peace.

There is no alternative.

Obviously, scientists, who understand very well how destructive weapons, nuclear armament in particular are, cannot but side with the policy of disarmament and peace. That is why now more than ever before scientists have the lofty duty to resolutely raise their voices and do their best for the wonderful achievements of the human genius to no longer serve the manufacture of mass destruction weapons, war preparations, the policy of aggression, of force and domination, the loftiest mission of scholars, of researchers in all domains and everywhere is to do so as the entire potential of contemporary science and technology be used for the peoples' progress, welfare, freedom and independence and the people's supreme right to life and peace secured.

Most energetic and form action should be taken for halting the arms race, for disarmament, nuclear disarmament in the first place, for preventing the deployment and development of medium-range missiles in Europe, against the production of the neutron warhead, for cutting down military budgets and effectives, for ensuring the complete renunciation of the use or threat of force in international life, for building a world free of weapons and wars.

Underdevelopment is the cause of the backwardness in which the majority of the world population lives, half a billion people chronically suffer from hunger. Hence, a new international economic order should be established providing for the unhampered access of all peoples, of the lagging ones primarily, to the wonderful achievements of the human genius, for the free circulation of knowledge and discoveries, for the transformation of science into a boon of the whole mankind.

Given the mounting world economic crisis, a particularly important role devolves on science in discovering and capitalizing new ebergy and raw material sources, in placing them at the peoples' disposal, in fertilizing and raising the efficiency of land and solving the question of food. It is duty bound to contribute to the health protection of the masses everywhere, to fighting

pollution, improving the environment, protecting nature's values, turning our planet into a genuine blossoming garden which should secure a dignified life to all peoples.

The Romanian men of science and technology, deeply committed to their people's interests, devote their energies to the homeland's socioeconomic progress and, at the same time, actively cooperate with scientists in the other countries in the struggle for progress, for disarmament, for defending all nations' fundamental right to existence, peace and freedom.

Nowadays, the broad masses of people everywhere play a fundamental role in determining the course of history. The scientists, vitally interested in the cause of progress and peace, are on the side of the peoples that fight for safeguarding their peaceful life and work, for their right to freely shape their destiny, without any outside interference or pressure, to devote their resources and energy to their own material and spiritual advancement. Irrespective of their philosophical, political or religious beliefs, the scientists must rally and, together with the peace-loving, anti-imperialist forces everywhere, rise against the imperialist policy of domination, against war, for a world of justice, equality and peace.

A strong world front of scientists is needed now more than ever before which should work and have their authorized say at the united nations, at the conference on disarmament an din other international bodies concerning disarmament and the ensurance of a lasting peace on our planet.

We are firmly convinced that the concerted action of the men of science and letters, of the working people, of the progressive forces, of all the peoples can stop the arms race and bring about a passage too general disarmament, nuclear disarmament in particular.

Let us do our best to ensure peace, freedom and happiness in a more humane, detter and more just world, free of wars for our children and grand children, for our generation and the future generations.

With these thoughts in mind, I express my belief that the important meeting in Bucharest will have a strong echo in the conscience of researchers and scholars everywhere and I address you warmest wishes of success and fulfilment in your noble activity devoted to the advance of science as well as to the cause of the peoples' collaborations, peace and independence.

NICOLAE CEAUŞESCU

President of the Socialist Republic of Romania