

**POSITION OF HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE
TERMINATION OF THE INTERSTATE TREATY OF 1977 ON THE
GABCIKOVO-NAGYMAROS BARRAGE SYSTEM. STATEMENT BY
MINISTER FERENC MÁDL, IN THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT ON
19 MAY 1992**

With regard to the matter of the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Barrage System, I should like, on behalf of the Government, to inform the Parliament of the following.

Considering that the decision to construct the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Barrage System and to sign the relevant interstate treaty of 1977 was adopted without control by the professional and the wider public and without an adequate assessment and knowledge of the environmental effects:

Considering that, according to findings of subsequent investigations and to accumulated scientific and professional knowledge, the project is bound to produce an extremely harmful impact on the immediate environment of the region, seismic uncertainties may cause it to entail unpredictable consequences in terms of flood, and will result in polluting the drinking water of millions of people both in Hungary and in Slovakia;

Considering that our efforts to set up a trilateral expert committee - enlarged with experts of the European Communities, in order to enable the two Governments to arrive at a decision in the interstate legal dispute by relying on the committee's summary recommendations - failed, although the Hungarian side stood ready to accept those recommendations;

Considering that the failure of these efforts is due to the unwillingness of the Czech and Slovak side to have suspended, with the said end in view, the construction of the so-called Variant 'C', which forms no part of the treaty of 1977, is invariably fraught with dangers to the environment, is also aimed at diverting the Danube as a boundary river, thereby violating Hungary's territorial integrity and, inter alia, the Paris Peace Treaty itself;

Considering that the relevant request of the Hungarian side at repeated intergovernmental talks and in three repeated letters by the President of the Hungarian Government to the President of the Czech and Slovak Government was to no avail; that a new initiative taken by the Hungarian Government on 8 May for talks on the issue has been rejected; that last week's declaration by the Czech and Slovak side on the subject, which appeared promising in this respect, has so far remained without any concrete commitment despite the positive response thereto by the Hungarian Government, namely that the proposed talks in Vienna were to have led to the start of trilateral investigations parallel to the concurrent suspension of the unilateral 'C' variant constructions;

Considering that the Czech and Slovak side appears to be resolved to go ahead with the constructions without any preliminary investigation and that Variant 'C' is actually in progress, thus apparently creating an accomplished fact for the planned trilateral investigations;

Considering that the Government is in duty bound to act in protection of the population in the region by averting the said dangers to the environment and its defence of the country's territorial integrity;

The Government has resolved, in accordance with the Parliament's decision, to terminate the interstate treaty of 1977 with effect from 25 May 1992.

The Hungarian Government will this day hand the relevant Declaration to the Ambassador in Budapest of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

The Government is confident that, in the new situation, conclusion of a new treaty could serve both to preserve the natural and environmental values of the region and to ensure flood control and to create appropriate conditions for navigation for both countries. The initiative to this effect has been made in our declaration on the termination of the treaty, in a separate section thereof.

[Quelle: Informationsbroschüre der Ungarischen Regierung]