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URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE

NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION

ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-first year

Letter dated 28 November 1986 from the Permanent Representatives
of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to forward the text of the "Delhi Declaration on Principles for a Nuclear-weapon Free and Non-violent World", signed on 27 November 1986 at New Delhi by His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. We request that this be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 48, 54, 59, 60, 65, 68 and 141, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aleksandr M. BELONOGOV
Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to the United Nations

(Signed) C. R. GHAREKHAN
Permanent Representative
of India to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Text of the Delhi Declaration on Principles for a Nuclear-weapon
Free and Non-violent World signed at New Delhi on
27 November 1986

Today humanity stands at a crucial turning point in history. Nuclear weapons threaten to annihilate not only all that man has created through the ages, but man himself and even life on earth. In the nuclear age, humanity must evolve a new political thinking, a new concept of the world that would provide credible guarantees for humanity's survival. People want to live in a safer and more just world. Humanity deserves a better fate than being a hostage to nuclear terror and despair. It is necessary to change the existing world situation and to build a nuclear-weapon free world free of violence and hatred, fear and suspicion.

The world we have inherited belongs to present and future generations and this demands that primacy be given to universally accepted human values. The right of every nation and every person to life, freedom, peace and the pursuit of happiness must be recognized. The use or threat of use of force must be abandoned. The right of every people to make their own social, political and ideological choices must be respected. Policies that seek to establish the domination by some others must be renounced. The expansion of nuclear arsenals and the development of space weapons undermine the universally accepted conviction that a nuclear war should never be fought and can never be won.

On behalf of the more than 1 billion men, women and children of our two friendly countries, who account for one fifth of mankind, we call upon the peoples and leaders of all countries to take urgent action that would lead to a world free of weapons of mass destruction, a world without war.

Conscious of our common responsibility for the destinies of our two nations and of mankind, we hereby set forth the following principles for building a nuclear-weapon free and non-violent world:

1. Peaceful coexistence must become the universal norm of international relations:

In the nuclear age it is necessary that international relations are restructured so that confrontation is replaced by co-operation, and conflict situations resolved through peaceful political means, not through military means.

2. Human life must be recognized as supreme:

It is only man's creative genius that makes progress and development of civilization possible in a peaceful environment.

3. Non-violence should be the basis of community life:

Philosophies and policies based on violence and intimidation, inequality and oppression, and discrimination on the basis of race, religion or colour, are immoral and impermissible. They spread intolerance, destroy man's noble aspirations and negate all human values.

4. Understanding and trust must replace fear and suspicion:

Mistrust, fear and suspicion between nations and peoples distort perceptions of the real world. They engender tensions and, in the final analysis, harm the entire international community.

5. The right of every State to political and economic independence must be recognized and respected:

A new world order must be built to ensure economic justice and equal political security for all nations. An end to the arms race is an essential prerequisite for the establishment of such an order.

6. Resources being spent on armaments must be channelled towards social and economic development:

Only disarmament can release the enormous additional resources needed for combating economic backwardness and poverty.

7. Conditions must be guaranteed for the individual's harmonious development:

All nations must work together to solve urgent humanitarian problems and co-operate in the areas of culture, the arts, science, education and medicine for the all-round development of the individual. A world without nuclear weapons and violence would open up vast opportunities for this.

8. Mankind's material and intellectual potential must be used to solve global problems:

Solutions must be found to global problems such as shortage of food, the growth of populations, illiteracy and environmental degradation through the efficient and appropriate uses of the resources of the earth. The world's oceans, the ocean floor as well as outer space are the common heritage of mankind. A termination of the arms race would create better conditions for this purpose.

9. The "Balance of Terror" must give way to comprehensive international security:

The world is one and its security is indivisible. East and West, North and South, regardless of social systems, ideologies, religion or race must join together in a common commitment to disarmament and development.

International security can be guaranteed through the adoption of integrated measures in the field of nuclear disarmament using all available and agreed measures of verification, and confidence-building; just political settlement of regional conflicts, through peaceful negotiations; and co-operation in the political, economic and humanitarian spheres.

10. A nuclear-weapon free and non-violent world requires specific and immediate action for disarmament:

It can be achieved through agreements on:

Complete destruction of nuclear arsenals before the end of this century;

Barring of all weapons from outer space, which is the common heritage of mankind;

Banning of all nuclear-weapon tests;

Prohibition of the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

Banning of chemical weapons and destruction of their stockpiles;

Reducing the levels of conventional arms and armed forces.

Pending the elimination of nuclear weapons, India and the Soviet Union propose that an international convention banning the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons should be concluded immediately. This would constitute a major concrete step towards complete nuclear disarmament.

Building a nuclear-weapon free and non-violent world requires a revolutionary transformation of outlook and the education of people and nations for peace, mutual respect and tolerance. The propaganda of war, hatred and violence should be forbidden and hostile perceptions with regard to other nations and peoples abandoned.

Wisdom lies in preventing the accumulation and aggravation of global problems which, if not solved today, would require even greater sacrifices tomorrow.

The danger that threatens mankind is grave. But mankind has the power to prevent a catastrophe, and to pave the way to a nuclear-weapon free civilization. The gathering strength of the coalition for peace embracing the efforts of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Six-Nation Five-Continent initiative for peace and disarmament, all peace-loving countries, political parties and

public organizations gives us reason for hope and optimism. The time for decisive and urgent action is now.

(Signed) M. GORBACHEV
General Secretary
of the CPSU Central Committee

(Signed) R. GANDHI
Prime Minister of the Republic
of India
