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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS
PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE
IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 41/54 ON THE IMMEDIATE
CESSATION AND PROHIBITION OF
NUCLEAR-WEAPON TESTS
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH
SPECIAL SESSION
COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-second year

Letter dated 19 January 1987 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the text of the message of 19 January 1986 from the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr. M. S. Gorbachev, to the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania.

I request you to have this text circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the items "Cessation of all nuclear test explosions", "Prevention of an arms race in outer space", "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/54 on the immediate cessation and prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests", "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons", "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session" and "Comprehensive system of international peace and security", and of the Security Council.

A. BELONOVOV
Permanent Representative of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Message from the General Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to the leaders
of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United
Republic of Tanzania in connection with the statement
adopted by them at the close of 1986

I have carefully studied your statement, in which you again resolutely call for the urgent elaboration of tangible measures to prevent an arms race in outer space and halt it on earth, leading in the final analysis to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons on this planet. I was satisfied to see once again that our approaches to the fundamental issues of curbing the arms race, which is now a source of anxiety to all mankind, essentially coincide.

I fully agree, first of all, that we need to work together to preserve the historic milestones on the road to a nuclear-free world which were reached at the Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik and not allow the concrete guidelines for nuclear disarmament which were outlined there to be eroded. In order to ensure that ridding the world of nuclear weapons by the end of this century does not remain an unattainable dream, it is important even now not to put things off, and to concentrate precisely on the problem of eliminating nuclear weapons and not, as you rightly pointed out, on the elaboration of all kinds of programmes based on the assumption that this terrible weapon will threaten our planet with destruction indefinitely.

The Soviet Union will, I can give you my firm assurance, continue to press resolutely for an advance to be made from the positions reached at Reykjavik. We are not withdrawing any of our proposals designed to bring about the sharp reduction and subsequent elimination of all nuclear weapons and ensure peace in the space above our planet.

On the basis of the programme we put forward on 15 January 1986 for ridding the world of the nuclear threat, we propose bold and at the same time realistic approaches to curtailing the arms race in every respect, be it elimination of nuclear arsenals, prevention of the development of space armaments, prohibition of chemical weapons or lowering the level of concentration of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe.

Our far-reaching proposals on all these problems constitute a sound building material from which a solid edifice of reliable security for all could already be constructed in the next decade. Unfortunately, however, the other side has not yet demonstrated a similar sense of political responsibility for the fate of the world and shows no desire to participate with us in building this edifice. Moreover, attempts are being made to destroy even the foundations which have been laid for it over the course of the past 15 years. In this connection, we fully share your concern at the possibility that the entire structure of accords for strategic arms limitation may be destroyed, with potential unforeseeable consequences for the whole world. At the same time, I can assure you that the Soviet Union intends, as

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before, consistently and resolutely to oppose the irresponsible approach taken by the current United States Administration in this and other issues with its own policy for disarmament and the establishment of comprehensive security.

We understand your regret at the decision we were compelled to take to extend the Soviet unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing only until the first United States nuclear test in 1987. Of course, if a realistic approach prevailed in Washington and the United States joined in our unilateral action, the cause of nuclear disarmament could take a giant step forward. But this has unfortunately not yet happened, despite the fact that we gave the Americans a whole year and a half to think it over. At the same time, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that even now we are leaving the door open: we shall be prepared to renew the moratorium on any day, in any month, if the United States decides to halt its nuclear explosions. Despite everything, we have not lost hope that the American side will still heed the appeals of the world community, including those expressed in your statement, and review its attitude to this issue.

I should like to reaffirm our attitude of principle towards the objective of banning nuclear tests altogether. We continue to regard the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons tests as a priority measure on the way to curtailing nuclear armaments and subsequently eliminating them. The USSR proposes that this issue should be resolved without delay. Even if we are compelled to resume our nuclear explosions, we shall be no less insistent in calling for the initiation of full-scale talks on this problem, and we are ready to hold such talks whatever their composition and in any forum, as long as the United States participates, of course.

Because of its concern to lose no opportunity of making international efforts in this field more active, the Soviet Union has already expressed its readiness to take up the proposal which you have again put forward in your latest statement regarding the provision of assistance in verifying the cessation of nuclear explosions. Unfortunately, the United States position on this matter meant that the meeting of experts from the six countries with Soviet and American experts did not take place. As before, however, we consider that it could be extremely useful as a way of speeding up the elaboration of a nuclear-test-ban treaty. In this connection, I wish to inform you that even if the United States does not revise its negative attitude to your proposal, we should nevertheless be prepared to send Soviet representatives to a meeting with your experts. At such a meeting, taking into account all the new proposals recently put forward in the field of verification, it might even now be possible to undertake a joint objective search for mutually acceptable solutions which could subsequently form the basis of a dependable mechanism for verification of a treaty on the complete and universal prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests.

In conclusion, I should like to put forward an idea which it seems to me echoes the spirit of your statement. The measure of agreement it was possible to reach at Reykjavik and the approach to the elimination of nuclear weapons outlined there can no longer be the subject of relations between the USSR and the United States alone: the outcome of Reykjavik has now become the common property of all countries and peoples. And understandably so, for the interdependence of their

survival, which has become the reality of our nuclear and space age, makes it of vital concern to all States that nuclear weapons should be eliminated and that the arms race should not spread into outer space. Today this interaction among States, large and small, for the sake of preserving the whole of mankind has become, as never before, a vital imperative. In welcoming the untiring efforts of the "New Delhi Six" to this end, I wish to assure you that the Soviet Union, for its part, is also ready to contribute in the most active manner to this common cause.
