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SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-third year

Letter dated 25 November 1988 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 Indo-Soviet summit statement signed on 20 November 1988, 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 and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

We request that the text of the present letter and the attached statement be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 23, 30, 36, 37, 40, 53, 59, 63, 64, 68, 72 and 73, and of the Security Council.

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

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

ANNEX

Indo-Soviet summit statement signed at New Delhi on 20 November 1988 by  
the Prime Minister of India and the General Secretary of the Communist  
Party of the Soviet Union, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme  
Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Republic of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics note with deep satisfaction that the principles of new political thinking embodied in the Delhi Declaration have generated an increasingly wide response throughout the world. The Delhi Declaration contains the basic tenets of the philosophy of survival and progress in the nuclear and space age, positively influences the general political climate in the world and gives a stimulus to the reshaping of international relations. It reflects the common perceptions of the two countries on global issues and their common vision for the future of humankind. Developments over the last two years have shown that, given political will, a new concept of a safer and a more just world can acquire universal acceptance. The signing of the INF Treaty, the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan, the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war and the positive moves towards a settlement of conflicts in South-East Asia, South West Africa and other parts of the world have demonstrated the timeliness and vitality of the Delhi Declaration. India and the Soviet Union believe that today's interdependent world is the common home of humankind and every individual has an equal right to use its resources. They emphasize the importance of efforts by all States to develop a comprehensive global system of international security.

The parties believe that the new approach to international relations enunciated in the Delhi Declaration requires a change in doctrines, policies and institutions to build and sustain a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world. This needs demilitarization, democratization and humanization of international relations. They reaffirm that militarism, power politics and the division of the world into military alliances have engendered suspicion and hostility and should be discarded. There should be no military bases or facilities outside national borders.

Both parties agree that disarmament, and especially nuclear disarmament, is today the primary issue that concerns all nations and peoples. The momentum generated recently in this field must be preserved and further strengthened. Urgent steps must be taken to immediately suspend and ban nuclear weapon testing, to prevent an arms race in outer space and conclude an agreement on 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons to move towards the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons, and establish international control over the emerging new technologies with military potential. An international convention banning the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and a global convention on the comprehensive prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons, including binary weapons, should be concluded immediately.

India and the Soviet Union consider that all nuclear-weapon States should join the nuclear disarmament process. The Soviet programme for the complete elimination

of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 and India's Action Plan for ushering in a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world order by the year 2010 are detailed blueprints addressed to the world community. Both sides stand for an increased role of multilateral forums in the process of disarmament and for a single integrated multilateral verification system.

India and the Soviet Union reiterate their support for the Geneva Accord on Afghanistan and call for their strict and sincere implementation by all parties concerned. The two countries deplore the obstructionist policy of certain forces that are violating the accords. They express concern over the continued bloodshed in Afghanistan and affirm that the process of national reconciliation should be encouraged. India and the Soviet Union appeal to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to implement without delay the mandate given to him by the General Assembly resolution on Afghanistan, which emphasizes the need for an intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based government. The formation of such a government in Afghanistan is a matter exclusively for the Afghan people to decide. The preservation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and non-aligned character of Afghanistan is vital for the solution of the Afghan problem. A United Nations supported international conference may be needed for this purpose.

India and the Soviet Union express concern at the situation in western Asia, aggravated by the escalation of the arms race in the region. The two parties welcome the realism and responsibility shown by the Palestinian leadership, and support the decision of the Palestinian National Council on the creation of an independent Palestinian State within the framework of a just and comprehensive western Asian settlement. They reaffirm their call for the early start of preparatory work to convene the United Nations sponsored international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned on an equal footing.

India and the Soviet Union express their satisfaction at the United Nations sponsored ceasefire between Iraq and Iran and hope that it will lead to the establishment of a just and lasting peace between the two countries.

The two parties urge all concerned to step up their efforts to achieve a political settlement in Kampuchea that ensures its peaceful, sovereign, independent and non-aligned status, free of the threat of restoration of the genocidal régime. They welcome the Jakarta Informal Meeting process, the initiative undertaken within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement and the dialogue that has recently been resumed in Paris, and hope that these will lead to an early solution.

The two sides believe that the reduction of tension in the Korean Peninsula would be a major contribution to the improvement of the situation in Asia. They support the development of a broad, constructive dialogue in the interest of the entire Korean people.

India and the Soviet Union reaffirm their determination to pursue their endeavour to attain the objectives embodied in the 1971 United Nations Declaration

of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. They call for the dismantling of all foreign military bases and for preventing the creation of new ones, and condemn attempts to build up foreign military presence in the Indian Ocean. They urge the early convening of an international conference on the Indian Ocean, not later than 1990, in accordance with the latest General Assembly resolution.

The two States reiterate their support for the just demand of Mauritius relating to the restoration of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia.

India and the Soviet Union strongly condemn racialism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it may occur. They reaffirm their unwavering support for the struggle of the people of South Africa. In this context, they recall that the Charter of the United Nations envisages a number of measures, including the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions for dismantling racism and apartheid. Both sides welcome the Angolan-Cuban initiatives for a settlement in South West Africa and express their belief that progress in the talks opens the way to the unconditional implementation of the Security Council resolution on Namibian independence. India and the Soviet Union appreciate the important role of the Africa Fund established by the Non-Aligned Movement.

The two countries reiterate their support for a just political settlement of the situation in the region of Central America, based on ensuring the security of all the States of the region and respect for their sovereignty, national independence and right to self-determination, without outside interference in their internal affairs. India and the Soviet Union call for the cessation of all forms of external pressures and acts of aggression against the independent countries situated in the region. They express their support for the constructive initiatives of the non-aligned countries, the Contadora Group and the Support Group. They also endorse the Guatemala Agreement.

India and the Soviet Union believe that universal peace and stability can only be built on economically sound foundations. A new international economic order should be established on a just and equitable basis. Urgent and serious steps need to be taken to resolve the growing global debt problem and the crisis of the international monetary and financial systems. The fall in prices of commodities harms the interests of many countries. The obstacles to the transfer of technology have to be removed and artificial trade barriers dismantled. The resources saved as a result of disarmament should be transferred for developmental purposes. The decisions taken by the United Nations Conference on Disarmament and Development should be implemented.

The two countries urge the adoption, with United Nations support, of a global strategy of environmental protection and the rational exploitation of the Earth's resources.

India and the Soviet Union stress that the responsibility for the future of the world rests with all countries, big and small. The United Nations is an indispensable institution for finding peaceful solutions to international problems

and crisis situations, and resolving other global issues. They note with satisfaction the recent growing activity of the United Nations and its bodies, and will further promote an increase in the authority and potential of this universal Organization. At the same time, the United Nations system must adapt to and reflect the changing realities of the world so that it can better fulfil its mission.

India and the Soviet Union emphasize the outstanding role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the world. It has emerged as a constructive and influential pioneering force for resolving the problems of peace, disarmament and development, and has made its contribution to the relaxation of international tensions. The parties are deeply convinced that the Movement will continue to play an ever-increasing role in meeting the challenges confronting the world.

The two parties believe that people-to-people contacts between countries should be encouraged to improve trust and understanding. This could be done by developing tourism, trade, greater interaction among scholars, journalists, parliamentarians, politicians and other representatives of the people as well as through festivals of culture.

Relations between India and the Soviet Union have deep roots and are a model of constructive co-operation between two countries with different socio-political systems. They are characterized by sincere friendship and mutual understanding. They have witnessed a steady and uninterrupted growth for decades. The Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation is an outstanding milestone in their relations and provides a reliable and time-tested framework for the further development of these relations and for promoting peace and stability in Asia and the world. The fundamental importance of the Treaty in the foreign policy priorities of India and the Soviet Union is even greater in today's changing world.

Regular visits at the highest level in recent years have given a qualitatively new character and new dynamism to Indo-Soviet relations. These relations are marked by growing mutual trust and confidence, intensified economic, scientific and technological co-operation encompassing new areas and forms and greater people-to-people contacts. This is reflected most vividly in the unprecedented large-scale festivals of India and the Soviet Union in each other's countries, marking the fortieth anniversary of India's independence and the seventieth anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Both have been unique events in spreading friendship and goodwill.

It was decided to continue the tradition of visits at the highest levels, frequent consultations and joint actions on the major issues before the world community today such as disarmament, the peaceful settlement of regional disputes and conflicts, and the establishment of a more just and democratic world order.

In the economic sphere, they feel it is important to utilize to the fullest extent the new potential and opportunities created by the modernization and changing character of the Indian and Soviet economies. The two parties believe that it is essential to identify and take full advantage of the emerging

complementarities in their respective economies to develop new forms of mutually advantageous economic co-operation, including joint ventures. It is necessary to modify the structure of trade and to evolve new strategies for ensuring dynamic growth. They will make every effort to maintain the accelerated growth in trade achieved since 1986 and will work out a long-term programme for economic, trade, scientific and technical co-operation till the year 2000.

India and the Soviet Union also agree that it is necessary to meet the increasing requirements of both countries for high quality products of the latest technology by offering to each other the latest indigenously developed technologies, and to work out specific projects of co-operation, including through joint research and development.

The two parties reiterate their desire to continue the healthy tradition of the festivals of India and the Soviet Union by holding periodic festivals between Indian states and Soviet republics, and to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation and the fifth anniversary of the Delhi Declaration on principles of a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world by holding cultural festivities, scientific symposia and public conferences.

India and the Soviet Union express their firm resolve to further develop and deepen their ties in all spheres. The development of Indo-Soviet relations serves the interest of their peoples and is an important factor in strengthening peace and security on a comprehensive basis and in promoting development in Asia and throughout the world.

R. GANDHI  
Prime Minister of  
the Republic of India

M. GORBACHEV  
General Secretary of the Central  
Committee of the CPSU, Chairman  
of the Presidium of the Supreme  
Soviet of the USSR

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