

DIVISION  
OF  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/33/232  
11 September 1978  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Thirty-third session  
Item 50 of the provisional agenda\*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING  
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Note verbale dated 5 September 1978 from the Permanent Mission of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed  
to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to General Assembly resolutions 32/154 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and 32/153 on non-interference in the internal affairs of States, has the honour to state the following.

The struggle of the Soviet Union for the strengthening of international security has been a fundamental principle of the policy of the Soviet State throughout its history. In accordance with the programme of further struggle for peace and international co-operation and for the freedom and independence of peoples, adopted at the twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union is in favour of the adoption of effective measures designed to ensure universal peace and security. In its international policy, the Soviet State is consistently guided by the fundamental principles of peaceful interrelationships between States which are embodied in the new Constitution of the USSR.

During the past year, through the efforts of the USSR and other peace-loving States, further steps have been taken to improve the international situation and to consolidate and develop détente.

An important event in international life was the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament - the first world forum on disarmament in history. Its decisions convincingly confirmed that the overwhelming majority of States consider the cessation of the armaments race and disarmament to be the most urgent and important problem of contemporary world politics.

---

\* A/33/150.

This year marked the third anniversary of the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. This important document continues to have a favourable impact on the situation both within Europe and elsewhere.

The Soviet Union believes that it is essential to intensify still further the efforts of all States to consolidate the process of détente and to halt, and then reverse, the armaments race and thus ensure a reliable peace.

It was with those ends in view that the Soviet Union, at the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, put forward a whole range of specific and well-founded proposals concerning practical ways of halting the armaments race.

This year the Soviet Union, which is endeavouring to contribute to the slowing down of the armaments race, was one of the first to ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques and also signed Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

The speedy completion of the current negotiations and the conclusion of agreements on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons, on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, on the prohibition of chemical weapons and on the prohibition of the manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, as well as the achievement of agreement on the prohibition of the manufacture of neutron weapons, would be of great significance for the curbing of the armaments race. In the context of the struggle to slow down the armaments race, the continuation of international efforts to combat the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the plans for the manufacture of such weapons in South Africa and Israel is of great significance.

In an endeavour to ensure that Europe always remains a continent of lasting peace and co-operation, the USSR, at the Belgrade meeting of representatives of States Parties to the Convention on Security and Co-operation in Europe, put forward a platform of specific measures aimed at military détente in the European continent.

At the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and weapons in Central Europe, the USSR is endeavouring to ensure that the level of NATO and Warsaw Pact forces in that region is significantly reduced - without detriment to the security of any of the parties concerned. The proposals put forward by the socialist countries in June 1978, which provide a good basis for agreement at the Vienna talks, are directed towards the speedy attainment of that goal.

One of the most important tasks in strengthening international security is the elimination of all remaining hotbeds of military conflict and tension in the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean. The Soviet Union considers that the sure way to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East lies not through separate deals but through talks within the framework of the Geneva peace conference, with the participation of all the interested parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Unceasing efforts to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States in Africa and Asia and to stir up conflicts between them with a view to re-establishing colonial domination in the recently liberated countries and depriving them of the right to determine their path of development for themselves are creating complications and new hotbeds of tension in various regions of the world. The barefaced threats and the exertion of pressure against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam by China must also be a cause of concern to States Members of the United Nations.

The complete and final elimination of all remnants of the system of colonial oppression and of all hotbeds of racism and apartheid would also serve the interests of the strengthening of international security.

In conditions where there is wide support among the peoples of the world for a policy of détente in international relations, influential forces which are seeking to exacerbate international tension are also continuing their activities and are striving to intensify the armaments race and wreck the process of détente.

The activities of those who are opposed to disarmament and détente are actively supported by China.

The Soviet Union is convinced that there is no more important goal in international relations than the preservation and deepening of détente, the strengthening of peace, and disarmament. This goal can be attained only through the joint efforts of all States Members of the United Nations, which must decisively rebuff the opponents of détente and frustrate their efforts to undermine peace and international security. It is essential that the process of the normalization of international relations should acquire a universal character and extend to all regions of the world.

The Soviet Union is strongly opposed to interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States and is in favour of strict compliance with the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty, adopted by the United Nations. It considers that the strict and universal fulfilment of that most important requirement of the Charter of the United Nations is an important condition for the strengthening of international security and the development of normal good-neighbourly relations among States.

Consideration at the forthcoming thirty-third session of the General Assembly of the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security should make a further contribution to the preservation and development of détente and the strengthening of international peace.

The Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to circulate this note as an official document of the General Assembly under item 50 of the provisional agenda.

-----