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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Note verbale dated 2 August 1977 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 31/91 and 31/92, has the honour to state the following.

The strengthening of international security and the elimination of war from the life of human society have been the focus of Soviet foreign policy activity throughout the 60 years of its history. This Leninist policy of peace and international co-operation is reflected in the steps being taken by the Soviet Union to implement 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. This policy is embodied in the new Constitution of the USSR.

Recently, as a result of the persistent efforts of the Soviet Union and of other peace-loving States, the principles of peaceful coexistence and equitable co-operation have become more firmly established in international relations. A growing number of States are embracing the policy of international détente.

The Soviet Union is constantly striving for the quantitative and qualitative limitation of the arms race and for disarmament in mutually acceptable and fair conditions. In May 1977, the Soviet Union took yet another initiative in this area by signing the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques. In addition, important proposals facilitating the achievement of an understanding have been put forward by the

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Soviet Union on a number of other pressing disarmament problems. It would be in the interest of the strengthening of international peace and security if practical measures could now be speedily taken to draft and conclude a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations, as proposed by the Soviet Union.

Together with the other States signatories of the Warsaw Treaty, the Soviet Union has proposed that the countries which signed the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe should agree not to be the first to use nuclear weapons against each other.

The Soviet Union consistently endeavours to promote a rapid and peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis, the problem of Cyprus and other international conflicts, making specific observations and proposals to this end. It supports the African peoples, who have intensified their just struggle for freedom and independence, against racism and apartheid.

While positive trends are apparent in the evolution of the international situation, it should be noted, however, that obstacles to the reorganization of international relations on a positive basis are being created by circles which are interested in the intensification of the arms race, the expansion of military expenditure and the development of new types of weapon. Attempts are continually being made during disarmament negotiations to obtain unilateral military advantages and thus threaten the security of other States. Actions designed to interfere in the internal affairs of States and to revive the vestiges of the "cold war" are also jeopardizing the strengthening of mutual trust and co-operation among peoples.

The interests of the strengthening of peace and the guaranteeing of international security require that all States should without delay adopt measures to solve urgent international problems and to develop equitable co-operation among States. A detailed and constructive discussion at the forthcoming thirty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly of the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security will undoubtedly promote the attainment of this goal.

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