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COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 1181 (XII) (QUESTION OF
DEFINING AGGRESSION)

Third Session

Comments by Governments on the Question
of Defining Aggression

Addendum

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8. UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Letter from the Permanent Representative to the United Nations,
dated 22 March 1965

[Original: Russian]

...
... The Mission is authorized to state that the Government of the USSR supports the convening of the Committee and regards the question before it as an important one.

As experience has shown, the absence of a clear definition of aggression plays into the hands of those Powers which pursue a policy of intervention in the internal affairs of other States and which, in order to achieve their ends, even resort to the use of armed force. This is especially clear at the present time, when the United States of America is invoking international law in an attempt to justify its bombing of the territory and people of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. The ceaseless provocative acts of the imperialist States against the young developing countries are creating an alarming and dangerous situation in many parts of the world, as for example, in the Congo (Lecpoldville). Under these circumstances, a definition of aggression which gives concrete expression to the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter might help to check the aggressor and maintain international peace and security.

The Soviet Union, in the belief that the adoption of a definition of aggression would be in the interests of all peace-loving States, has supported and continues to support the formulation of such a definition. To that end the Soviet Union has already submitted concrete proposals for consideration by United Nations organs. It should be noted, however, that such a definition has not so far been formulated - for reasons which there is clearly no need to touch upon in this letter. Moreover, work on its formulation has halted altogether.

The Soviet Government considers it essential that the work of defining the concept of aggression should be resumed by the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter to all Members of the United Nations.

...
