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CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS

URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 12 October 1990 from the Permanent Mission of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of an appeal by the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the parliaments and people of the world, adopted on 9 October 1990.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 46 and 48.

(Signed) V. PETROVSKIY

ANNEX

Appeal by the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics to the parliaments and people of the world, adopted  
on 9 October 1990

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR has ratified the Soviet-American Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests of 1974 and the Soviet-American Treaty on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes of 1976. In reaffirming its commitment to the eventual cessation of all nuclear tests, the Soviet Union proceeds from the belief that the entry into force of these two agreements does not mean that endeavours in this area have attained their final goal. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR considers it essential to remind the parliamentarians of all countries of the urgent need for the cessation of all nuclear tests as a vital element in strengthening the régime for the non-proliferation and elimination of nuclear weapons.

The initiatives and specific measures undertaken by the Soviet Union in this area are well-known. The USSR is prepared, at any time, to discontinue test explosions at its nuclear test-sites, thereby transforming the 12-month-long hiatus in Soviet nuclear tests into an indefinite and final cessation. All that remains is for the Government of the United States of America similarly to terminate its nuclear test programme, either unilaterally or on the basis of mutual agreement.

The USSR reaffirms its proposals for complete nuclear disarmament. It is prepared to become a non-nuclear State, if the other nuclear countries will take similar steps.

Important though the political initiative of setting good examples may be, the problem of nuclear tests has attained transnational proportions and, consequently, must be tackled by the joint efforts of the entire international community. We are convinced that no State, no Government and no people can afford to ignore this imperative of the modern age.

Parliaments and the general public have a special role in this task. As they reflect a broad spectrum of political attitudes and the longing of all people to live in peace and security, it is their duty to campaign for the banning of nuclear tests.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR resolutely supports the banning of nuclear tests at the earliest opportunity, and appeals to the parliaments of all countries and, first and foremost, of States in which nuclear-weapon tests are conducted, to take a firm and clear position in favour of a full and comprehensive end to nuclear tests. By doing this the parliamentarians would demonstrate their genuine concern for the interests of the voters, and would reflect their aspirations.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR intends to keep the Secretary-General informed about its position on this problem, and is counting on similar action by the parliaments of other countries.

The path to a non-nuclear world is not easy, but it is one that we are capable of following. Our movement along this path should be consistent, purposeful and in one direction only: forward.