



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 5 DECEMBER 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the USSR dated 3 December 1990 in connection with the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

I should be grateful if you would have the text circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Yu. VORONTSOV

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR

By adopting its resolution 678 on 29 November 1990, the Security Council issued a final warning to Iraq on the inadmissibility of continuing to ignore the will of the international community.

At the same time, both the letter and the spirit of the resolution offers a genuine chance of averting the worst scenario of the further development of events, namely, a military conflagration. The Security Council's decision establishes the time-frame within which a political, peaceful dénouement of the conflict can and must be sought. And it is necessary to act in such a way as not to miss that chance - so as to switch the course of events to the non-military option.

The view taken in the Soviet Union is that the "pause of goodwill" which the resolution allows must be filled with energetic diplomatic efforts oriented towards the earliest possible restoration of the situation which existed before 2 August 1990. Such efforts may be undertaken on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, it being understood, of course, that they will be aimed at ensuring the full and unconditional compliance by Iraq with the Security Council resolutions without any reward to the aggressor.

The initiative of President George Bush of the United States - his proposal for the holding of United States-Iraq contacts in Washington and Baghdad - is viewed in the Soviet Union from the same angle. It is thought that a dialogue between the United States of America and Iraq would be of considerable importance in finding practical approaches towards the unblocking of the highly dangerous situation in the Persian Gulf. In the Soviet Union the initiative is welcomed and viewed as a concrete embodiment of the mutual Soviet-American understanding as to the preferability of resolving the crisis by peaceful means.

The USSR for its part will also continue to do its utmost in order to test all possible ways towards a peaceful solution of the conflict, acting in the spirit of the consensus which has formed within the international community and, first and foremost, among the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The conviction in the Soviet Union is that it is for Iraq to make the next move. Whether or not there is to be peace in the Persian Gulf depends only on the Iraqi leadership. It must soberly assess the firm and resolute mood of the world community in favour of restoring international legality and security in the region, and it must act with reason and common sense. Baghdad must recognize that further delay in implementing the Security Council resolutions is inadmissible inasmuch as it constitutes a serious threat, above all to Iraq itself and to its people.

