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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS

PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 40/88 ON THE IMMEDIATE
CESSATION AND PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON TESTS

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 21 November 1986 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 the text of an appeal by the Supreme Soviet of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the parliaments and peoples of the world.

I should be grateful if you would have this text distributed as an official
document of the General Assembly under agenda items 21, 47, 54, 55, 59, 60, 62
and 68.

A. BELONOGOV

ANNEX

Appeal by the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to the parliaments and peoples of the world

The Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, recognizing that the inseparable historic destinies of all countries and peoples in the face of the nuclear threat dictate the need for joint action to avert that threat, deems it necessary to appeal to all the world's parliaments and peoples.

The Soviet-American summit meeting in Reykjavik marked a qualitatively new stage in the campaign for a world without nuclear weapons. We now know that we can rid ourselves of nuclear weapons during this generation.

This is precisely the goal of the bold, yet entirely feasible, programme put forward by our country.

The Soviet Union proposes that the strategic offensive weapons of the USSR and the United States of America should be reduced by 50 per cent over a period of five years. Over the following five years, i.e. by the end of 1996, the parties' remaining weapons in this category should all be eliminated.

We propose the complete abolition of Soviet and United States medium-range missiles in Europe, and radical cuts in the number of missiles of this type in Asia.

We propose that the USSR and the United States should each undertake not, for 10 years, to exercise their right to withdraw from the open-ended 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, and should abide strictly by all its provisions. We are against SDI and for a stronger ABM Treaty.

We propose, finally, that the USSR and the United States should immediately begin negotiations on the complete cessation of nuclear tests.

We take it for granted that all the radical nuclear disarmament measures proposed by the Soviet Union will have to be carried out under the very strictest international and other control, including on-site inspection.

The radical measures listed above are one package. A package balances interests and concessions, balances the relief of mutual concerns, balances interdependent security interests.

Reykjavik did not only engender hopes. It also illuminated the obstacles along the way to a nuclear-free world. The impression gained by a significant part of the world public, namely that American plans for "Star Wars", the so-called SDI programme, have become the main obstacle to agreement on the abolition of nuclear weapons, is a correct one. This was completely borne out during the Reykjavik meeting. The SDI programme is an attempt to attain a position of military supremacy, to find the means of waging nuclear war with the expectation of winning.

Past experience shows that the USSR has always found a suitable response to threats to its security. That will continue to be true. The Soviet Union has the requisite intellectual, scientific and technological potential.

But the Supreme Soviet of the USSR realizes that the creation of space weapons, shifting the arms race into an extremely costly and highly dangerous area, will deprive politicians of any control over the course of events. A technical oversight, a mistake or a computer malfunction may cause an irreversible disaster.

Instead of a space arms race, the Soviet Union is offering a real alternative: the peaceful conquest of space based on co-operation between all States so that all may benefit and blossom.

At this extraordinarily significant, perhaps decisive moment in human history, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR appeals to all parliaments and peoples to press for an active turn to the construction of a nuclear-free world and the establishment of equal, dependable security for all States.

This matter must take precedence of any quarrels or ideological differences between States.

The door to a nuclear-free future, having opened a little in Reykjavik, must not be allowed to slam.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR solemnly reaffirms that the USSR is not withdrawing a single one of the proposals put forward in Reykjavik for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. The Soviet delegation to the Geneva talks has been given instructions to be guided by those proposals in their entirety.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR reaffirms that the unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests declared by the Soviet Union over 15 months ago is still in effect. The United States still has time, before 1 January 1987, to listen at last to the voice of reason and the demands of hundreds of millions of people the world over, and end its nuclear testing. In that event, the USSR will not resume nuclear testing. A major step would thus be taken towards nuclear disarmament.

As before, we favour a ban on chemical weapons and the eradication of all such weapons in store. We favour strict compliance with the convention on the prohibition of biological weapons. We favour substantial reductions in conventional armaments in Europe, on the principle of equal security for all parties. The specific, sweeping proposals by the Soviet Union and the other States parties to the Warsaw Treaty on all these matters hold good, and we await a response from the NATO countries.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR is convinced: all States have a place in the overall process of ridding mankind of its nuclear burden. When the salvation of civilization is at stake, there are no large or small countries or peoples. The matter affects them all and must be the concern of all.

The time has come when everyone must declare his position, given the risk that outer space will become an arena for military rivalry. No Government, no parliament can escape responsibility, for the existence of all countries, its own country and people included, is at issue. There can, there must be no neutral parties.

Our appeal to you is also an appeal from the entire Soviet people. Time will not wait. It demands action.
