



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/42/160

S/18733

3 March 1987

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Forty-second session

Items 63, 64, 67 and 74 of the
preliminary list*

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED

BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH

SPECIAL SESSION

COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL

PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-second year

Letter dated 2 March 1987 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 herewith the text of a statement made by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, M. S. Gorbachev, on 28 February 1987.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 63, 64, 67 and 74 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

A. BELONOGOV

* A/42/50.

ANNEX

Statement by the General Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, M. S. Gorbachev,
on 28 February 1987

On 15 January 1986, the Soviet Union put forward a historic programme, with a view to the stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons. In proposing this programme, the Soviet Union proceeded from the firm conviction that future security would be nuclear-free security. The Soviet leadership and the Defence Council of the Soviet Union, of which I am the head, constantly focus their attention on the security of the country, the security of our allies, and universal security. We do not have the slightest doubt that the security of the world and the survival of mankind must be ensured by joint efforts and political means, and not by weapons.

The common sense of all peoples, an overwhelming majority of parties and movements, and the natural instinct of self-preservation refuse to accept the logic of the suicide of mankind. Aware of its high responsibility to the world, the Soviet Union favours finding mutually acceptable solutions with a view to creating a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world.

At the Forum held recently in Moscow we once again observed the expectations, concerns and intense quests of eminent persons in the fields of science, culture, politics and religion and again became keenly aware of the crucial nature of our times.

The Reykjavik meeting showed that nuclear disarmament is a quite realistic policy. In the capital of Iceland we were one step away from an agreement on a whole range of decisions which, taken together, would have signified a deep breakthrough on the front of nuclear danger. Herein lies the greatness and tragedy of the Reykjavik meeting. Its greatness lay in the fact that a realistic prospect of a nuclear-free world was opened up. Its tragedy lay in the fact that powerful forces, held captive by a nuclear-strength mentality, opposed those agreements.

What has happened since the Reykjavik meeting is common knowledge. The United States Government backed away from what was achieved. The Soviet-United States talks are again being deliberately blocked, despite our efforts to make them dynamic and pragmatic. The same officials who regarded it as logical to consider in Reykjavik a package of proposals covering strategic offensive weapons, medium-range missiles, space weaponry, and nuclear tests, are now preoccupied with sabotaging agreements in each of these areas by claiming that the Soviet Union insists on solving these issues as a package. In actual fact the talks are being blocked by narrow selfish interests, by unwillingness to abandon the hope of gaining military and technological superiority, and by illusory expectations of taking the lead, first of all, via outer space.

To us, this approach is not only alien, it is unacceptable. Our position of principle is tirelessly to seek solutions which open the way to mutually acceptable agreements and to equal security.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, having recently considered the package of issues connected with the implementation of the programme for a nuclear-weapon-free world, has decided to make yet another important step in this direction.

Today, on behalf of the Soviet leadership, I am announcing our decision, which is as follows.

The Soviet Union proposes that the problem of medium-range missiles deployed in Europe should be singled out from the package of issues and a separate agreement concluded on it without delay. There already exists, not simply the basis for implementing this proposal, but an agreement ready to be applied. It was agreed in Reykjavik that the Soviet Union and the United States would eliminate all their medium-range missiles in Europe within the next five years. Within the same period the number of Soviet missiles of this type deployed in the Asian part of our territory would be cut down to a hundred warheads, on the understanding that the United States could leave the same number of medium-range missile warheads in its national territory.

As soon as an agreement on eliminating Soviet and United States medium-range missiles in Europe is signed, the Soviet Union will withdraw from the German Democratic Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, by agreement with the Governments of those countries, the longer range theatre missiles deployed there in response to the deployment of Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in Western Europe. As far as other theatre missiles are concerned, we are prepared to begin talks immediately with a view to reducing and fully eliminating them.

There is thus a real opportunity to free our common European territory from a considerable portion of the nuclear burden within a very short time. That would be a huge practical step towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe. We are making these proposals in the context of the negotiations with the United States in Geneva.

We have been assured more than once that if the USSR singled out the issue of medium-range missiles from the Reykjavik package, there would be no difficulty in agreeing to their elimination in Europe. A good opportunity is now being offered to prove that in practice. This is being awaited by the Europeans and the peoples of other continents, and is required in the interests of the present and the future.

In singling out the issue of medium-range missiles in Europe now, the Soviet Government still considers it highly important to reach agreement on substantial limitation and then complete elimination of strategic weapons. Of course, the conclusion of such an agreement, as has been repeatedly emphasized, should be linked to the decision to prevent deployment of weapons in outer space, in view of the organic interconnection of these issues.

Despite all the difficulties and artificial obstructions, the Soviet Union is again demonstrating its will to resolve the nuclear disarmament issue. The new way of thinking means an ability to listen to the voice of the public in Europe and throughout the world to understand the concerns and interests of other peoples, and

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to refrain from separating one's own security from the security of one's neighbours in our interdependent world.

This historic opportunity should not be missed! We are awaiting a speedy and positive reply.

