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* Reissued for technical reasons.

Letter dated 6 December 1991 from the Permanent
Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of Appeal of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to Parliaments and Peoples of the World, adopted on 5 December 1991 (see annex).

I request that you circulate the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 56, 60, 61, 62, 68, 77, 93, 98, 127 and 135.

(Signed) Guennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

ANNEX

Appeal of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine
to Parliaments and Peoples of the World, adopted on
5 December 1991

On 1 December 1991, the people of Ukraine reaffirmed, of its own free will, the Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine, adopted by the Parliament of Ukraine on 24 August 1991.

More than 90 per cent of those who took part in the referendum voted for an independent Ukraine.

Parliamentary observers from many countries of the world and representatives of the European Parliament and the Office for Free Elections of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as members of the Ukrainian public and foreign observers, have testified to the democratic nature of the referendum and the absence of violations while it was being held.

The centuries-old dreams and aspirations of one of Europe's most numerous peoples to restore their repeatedly frustrated statehood have been realized.

Ukraine considers the 1922 Treaty on the Formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to be null and void with respect to Ukraine.

Ukraine is building a democratic State based on the rule of law, whose immediate objective is to guarantee human rights and freedoms. To that end, Ukraine will strictly abide by the rules of international law, guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights, which the Ukraine has ratified, and by other relevant international instruments. Ukraine is prepared to accede to European human rights instruments, including the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms.

Desiring to reaffirm, in an independent and democratic Ukraine, the lofty principles of freedom, democracy, humanism, social justice and the equality of all the nationalities that constitute the people of Ukraine, the Parliament adopted, on 1 November 1991, the Declaration of the rights of the nationalities of Ukraine, according to which the Ukrainian State guarantees all peoples, national groups and citizens who live in its territory equal political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights and the freedom of religious convictions.

Wishing to ensure well-being and conditions for a free labour market in a free State, the independent Ukraine is making the transition to a market economy, and recognizes the equality of all forms of property and the importance of private property. By an act dated 10 September 1991, Ukraine protects foreign investments and provides guarantees to foreign investors.

Ukraine, one of the founding States of the United Nations, in full accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, will conduct a foreign policy aimed at strengthening world peace and security and encouraging international cooperation in the solution of environmental, energy, food and other global problems. Ukraine's foreign policy will be based on the universally recognized principles of international law.

As a European State, Ukraine is prepared to accede to the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and other instruments of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Ukraine calls upon the parliaments and Governments of the countries members of the Conference to support its intention to become a full-fledged and direct participant in the all-European process and to take part in other European institutions.

Ukraine is prepared to establish diplomatic relations with other States and to engage in bilateral relations with them on the basis of equality of rights, sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, and recognition of territorial integrity and the inviolability of existing frontiers.

Ukraine considers its territory to be indivisible and inviolable. It recognizes the inviolability of the existing State frontiers and has no territorial claims on any other State.

Ukraine reaffirms its international commitments in accordance with the Law on the succession of Ukraine, adopted on 22 September 1991, and will fulfil all its obligations under international treaties concluded by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in so far as those obligations do not conflict with the Constitution and national interests of Ukraine.

In accordance with the declaration of the Parliament of Ukraine dated 13 October 1991, Ukraine is prepared, either independently or through an international mechanism, to pay its share of the external debt and to receive its share of the assets of the former Soviet Union, in accordance with the principle of separate liability.

Ukraine will adhere to the 1991 Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms as it applies to the nuclear weapons situated in its territory.

In accordance with the Declaration on the State sovereignty of Ukraine adopted by the Parliament of Ukraine on 16 July 1990 and the Declaration of the Parliament of Ukraine of 14 October 1991 on the non-nuclear status of Ukraine, Ukraine will not be a nuclear State. To that end, Ukraine intends to enter into negotiations with all interested States with a view to signing international agreements.

Ukraine welcomes the proposals on assistance in the destruction of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arms situated in its territory and is ready to accept such assistance.

As a non-nuclear State, Ukraine intends to accede to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to sign an appropriate agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency on safeguards concerning the observance of that Treaty.

Ukraine does not possess and does not manufacture chemical weapons and advocates their universal elimination and prohibition. Ukraine is a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and on Their Destruction.

In accordance with the Declaration of the Presidium of the Parliament of Ukraine of 22 November 1991 on the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Ukraine regards as binding those provisions of the Treaty concerning all conventional armed forces that are situated in its territory. The armed forces of Ukraine are subject to that Treaty. The armed forces are being established exclusively to defend the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the frontiers of Ukraine and will be of the minimum size required for purely defence purposes.

Ukraine believes that its military potential will also depend on the extent to which its security will be guaranteed by all-European mechanisms.

Ukraine is implementing a programme on the conversion of the defence industry and the retraining of a considerable part of the former Soviet Union's military and technical potential situated in its territory for its social and economic development needs.

Thus, a democratic and independent Ukraine is a tangible and irrefutable reality.

Parliaments and peoples of the world! Wishing to make our contribution to world civilization and defending our statehood through peaceful means, we hope that this appeal will meet with your understanding.
