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

Letter dated 11 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a Declaration of the European Council on developments in the Soviet Union, issued on 10 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 68.

(Signed) Robert J. van SCHAİK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration on developments in the Soviet Union

The European Council took note of the decision of the Republics of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia to form a "Commonwealth of Independent States", which other Republics have been invited to join. It also took note of President Gorbachev's statement on 9 December 1991.

The European Council underlines the necessity for a constructive dialogue among all parties concerned to ensure that the process of transformation of the Soviet Union, which has entered a crucial phase, continues in a peaceful, democratic and orderly manner.

The European Council welcomes the fact that the three Republics engaged in this comprehensive process of change have declared that they mutually recognize and respect each other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of the borders existing in the context of their Commonwealth.

The European Council is pleased to note that these Republics have at the same time reaffirmed their readiness to respect the international commitments of the Soviet Union and to ensure single control of nuclear weapons on their territory.

The European Council recalls the importance that the Community and its member States attach to respect for and implementation by all Republics of all provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other relevant provisions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe regarding human rights and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. It also recalls that according to these provisions, the frontiers of all States in Europe are inviolable and can only be changed by peaceful means and agreement. Furthermore, the Community and its member States attach particular importance to necessary measures being taken without delay at the level of the Republics concerned to put into effect the agreements in the field of arms control, nuclear non-proliferation and the effective control and security of nuclear weapons. The Community and its member States also subscribe to the principle that Republics acceding to sovereignty should, for their part, respect the obligations deriving from the external debt of the Soviet Union.

At a moment when these Republics express democratically and peacefully their will to accede to full sovereignty, the Community and its member States wish to open with them, in a spirit of cooperation, a dialogue regarding the development of their mutual relationship.

The European Council also expresses the wish that these Republics develop among themselves the structures of cooperation required to facilitate their insertion in the international community under conditions appropriate to ensure the security, stability and legitimate fulfilment of all.