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Items 55 and 58 of the preliminary list*

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

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

Letter dated 24 June 1981 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 the text of the appeal from the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the parliaments and peoples of the world, adopted at the fifth session of the tenth convocation of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 23 June 1981.

I should be grateful if you would distribute this appeal as an official document of the General Assembly under items 55 and 58 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

* A/36/50.

ANNEX

Appeal from 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, alarmed by the increased military danger and the unprecedented scope of the arms race, issues an appeal to the parliaments and peoples of the world.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR is making this appeal at a time when 40 years have elapsed since the attack on our fatherland by the Hitlerite Fascists. The Soviet people bow their heads in respectful memory of their 20 million compatriots who died in the war. The Second World War brought incalculable calamities and suffering to all mankind. We profoundly revere the memory of all those who gave their lives in the struggle to combat aggression and achieve peace on earth.

History has taught a grim lesson. The peoples paid too dear a price for failing to prevent war and to avert the impending threat in time. The tragedy must not be allowed to recur. We can and must do everything possible to prevent another world war.

The planet is already over-saturated with weapons of mass destruction. But the build-up of such weapons is continuing, and increasingly sophisticated and destructive weapons are appearing. Launching pads for hundreds of new nuclear missiles are being prepared in Western Europe. Attempts are being made to accustom people to the criminal idea that the use of nuclear weapons is permissible.

There is an upsurge in political tension. The stake is once again the attainment of military supremacy and the language of threats has been brought into service. Claims are openly being advanced to interference in the affairs of other countries and peoples. And all this is covered up by a gross fabrication about the "Soviet military threat".

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR solemnly declares: the Soviet Union is not threatening anybody and is not aiming at confrontation with a single State in the West or in the East. The Soviet Union has not been and is not striving for military supremacy. It has not been and will not be the initiator of new stages of the arms race. There is no type of weapon which it has not agreed to limit and to ban on a basis of reciprocity, through an understanding with other States.

The achievement of peace was, is and will be the highest goal of the foreign policy of the Soviet State. This is the aim of the Programme of Peace for the 1980s, adopted at the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It comprises measures to curtail both nuclear missiles and conventional weapons, contains proposals for the settlement of existing conflicts and crisis situations and the prevention of new ones, and is motivated by efforts to enhance détente and to develop peaceful co-operation among the countries of all continents.

The Programme expresses the readiness of the Soviet Union to conduct negotiations on all pressing questions of peace and security and to consider attentively any constructive ideas from other States.

In our nuclear century, everybody needs dialogue and negotiations to the same extent, just as all need peace, security and confidence in the future. There is currently no other reasonable way of settling controversial problems, however acute and complex they may be, apart from negotiations. No stone must be left unturned. Time waits for no man!

Each day lost for negotiations increases the risk of a nuclear conflict. The solution of the urgent problems facing each people and all peoples is being set aside. Time waits for no man!

In these days, all those who by their actions are encouraging the arms race and the further build-up in the world of means for the mass destruction of people, who are advocating the use of force to settle questions in dispute between States or who are simply closing their eyes to the dangers lying in wait for the world today, are in fact pushing mankind towards the abyss.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR urges the legislative organs of all countries strongly to support negotiations which would result in the prevention of a new phase of the nuclear missile race - negotiations which will be honest and fair, without any preliminary conditions or attempts to dictate a point of view.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR trusts that its appeal will be considered with all the attention that befits this most important, most burning question of our time. It is convinced that the parliaments possess the necessary powers and authority for the effective achievement of a halt to the arms race and for the attainment of disarmament through negotiations. For its part, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR will continue to make its contribution to the creation of an atmosphere which would promote the achievement of positive results by means of negotiations.

Peace is the common property of mankind and is at present also the foremost prerequisite for man's existence. Through joint efforts alone, it can and must be preserved and placed on a reliable basis.

SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR

Moscow

23 June 1981
