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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 23 September 1996 from the Permanent
Representative of Georgia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the President of Georgia, His Excellency Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, regarding the opening of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty for signature at United Nations Headquarters.

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly under agenda item 66.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement by Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, President of Georgia,
on 23 September 1996

With the end of the cold war, the possibility of a nuclear catastrophe was significantly diminished. Mankind is entering the twenty-first century, which will be a nuclear age.

Today, Georgia is signing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. I believe that this Treaty will strongly impact the peace process, leading to nuclear non-proliferation and the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons on our planet.

Peace is as basic a need as air to breathe. Like the rest of the world, Georgia and the peoples of the Caucasus need peace to address the problems of poverty, hunger, aggressive separatism, terrorism, the threat of environmental degradation, so that the process of growth and revival can expand and become irreversible.

I am proud that during the struggle to end the cold war, my colleagues and I, our partners, and other like-minded people were doing the utmost to ban the testing of nuclear weapons, to eliminate them totally, and to promote public awareness of these issues.

Saying no to nuclear weapons is an indispensable precondition for the solution of these problems, and we salute this serious step of the international community.
