



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/12161
4 August 1976
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH/RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 2 AUGUST 1976 FROM THE CHARGES D'AFFAIRES, A.I.,
OF THE PERMANENT MISSIONS OF FRANCE AND THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to send you the texts of the letters exchanged on
16 July 1976 by Mr. Jean Sauvagnargues, Minister for Foreign Affairs of France,
and Mr. Andrei Gromyko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, constituting
an agreement between France and the Soviet Union on the prevention of the
accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons.

We request you kindly to issue the texts of these letters as an official
Security Council document.

(Signed) Jacques LECOMPT
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.,
Deputy Permanent Representative
of France to the United Nations

(Signed) Mikhail KHARLAMOV
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.,
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to the United Nations

Annex I

LETTER DATED 16 JULY 1976 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, MR. ANDREI GROMYKO,
ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FRANCE,
MR. JEAN SAUVAGNARGUES

As a result of our conversation of 28 April 1976, we considered it desirable to reaffirm the importance attached in the USSR and in France to the prevention of the accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons. Such an initiative is in keeping with the special responsibilities incumbent on the Soviet Union and France as nuclear Powers.

Having regard to the views exchanged concerning measures to avoid any risk of such accidental or unauthorized use, it was agreed that the following provisions should be adopted:

1. Each Party undertakes to maintain and, possibly, improve, as it deems necessary, its existing organizational and technical arrangements to prevent the accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons under its control.

2. The two Parties undertake to notify each other immediately of any accidental occurrence or any other unexplained incident that could lead to the explosion of one of their nuclear weapons and could be construed as likely to have harmful effects on the other Party.

3. In the event of an unexplained nuclear incident, each Party undertakes to act in such a manner as to avoid, as far as possible, the possibility of its actions being misinterpreted by the other Party. In any such situation, each Party may inform the other Party or request such information as it considers necessary.

4. For transmission of urgent information in situations requiring prompt clarification, the Parties shall make primary use of the Direct Communications Link between the Kremlin and the Elysée Palace.

5. The two Parties shall consider together the possibility of further improving, by mutual agreement, their means of direct communication.

If the above points meet with your approval, I have the honour to propose that this letter and your reply should constitute an agreement between the Soviet Union and France.

This agreement shall enter into force on today's date.

(Signed) Andrei GROMYKO
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the USSR

/...

Annex II

LETTER DATED 16 JULY 1976 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF FRANCE, MR. JEAN SAUVAGNARGUES, ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,
MR. ANDREI GROMYKO

As a result of our conversation of 28 April 1976, we considered it desirable to reaffirm the importance attached in France and the USSR to the prevention of the accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons. Such an initiative is in keeping with the special responsibilities incumbent upon France and the Soviet Union as nuclear Powers.

Having regard to the views exchanged concerning measures to prevent any risk of such accidental or unauthorized use, it was agreed that the following provisions should be adopted:

1. Each Party shall undertake to maintain and, possibly, improve, as it deems necessary, its existing organizational and technical arrangements to prevent the accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons under its control.

2. The two Parties undertake to notify each other immediately of any accidental occurrence or any other unexplained incident that could lead to the explosion of one of their nuclear weapons and could be construed as likely to have harmful effects on the other Party.

3. In the event of an unexplained nuclear incident, each Party undertakes to act in such a manner as to avoid, as far as possible, the possibility of its actions being misinterpreted by the other Party. In any such situation, each Party may inform the other Party or request such information as it considers necessary.

4. For transmission of urgent information in situations requiring prompt clarification, the Parties shall make primary use of the Direct Communications Link existing between the Elysée Palace and the Kremlin.

5. The two Parties shall consider together the possibility of further improving, by mutual agreement, their means of direct communication.

If the foregoing points meet with your approval, I have the honour to propose that this letter and your reply should constitute an agreement between France and the Soviet Union.

This agreement shall enter into force on today's date.

(Signed) Jean SAUVAGNARGUES
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of France
