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Items 73, 78 and 136 of the  
provisional agenda\*

COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING  
OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Letter dated 22 September 1988 from Deputy Head of the Delegation of  
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the forty-third session  
of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward the text of an aide-mémoire entitled "Towards comprehensive security through the enhancement of the role of the United Nations".

Kindly arrange for this text to be distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under items 73, 78 and 136 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) V. PETROVSKY  
Deputy Head of Delegation  
of the USSR

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\* A/43/150.

ANNEX

Towards comprehensive security through the enhancement  
of the role of the United Nations

(Aide-mémoire)

The purpose of the discussion within the United Nations of the item "Comprehensive system of international peace and security" is to launch a broad international dialogue, above all within the United Nations, on the ways and means of ensuring comprehensive security in military, political, economic, ecological, humanitarian, including human rights, and other fields on the basis of strict compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and the enhanced role and effectiveness of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and in the solution of global problems.

The fundamental position of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on this subject is contained in the article by M. S. Gorbachev "Reality and safeguards for a secure world" (see A/42/574-S/19143, annex). On the eve of the forty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Soviet Union is stating its approach to certain specific aspects of ensuring comprehensive security, namely: enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations and of its main bodies, more extensive use of United Nations peace-keeping operations and the affirmation of the primacy of international law in inter-State relations. At the same time the USSR is also prepared to discuss other aspects of international security as may be proposed by other States.

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In the opinion of the Soviet Union the search by all States for ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations should be aimed at the full and unselective implementation of the provisions of the Charter, active use of its machinery and procedures, and promotion of the ability of the United Nations to take effective preventive measures to avert international crises and conflicts. The USSR proposes that efforts be made to reduce the level of confrontation within the United Nations and that the atmosphere of fruitful co-operation among States within the Organization become a rule.

The following measures could contribute to a greater effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council:

- Arrangements for closer interaction among the permanent members of the Council; the permanent members could study the possibility of elaborating such measures, procedures and mutual obligations in the spirit of restraint and self-limitation, and respect for the freedom of choice of the peoples, which would rule out the involvement of major Powers in confrontations through regional conflicts;

- A more active use of the mechanisms for formal and informal consultations among Security Council members with the participation of the Secretary-General as well as, if need be, of the parties directly involved;
- The holding, in some cases, of formal closed meetings by the Security Council, which will make it possible to concentrate on expanding the scope of agreement and deeper consideration of the problems where agreement is emerging, without mandatory adoption of any final documents;
- The holding by the Security Council of periodic meetings at the foreign-minister level in the course or on the eve of General Assembly sessions, which, however, should not duplicate the general debate at the sessions.

The General Assembly could tangibly increase its contribution to resolving international problems by updating and improving its methods and style of operation in the following fields:

- The preparation and adoption of a greater number of General Assembly decisions on the basis of consensus reflecting the balance of interests of States;
- The maintenance of the prestige and the prevention of political devaluation of General Assembly recommendations adopted by voting;
- Monitoring the implementation of General Assembly resolutions;
- Holding of special sessions of the General Assembly on individual concrete matters related to ensuring comprehensive security.

The Soviet Union would not oppose:

- The universalization of the Economic and Social Council;
- The elimination of some of its subsidiary bodies, provided that their functions are to be performed by the Council itself;
- The extension of the duration of the Council's sessions, holding of theme sessions, if necessary, sessions of the Council at the ministerial level to discuss practical issues of promoting international economic, scientific, technical, social and humanitarian co-operation.

The Soviet Union stands for a greater role of the Secretary-General and deems it important that a constructive approach prevail within the United Nations towards his peace-making efforts, based on the understanding that under the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with the practice of the Organization he is within his rights to take initiative in promoting the solution of questions of ensuring international peace and security. The Secretary-General could:

- Request the convening of the Security Council;

- Inform the Council on a regular basis, including confidentially, on the developments in a conflict area or on other matters that may be of interest to the Security Council;
- More often propose to the Security Council various measures for the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts as well as with regard to other matters of ensuring comprehensive security;
- Submit for the consideration of the Council, on his own initiative, reports on individual matters regarding the maintenance of international peace and security including disarmament.

It would be useful to introduce a regular practice of thorough consideration by General Assembly sessions of annual reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Organization and of the adoption, if necessary, of decisions on the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

The Soviet Union assumes that raising the role of the United Nations presupposes the ensuring of a sound administrative and budgetary foundation of the Organization, namely: making its intergovernmental machinery more economical; strict and full compliance by all States without exception with their financial and other obligations towards the United Nations; economical and rational use of the financial resources of the United Nations; greater efficiency of the United Nations Secretariat and streamlining of its structure.

## II

The Soviet Union wants to see the positive experience and practice of United Nations peace-keeping operations consolidated and further developed and put on a more solid legal and financial basis.

These United Nations operations could be used more extensively for the implementation of Security Council decisions as well as for the prevention of emerging armed conflicts.

The following possibilities could be studied for these purposes:

- The use of United Nations personnel in situations where accusations are made of outside interference for the purpose of destabilizing existing Governments;
- The establishment by the Security Council after consultations with the appropriate regional organizations of United Nations observation posts in explosive areas of the world;
- The use by the Security Council of special missions, which would include representatives of the public as well as officials;
- The stationing of United Nations observers along frontiers within the territory of a country that seeks to protect itself from outside interference at the request of that country alone;

- The dispatch by the General Assembly of observation and fact-finding missions (civilian, military, mixed) in agreement with the Security Council and with the consent of the country (countries) to whose territory the missions would be dispatched;
- The dispatch of military observer missions on the same grounds at the initiative of the Secretary-General and as decided by him and authorized by the Security Council, above all for preventing a possible conflict.

The establishment of a reserve of military observers and armed forces of the United Nations: the USSR is prepared to participate in the formation on a mutual basis with other countries of a system of personnel training for service in the United Nations troops.

In individual cases, if need be and if United Nations Member States display such interest, the Soviet Union would be prepared to consider the question of providing for the conduct of the United Nations peace-keeping operations its military contingents as well.

The Soviet Union could take part in the logistics support for the United Nations forces; supply transportation means for moving units of the United Nations forces to the areas of their stationing; military equipment; communications means; medical personnel; medical supplies and so on.

The USSR deems acceptable various kinds of approach to the methods of solving the question of financing the operations: on a voluntary basis, at the expense of the receiving side (or sides), fully or partially from the United Nations budget. Practicality and regard for the interests and positions of the majority of the Member States should serve as criteria in this.

The activities of the Committee of 33 should be intensified and the organization of its work should be put on a regular basis. It is important to accelerate the harmonization of the procedures for peace-keeping operations on the basis of existing practice and the experience available in this field. The Committee could also consider matters related to the organization by the United Nations Secretariat of a programme of training of national military contingents detailed for possible United Nations use; summarizing the practice of United Nations force operations; standardization of agreements on the "status of United Nations forces"; setting up an international United Nations training centre for personnel to serve in United Nations troops; holding regional and international seminars on these subjects.

### III

The Soviet Union stands for more extensive use of the potential of the International Court of Justice in solving outstanding international legal issues.

In the opinion of the USSR the international agreements to be developed under the auspices of the United Nations could include, where appropriate, special provisions envisaging adjudication by the International Court of Justice of disputes resulting from the interpretation and application of such agreements. The

General Assembly and the Security Council could ask it more often for advisory opinions on outstanding international legal matters. The mandatory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice must be recognized by everybody on mutually agreed terms.

The Soviet Union is convinced that the comprehensive system of security is at the same time a system of universal law and order that ensures the primacy of international law in politics.

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