



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/11161  
18 December 1973  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

---

LETTER DATED 18 DECEMBER 1973 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

... I have received the attached letters from the Permanent Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America concerning the forthcoming Conference on the Middle East. I should be grateful if you would communicate these letters to the members of the Security Council. It is my intention to proceed on the basis of these letters which I consider to be in accordance with Security Council resolution 344 (1973) of 15 December 1973.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM

Letter dated 18 December 1973 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

On 22 October 1973, the Security Council adopted resolution 338 (1973) jointly sponsored by the Soviet Union and the United States, which calls for negotiations to start between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices, aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East. The Soviet Union and the United States have now been informed by the parties concerned of their readiness to participate in the Peace Conference, which will begin in Geneva on 21 December this year. The Conference will be convened under the auspices of the United Nations.

The parties have agreed that the Conference should proceed under the joint chairmanship of the Soviet Union and the United States. The parties have also agreed that the question of other participants from the Middle East area will be discussed during the first stage of the Conference.

We hope that you will find it possible to participate in the opening of the Conference at which it is hoped the Governments concerned will be represented by their respective Foreign Ministers and later by their specially appointed representatives with the rank of Ambassador.

We also hope that you will make available a representative who will keep you fully informed of the course of the work of the Conference. And finally, we should be grateful if the United Nations could provide the necessary facilities for the work of the Conference.

If, as we hope, you find it possible to participate, the Soviet Union and the United States, as co-chairmen, would be grateful if you would agree to act as convener of the Conference and to preside at its opening.

We request you to circulate this letter to the members of the Security Council for their information. We believe that it would be appropriate for the President of the Security Council to hold informal consultations with the members of the Council with a view to obtaining a favourable consensus in the Council.

(Signed) Y. MALIK  
Permanent Representative of the USSR  
to the United Nations

Letter dated 18 December 1973 from the Acting Permanent  
Representative of the United States of America to the  
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the following letter from Secretary Kissinger.

"Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

"On October 22, 1973, the Security Council adopted resolution 338 (1973), jointly sponsored by the Soviet Union and the United States, which calls for negotiations to start between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices, aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East. The Soviet Union and the United States have now been informed by the parties concerned of their readiness to participate in the Peace Conference which will begin in Geneva on December 21. The Conference should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations.

"The parties have agreed that the Conference should be under the co-chairmanship of the Soviet Union and the United States. The parties have also agreed that the question of other participants from the Middle East area will be discussed during the first stage of the Conference.

"It is our hope that you will find it possible to participate in the opening phase of the Conference at which it is expected that the Governments concerned will be represented by their respective Foreign Ministers and, later, by their specially appointed representatives with ambassadorial rank. We also hope that you can make available a representative who would keep you fully informed as the Conference proceeds. Finally, we would also appreciate it if the United Nations could make appropriate arrangements for the necessary conference facilities.

"If as we hope you find it possible to participate, as co-chairmen the Soviet Union and the United States would appreciate it if you would agree to serve as convener of the Conference and preside in the opening phase.

"We request that you circulate this letter to members of the Security Council for their information. We believe it would be appropriate for the President of the Security Council to consult informally with the membership with a view to securing a favorable consensus of the Council."

(Signed) W. Tapley BENNETT, Jr.  
Acting Permanent Representative  
of the United States of America  
to the United Nations

-----