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preliminary list\*

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

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

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND  
SECURITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 12 June 1989 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 herewith a message dated 9 June 1989 from the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR to the peoples of the world.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 63, 72, 73 and 83 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) A. BELONOGOV

\* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Message from the Congress of People's Deputies of the  
USSR to the peoples of the world

We, the People's Deputies of the USSR, have gathered at our first Congress for the purpose of laying, in an atmosphere of glasnost and openness, the legal foundations for the comprehensive democratic renewal of our socialist society. As plenipotentiary representatives of the many millions of Soviet people, we are fully conscious of our historic responsibility. We recognize that the problems facing our country today are immense, and we believe that there is no alternative to a radical restructuring of all aspects of Soviet life. We have chosen this path deliberately and resolutely, and we shall not stray from it.

At the centre of our attention is man, with his joys and sorrows, cares and hopes. We are convinced that socialist society does not and cannot have a moral reference point other than the interests of the people and the aspirations and rights of the free human being.

Perestroika is the internal affair of the peoples of the Soviet Union; it was born out of the urgent needs of our country. But we are not separating ourselves from the international community and from the processes which determine the face of contemporary civilization, and we take the freedom of the individual, democracy and social justice as the basic values on which our society should be built.

We regard perestroika as a part of the increasing democratization of the entire world order, and as a contribution of the Soviet Union to the solution of the global problems confronting mankind. All of those problems are closely interrelated and tied in a dangerously, tight knot. That knot can and must be untied, but that requires the concerted efforts of the international community to ensure its own survival.

Perestroika changes our attitude to the surrounding world in a fundamental way. Today we are open to the world and prepared to co-operate with everyone for whom human life and dignity are the highest values, and we count on mutual understanding.

In today's rapidly changing world it is not possible to live according to old rules and standards. It is not possible to count on strengthening one's own security and ensuring one's own well-being while disregarding the interests of others. It is senseless to turn international relations into an arena for ideological warfare. It is criminal to sap the world economy through an arms race and to ignore concerns about preserving the human environment. Whatever barriers may separate us, we are all children of Mother Earth and we have one common destiny. We therefore call for an end to enmity and strife among peoples. A new period of peace in the history of mankind is possible, and that possibility must be made a reality.

The Congress solemnly assures the peoples of the planet that it assumes responsibility for the Soviet State's strict observance of the principles of peaceful coexistence with other States and peoples.

On the basis of the new political thinking, the Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR has established the principles which should guide the Soviet Union in its conduct of international affairs. Those principles are the following:

- Our country's security should be ensured, primarily through political means, as a component of universal and equal security, through the process of demilitarization, democratization and humanization of international relations, with reliance on the prestige and resources of the United Nations;

- Nuclear weapons should be eliminated as a result of negotiations aimed at disarmament and at reducing countries' defence potential to the point of reasonable sufficiency;

- The use of force or the threat of force to attain political, economic or any other goals are inadmissible;

- Respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in relations with other countries is indispensable;

- Dialogue and negotiations with an eye to the balance of interests, and not confrontation, should become the only way of resolving international issues and settling conflicts;

- The Soviet economy should become an organic part of the world economy on a mutually beneficial and equitable basis and should take an active part in the formulation and observance of the rules governing the present-day international division of labour, exchange of scientific and technological exchanges, and trade.

Our Congress, as the highest organ of State power, declares that the Soviet Union intends to abide strictly by these principles in its foreign policy. That is our foreign policy strategy henceforth and for ever. That is the open and honest policy of the Soviet Union and of perestroika in the international arena. That is the choice of the Soviet people.

We appeal to the peoples of the world and to world public opinion to develop, in every way possible, an exchange of ideas and peoples and of cultural and spiritual values, contacts and a dialogue at all levels and in all spheres, and to join forces in seeking and finding mutually acceptable compromises for the sake of preserving peace on Earth and for the prosperity and progress of all mankind.

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