



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/32/114  
14 June 1977  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

Thirty-second session  
Item 37 of the preliminary list\*

CONCLUSION OF A WORLD TREATY ON THE NON-USE OF FORCE  
IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Letter dated 14 June 1977 from the Permanent Representative  
of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 9 June 1977 from Mr. Petar Mladenov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 31/9 of 8 November 1976, concerning the conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 37 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Alexander YANKOV  
Ambassador  
Deputy Foreign Minister  
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria  
to the United Nations

\* A/32/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 9 June 1977 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Bulgaria to the Secretary-General

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in accordance with its peaceful foreign policy, has from the very beginning supported the initiative of the USSR relating to the conclusion of a World Treaty on the Non-Use of Force in International Relations. During the discussion of this question at the thirty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly the representatives of Bulgaria had the opportunity to voice their opinions on certain aspects of the problem. They expressed the conviction that the conclusion of such a treaty would be a new and important specific step towards the strengthening of international peace and security.

The non-use of force or the threat of force is one of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and other important international instruments, but strict observance of that principle in international relations is still far from being a consistent practice, as may be seen from the existence at this very time of a number of hotbeds of tension and conflict in various parts of the world. Accordingly, there is a real need for the formulation of additional guarantees in this field, following the already existing precedents concretizing and developing the principles of the United Nations in legally binding international treaties. The formulation in precisely such a document of the principle of the non-use of force would strengthen the foundation of the system of collective security established by the United Nations Charter and would contribute effectively to the attainment of lasting peace and security throughout the world and to ensuring the political independence and territorial integrity of all States. The conclusion of such a treaty would also be an indisputable contribution to the cause of strengthening trust among peoples and would give powerful impetus to efforts to further the process of détente in international relations and to extend it to all continents.

As a result of the obligations which States would assume under the future treaty, the prospects for successful settlement of the whole range of problems in the field of disarmament would be significantly enhanced. The confirmation in a single legally binding document of the obligation of all States, including the nuclear States, strictly to observe the principle of the non-use of force in international relations would unquestionably have enormous political and moral significance and would to a considerable extent facilitate efforts to achieve real progress towards the attainment of the final goal, namely, general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

In addition, the proposed treaty would contribute to the further affirmation of the positive elements which in recent decades have enriched the content of the principle of the non-use of force in international relations and have been reflected in a number of documents of the United Nations and other representative international forums, including the principle already recognized in United Nations resolutions of the legality of the struggle of colonial peoples for their freedom by any means at their disposal.

/...

The recent development of the international situation confirms with yet greater force the need for the conclusion of a treaty on the non-use of force in international relations. At the present time when there is a sharp increase in the activity of circles that are striving to turn mankind back to the period of the cold war, even greater significance attaches to every initiative capable of providing a stimulus to the successful joint efforts of all forces struggling for the consolidation of positive tendencies in relations between States.

Statements made during the most recent session of the General Assembly and also the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 31/9 show that the great majority of countries which are Members of the United Nations share the view that the Soviet initiative is appropriate and timely. The People's Republic of Bulgaria considers that at its thirty-second session the General Assembly, after further discussion of the question in the light of the replies which will have been received from Member States, will be fully in a position to proceed to the adoption of measures for the specific formulation of the proposed World Treaty on the basis of the draft submitted by the Soviet Union.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria is prepared to co-operate in a constructive and business-like spirit in the successful fulfilment of that great task.

(Signed) (Signature illegible)  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the People's Republic of  
Bulgaria

-----