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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Note verbale dated 13 August 1976 from the Permanent Mission of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in connexion with General Assembly resolution 3389 (XXX) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, has the honour to communicate the following.

In its foreign policy, which is directed towards the strengthening of peace and international security and the affirmation of the principles of peaceful coexistence in relations between States, the Soviet Union is guided by the decisions of the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, held in February-March 1976, and the Programme for the further struggle for peace and international co-operation and for the freedom and independence of the peoples, adopted by the Congress. In accordance with that Programme, the Soviet Union is pursuing its consistent efforts to further the process of international détente and to extend it to other regions of the world, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

The year which has elapsed since the conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe has confirmed the great significance of that Conference for the strengthening of peace in the European continent and its beneficial influence on the international situation as a whole. It is now extremely important that the joint efforts of all the participants in that Conference should be directed towards the implementation of the agreements reached at Helsinki. With a view to the further development of European co-operation, the USSR has put forward a proposal for the convening of European congresses or

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international meetings on the environment, transport and energy. That proposal is fully in line with the practical implementation of the decisions of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Of outstanding significance for the strengthening of international security is the Programme of action for peace, security, co-operation and social progress in Europe, which was proclaimed by the Conference of European Communist and Workers' Parties, held in Berlin in June 1976.

Despite the new measures to limit the arms race, including the most recent measures, it has still not been possible to put a stop to it. Further efforts must be made to reinforce political détente with military détente. To that end it is essential, in particular, to strive for the implementation of a number of important decisions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at recent sessions, providing for the conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests, the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons, and the reduction of the military budgets of States. The speedy convening of the World Disarmament Conference would also help to attain those goals.

In an effort to reduce still further the threat of war and to strengthen international peace and security, the Soviet Union has put forward a proposal for the conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations. The aim of this proposal is to make the renunciation of the use of force for the purpose of settling disputes in relations between States an immutable law of international life. The parties to the treaty, including, of course, the nuclear Powers, would undertake to refrain from the use of any type of weapons, including nuclear weapons, to settle disputes between themselves. The Soviet Union has declared its readiness to consider, together with other States, practical steps to bring about the implementation of this proposal.

One of the primary tasks in the strengthening of international security is the elimination of all the remaining dangerous hotbeds of tension and military conflict in the Middle East and in Cyprus.

The Soviet Union regards the complete elimination of all the remaining vestiges of systems of colonial oppression, of all the hotbeds of colonialism and racism and of any infringement of the equality of rights and independence of the peoples as an important international problem the solution of which would contribute to the strengthening of international security.

Acting in strict accordance with the Charter, the United Nations must make a practical and substantial contribution to the solution of the above-mentioned important international problems and, thus, to the strengthening of international security.

The Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to circulate this letter as an official document of the General Assembly under item 33 of the provisional agenda for the thirty-first session.