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ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 2 November 1989 from the Permanent Representatives
of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the Finnish-Soviet Declaration signed in Helsinki on 26 October 1989 (see annex).

We request you to circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12, 52, 56, 57, 62, 63, 64, 66, 72, 73, 82 and 146, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Klaus TÖRNUDD^{**}
Permanent Representative
of Finland to the United Nations

(Signed) Aleksandr M. BELONOGOV
Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to the United Nations

ANNEX

Declaration between Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:
New thinking in action

FINLAND, a neutral Nordic country not possessing nuclear weapons and being an active participant in the United Nations and in the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and

THE SOVIET UNION, a nuclear power extending into Europe and Asia, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a member of the Warsaw Treaty Organization,

Proceeding on the assumption that prerequisites are now emerging for a decisive turn for the better in Europe and in international relations, for the consistent creation of a world that is more just and more democratic, a world free of nuclear weapons and free from the use of force,

Endeavouring, in accordance with their potential, roles and responsibilities, to contribute, through concrete measures, to the building of such a world in the spirit of new thinking, by developing and adapting new ideas,

Reaffirming their determination to observe the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, as well as of the decisions of the CSCE follow-up,

Proceeding on the decades-long experience of good-neighbourliness and interaction, gained during the validity of the 1948 Treaty on Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance,

Considering the position of each country and the special character of their foreign policies, and their socio-political and value systems, as well as the differences in their national characters and, convinced that these differences will not constitute an obstacle to constructive international activities,

Desiring to build a better future,

DECLARE THEIR RESOLVE to strengthen, in Europe and in international relations, the following principles and priorities:

Political relations

Active participation in the creation of a world where there is no use of force, intimidation, inequality, oppression, discrimination, nor interference in the internal affairs of other countries. All disputes, including regional conflicts, shall be settled solely peacefully through political means. One's own security must not be obtained at the expense of the security of others. The use of force of any kind cannot be justified: neither by a military alliance against

another alliance, nor within these alliances, nor against neutral countries from any quarter. Common security requires the elimination of military confrontation.

Absolute respect for the principle of the freedom of social and political choice, deideologization and humanization of the relations between States, adherence to international law in foreign policy activities, and giving priority to human interests and values.

Guaranteeing of international security through step-by-step nuclear disarmament on the basis of reliable political and legal guarantees as well as of a strict observance of the interests of all States. These efforts should include, as an interim stage, an exact and urgent definition of the concrete parameters of the minimum deterrence concerning nuclear armaments, including tactical nuclear weapons.

Early achievement of agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States on a reduction, by 50 per cent, of strategic offensive weapons, on a complete and comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons, and on the cessation of nuclear tests.

Reduction of the conventional armed forces deployed in Europe of the member States of the military alliances, which would effectively eliminate the capability for launching surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action, to the level of reasonable sufficiency for defensive purposes. Full contribution to the achievement of extensive agreements in the Vienna negotiations as early as 1990, which could be confirmed at the highest level.

Early development of a qualitatively new generation of confidence- and security-building measures in Europe, and expansion of their scope of application.

Creation of an extensive and reliable control system for the disarmament process.

A global policy of openness comprising air space, land and water territories as well as outer space, which would contribute to comprehensive international security.

Economic relations

Equal and free interaction between economic systems and integration processes on the basis of extensive commercial and economic, scientific and technical as well as industrial co-operation, with a view to establishing a more efficient joint utilization of the material and spiritual resources of Europe and other countries. Improvement of the possibilities of all countries for participation in the activities of such international economic organizations and monetary institutions as GATT, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank.

Prevention of the deepening of differences in economic development by supporting a balanced economic growth. Solving of the problems relating to the

utilization of natural resources in a manner corresponding to the development interests of different countries, with a view to improving the quality of life.

Protection of the environment

Restoration of the balance between man and nature as well as recovery of the human habitat by combining scientific and technical development and the improvement of the condition of global and regional ecosystems.

Support for environmentally sustainable economic development as well as development and exchange of environmentally sound technology as the joint responsibility of all States, and arranging the financing of the measures for environmental protection, if necessary, internationally. The objective is to have the environmental aspects taken into consideration in the political and economic decision-making on the global, regional and national levels.

A more efficient utilization of the possibilities of the United Nations and its Economic Commission for Europe in resolving common environmental problems. Among the problems requiring most urgent measures are unfavourable atmospheric changes and air pollutants. Efforts must be made to achieve significant results at the United Nations conference on environment and development in 1992.

Protection and restoration of regional ecosystems, development of international co-operation for the protection of the Arctic environment, as well as revival of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea.

Human dimension

Implementation everywhere to their fullest extent of the human rights and fundamental freedoms that have been internationally agreed on, as the yardstick of the practice of States, a dynamic implementation of the human dimension of the CSCE process and its enrichment in the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the next meetings of which will be held in Copenhagen in 1990 and in Moscow in 1991.

Free and open exchange of people, ideas, information, spiritual and cultural values, and of the experience to be gained from the socio-economic and political development, with a view to eradicating deep-rooted patterns of thinking and enemy perceptions of the past, to preventing their re-emergence, and to replacing them in the consciousness of new generations, above all of the youth, with the image of a partner.

Harmonization of the laws, regulations, practices, and policies of States with their international obligations.

Respect for the free practising of the rights of national ethnic minorities and safeguarding of their complete equality with others without discrimination of any kind.

Strengthening of the parliamentary dimension of the European dialogue, intensification of the contacts between representatives of parliaments, and a mutual utilization of the experience gained from the functioning of democratic bodies, among others, the Council of Europe and the European Parliament and the Nordic Council, as well as encouraging extensive European contacts by all social circles.

Intensive action to combat elements of danger transcending national boundaries, including international terrorism, crime, drugs, and epidemics.

Promoting and deepening of the CSCE process in its entirety, both conceptually and practically, a gradual advance towards a unified Europe - a Europe of States adhering to the rule of law, a Europe of trust, harmony, openness, and stability, a Europe that does not withdraw into itself but is open towards all continents.

Convening of a new meeting at the highest level of the CSCE participating States in connection with the follow-up meeting opening in Helsinki in 1992.

On the basis of the present declaration Finland and the Soviet Union will build their international activities and interaction for the benefit of peace, as well as their good-neighbourliness and co-operation. They call upon other countries and peoples to join in this task.

Helsinki, 26 October 1989

Mauno KOIVISTO

M. S. GORBACHEV
