

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 6 JUNE 1984 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TRANSMITTING  
THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OF  
31 MAY 1984 IN CONNECTION WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION  
OF ARGENTINA, GREECE, INDIA, MEXICO, SWEDEN AND TANZANIA

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement of the Soviet Government of 31 May 1984 in connection with the Joint Declaration of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden addressed to the nuclear Powers.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) V. Issraelyan

Representative of the USSR  
to the Conference on Disarmament

## STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT

The dangerous development of the situation in the world gives rise to legitimate alarm and concern on the part of peoples. The increasing pace of the arms race and the real danger of its spreading to new areas and escaping control sharply increase the risk of the outbreak of nuclear war. There is a growing understanding in the world, of the need for the adoption of urgent measures to halt the slide towards the fatal brink.

The Joint Declaration which the Heads of State and Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden addressed to all nuclear Powers is imbued with an awareness of the responsibility of all States to protect the world from the threat of nuclear catastrophe. The central point of the Declaration is an appeal to halt the further build-up of nuclear weapons, to freeze nuclear arsenals and to take immediate steps to bring about a substantial reduction in such arsenals.

To halt the arms race, to direct it along a descending spiral and to free humanity from the threat of war - it is on this that the efforts of all States, irrespective of their social, political and military status should now be concentrated. That is, indeed, now the question.

On the basis of this problem, the Soviet Union has put forward a specific programme of measures concerning a nuclear-weapons freeze. It includes a whole series of effective and mutually complementary steps. It is essential immediately to reach agreement on halting the quantitative build up of all components of nuclear arsenals, including all types of nuclear-weapon delivery system and the associated munitions, to renounce the deployment of new forms and types of nuclear weapon, to establish a moratorium on all nuclear-weapon tests, and to end the production of fissionable materials for the purpose of creating nuclear munitions. The Soviet proposals have met with understanding and support from the majority of Members of the United Nations.

The ideas contained in the Joint Declaration of six States representing various areas of the world are also along these lines. All of this indicates that the need for such measures has become urgent and that it is keenly felt by all.

Of course, the Soviet Union, like the countries that made the Declaration, does not consider the freezing of nuclear weapons to be an end in itself. It is only the first step on the road towards reducing nuclear weapons to the point where they have been completely eliminated. The Soviet Union has submitted far-reaching specific proposals for a radical lessening of nuclear confrontation - both on a global scale and in Europe - in strict accordance with the principle of equal and identical security. They are well known. These proposals can be translated immediately into concrete agreements as soon as the obstacles to their consideration that have been deliberately created by Washington, which is deploying its first-strike nuclear weapons in Western Europe in the hope of achieving military superiority, are removed.

The Soviet leadership unreservedly adheres to the self same point of view as the authors of the Declaration: nuclear war must not be allowed in any form. The foreign policy of the Soviet Union and its military doctrine are oriented to that end. Prevention of war must become the main goal, a compulsory standard for the conduct of all nuclear Powers irrespective of the size of their nuclear arsenals.

All Powers possessing nuclear weapons should undertake not to be the first to use them. The Soviet Union has already given such an undertaking.

The Powers in question should guarantee that they will not use nuclear weapons against those States that have no such weapons on their territory. The USSR has already given an undertaking on that score too and is prepared to confirm it contractually through the conclusion of multilateral or bilateral agreements.

It is important not to permit any further spread of nuclear weapons to those parts of the world where they do not exist and to set in motion the process for removing such weapons from areas where they are now deployed. As far as the USSR is concerned, it resolutely supports the creation and extension of nuclear-free zones.

It goes without saying that there can be no permitting the penetration of weapons of any kind into outer space. The Soviet Union has, once again, put forward entirely concrete proposals in that regard.

The Soviet Union is firmly convinced that the danger of war can be reduced and then fully eliminated. It has done and will do everything necessary to that end. It is prepared to co-operate in that field with all those who wish to contribute to the genuine reduction of tension and the removal of the threat of war. It is possible and necessary to correct the current abnormal situation in international affairs and revive détente. Those who are preventing this are opposing the interests of all peoples. To overcome the opposition of those forces is the task and duty of all who cherish peace and the future of humanity. The efforts of all States, nuclear and non-nuclear, large and small, must be combined in order to achieve this vitally important goal. The genius and material resources of humanity should be placed in the service of the cause of promoting the progress and well-being of peoples.