

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/6834  
22 September 1967  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Twenty-second session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN  
THE AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the  
use of nuclear weapons

Letter dated 22 September 1967 from the Minister  
for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics to the President of the General Assembly

On instructions from the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I request the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, as an important and urgent matter, of an item entitled "Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons".

Ever since nuclear weapons made their appearance, the Soviet Union, guided by the interests of strengthening the peace and security of peoples, has consistently advocated the prohibition and the complete elimination of these weapons of mass destruction. The conclusion of an international agreement on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step towards solving this problem and removing the threat of nuclear war.

As far back as 1961, the United Nations General Assembly, in adopting the Declaration on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons, declared that the use of nuclear weapons was contrary to the spirit, letter and aims of the United Nations, to the rules of international law, and was a crime against mankind and civilization.

It is well known that, with a view to putting in treaty form the provisions of the Declaration on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, consideration has been given to the possibility of concluding a convention on the subject. However, in spite of the positive attitude of many Governments towards such a step, it has so far not been taken.

Now, with the accumulation of huge stocks of nuclear weapons in the world and the complication of the international situation as a result of the aggressive actions of certain States, the solution of the problem of prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons acquires special urgency.

Desiring to promote a speedy solution of this problem, the Government of the USSR calls on the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations to give due consideration at the twenty-second session of the General Assembly to the item "Conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons". The Soviet Government is introducing a draft of such a convention for the General Assembly's consideration. The Soviet Government is convinced that the examination of this item and the adoption of a clear decision by the General Assembly in favour of the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons will serve the cause of peace and the relaxation of international tension and will be in keeping with the interests of all peoples.

I should be grateful if you would regard this letter as the explanatory memorandum provided for by rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and if you would circulate it, and the attached draft Convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, as official documents of the General Assembly.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

DRAFT CONVENTION

ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Parties to the present Convention,  
Desiring to further international peace and security of peoples,  
Aware of the exceedingly serious consequences for all mankind of a nuclear  
war,

Confirming the Declaration on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and  
thermo-nuclear weapons, adopted by the General Assembly in 1961,

Considering that the conclusion of a Convention on the prohibition of the use  
of nuclear weapons would significantly contribute to the solution of other  
disarmament questions,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Each Party to this Convention gives the solemn undertaking to refrain from  
using nuclear weapons, from threatening to use them and from inciting other States  
to use them.

Article 2

Each Party to this Convention undertakes to make every effort to arrive  
as soon as possible at agreement on the cessation of production and the destruction  
of all stockpiles of nuclear weapons in conformity with a treaty on general and  
complete disarmament under effective international control.

Article 3

1. This Convention shall be open to all States for signature.
2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States.
3. This Convention shall be open to any State for accession.
4. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be  
deposited with the Governments of ....., which are hereby designated the Depositary  
Governments.

5. This Convention shall enter into force after its ratification by all the  
Parties to the Convention possessing nuclear weapons.

/...

6. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

7. The Depositary Governments shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession, the date of the entry into force of this Convention, and of any other notification.

Article 4

This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.

Article 5

This Convention, the Russian, English, French, Spanish and Chinese texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of this Convention shall be transmitted by the Depositary Governments to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

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