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Ninth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE
 AGENDA OF THE NINTH REGULAR SESSION: ITEM PROPOSED BY
 THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

VIOLATION OF THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE AREA
 OF THE CHINA SEAS

18 October 1954
Letter dated ~~30 September 1954~~ from the Chairman of the delegation
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, addressed to the
President of the General Assembly

New York, 30 September 1954

I have the honour to request you to include in the agenda of the ninth session of the General Assembly, as an item of an important and urgent character, the following: "Violation of the freedom of navigation in the area of the China seas".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure I append an explanatory memorandum on this subject.

(Signed) A. VYSHIINSKY
 Chairman of the USSR delegation.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

concerning

Violation of the freedom of navigation in the area of the China seas

In recent months, cases of piratical attack on merchant vessels of various countries in the China seas and of the seizure of such ships by Kuomintang naval vessels have become more frequent. One of the victims of these criminal acts has been the Soviet tanker "Tuapse", which was seized by the Chiang Kai-shek forces on 23 June 1954 and has still not been set free while according to the information available the members of the crew of this Soviet ship are being subjected to flagrant coercion. Another instance of such criminal acts was the seizure by Kuomintang naval vessels of the Polish merchant vessels "President Gottwald", on 13 May 1954, and "Praca", on 4 October 1953. A number of other piratical acts have been carried out by the Chiang Kai-shek forces against merchant vessels of Denmark, the United Kingdom and other countries.

Such acts are a gross violation of the universally recognized principle of freedom of navigation on the high seas, and constitute a crime which the General Assembly is bound to condemn in strong terms, particularly since those guilty of these acts are not only the Chiang Kai-shek forces but also those who encourage them.

The USSR delegation believes that the above facts warrant the inclusion of this important and urgent question as a new item in the agenda of the General Assembly.
