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WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Letter dated 16 May 1974 from the Permanent Representative of the
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to General Assembly resolution 3183 (XXVIII) concerning the convening of a world disarmament conference, the Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian SSR to the United Nations transmits for information the comments of the Ukrainian SSR concerning the preparations for and the holding of the conference.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly under item 35 (World Disarmament Conference) of the preliminary list of items for the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) V. MARTYNENKO
Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian SSR
to the United Nations

* A/9600/Rev.1.

Annex

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic strongly supports the convening of a world disarmament conference. The Ukrainian delegation voted for the relevant General Assembly resolutions approving the idea of the convening of such a conference and establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to prepare it.

In the reply dated 29 August 1972 addressed to the Secretary-General (A/8817), the Government of the Ukrainian SSR has already expressed its views on the preparations for and the holding of the conference.

The Ukrainian SSR has always consistently advocated and advocates the cessation of the arms race, which is harmful to the cause of peace and to economic and social progress. It favours universal and complete disarmament, and believes that the earliest possible convening of a world disarmament conference will promote the attainment of this goal.

For this reason, the Ukrainian SSR is glad to note the wide support given to the proposal for the convening of a world disarmament conference at the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly and the decisions adopted at the twenty-eighth session which enabled practical preparations to be made for the conference.

The existence of a body of positive experience in multilateral and bilateral negotiations on the halting of the arms race and on disarmament establishes a favourable basis for the mobilization of the joint efforts in this area of all States, large and small.

Of great significance in this connexion are certain multilateral treaties and conventions, as well as the agreements concluded between the Soviet Union and the United States in 1972 and 1973 on the limitation of strategic weapons and the prevention of nuclear war.

The development and intensification of the process of the improvement of the international climate and the process of détente, which have recently taken place in the world as a result of the efforts of the socialist countries and of all peace-loving forces, establish favourable conditions for significant progress in the matter of disarmament. The Ukrainian SSR considers that political détente should be reinforced by military détente - in other words, by specific arms limitation and disarmament measures which would promote the stabilization and irreversibility of the process of the relaxation of international tension.

All this is convincing confirmation of the urgency and necessity of convening as soon as possible such a broad international meeting as a world disarmament conference, at which all States of the world would be able on an equal footing to discuss and identify ways leading to the curtailment of the wasteful arms race and to disarmament.

/...

What is needed now is unconditional and immediate implementation of resolution 3183 (XXVIII), and arrangements to ensure that the Ad Hoc Committee established under that resolution can successfully perform its functions.

In the opinion of the Ukrainian SSR, the task of that Committee is to make a careful, rapid and effective examination of the views and suggestions of all States on the convening of a world disarmament conference, to devise ways of convening it as rapidly as possible and to report to the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Ukrainian SSR considers that all States, and particularly the members of the Ad Hoc Committee, should take a most active and constructive part in the preparatory work for the world disarmament conference. The holding of the conference would be an important collective contribution to the cause of the struggle for disarmament and for the strengthening of peace and security in the interests of all the peoples of our planet.
