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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Note verbale dated 27 August 1974 from the Permanent Mission
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to General Assembly resolution 3185 (XXVIII), has the honour to state the following.

The Soviet Union attaches considerable importance to the consistent implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

In the international arena, the Soviet Union is continuing steadfastly to follow an active and purposeful course aimed at the realization of the peace programme approved at the twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. As a result of the persistent efforts of the socialist countries and of all States pursuing a peace-loving foreign policy, the principle of peaceful coexistence of States with different social systems is gaining ground in the practice of international relations. The trend towards détente is becoming the dominant feature of the development of the situation in the world as a whole.

A significant amount of work has already been done at the all-European conference on security and co-operation, where agreement was reached on a number of important statements of principle. There are good prospects that the conference will culminate in the adoption of weighty decisions, backed by the signatures of the top-level leaders of the participating States. This will indeed be an outstanding contribution to the cause of the strengthening of European security.

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New evidence of the fact that the process of détente is continuing and developing is provided by the results of the third Soviet-United States summit meeting. The main result of this meeting is the confirmation by both sides of their determination to do everything possible to reduce further and then completely eliminate the risk of a military confrontation between the USSR and the United States, which would be tantamount to the beginning of world-wide nuclear war.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly appealed to all States to begin moving towards the great goal of universal and complete disarmament. The Soviet Union has long been ready to sit at the table of a World Disarmament Conference to consider the broad range of disarmament questions, concerning both weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons. At the same time, the Soviet Union believes that it is also important to take partial measures to limit and reduce armaments. This aim is also served by the new Soviet proposal concerning the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health.

In noting the successes achieved in the development of the process of international détente, one cannot overlook the fact that in a number of parts of the world there is still unrest, and the forces of war and reaction have still not laid down their weapons. The finishing touches still have to be put to the political settlement in South-East Asia, and the victory of a lasting and just peace in the Middle East still has to be ensured. There is an imperative need, within the shortest possible time, to restore the status of the Republic of Cyprus as an independent, sovereign and integral State and to give the people of Cyprus the opportunity to decide their fate themselves.

The Soviet Union regards the United Nations as an important instrument for the maintenance of peace, security and international co-operation, and intends to continue its efforts to enhance the Organization's effectiveness on the basis of strict observance of the Charter. In the opinion of the Soviet Union, the improvement in the international climate is creating new opportunities for the Organization to exert a positive influence on the development of the world situation.

The Soviet Union considers that a business-like and constructive discussion at the forthcoming twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly on the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security will promote the consolidation of détente, the reduction of the threat of an outbreak of nuclear war, the protection of the territorial integrity and political independence of States from the intrigues of aggressive forces and the laying of the foundations for new progress in the direction of lasting peace.

The Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to arrange for the distribution of this note as an official document relating to item 37 of the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".