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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Note verbale dated 2 September 1974 from the Permanent Mission of
the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic 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 Ukrainian SSR is gratified to note that a characteristic feature of the present stage of international relations is a change in direction towards a relaxation of international tension that is accompanied by substantial changes in the relations among States with different social systems. The principles of the peaceful coexistence of States are becoming more realistic in content and increasingly more effective in practice. These positive trends are the outcome of concentrated efforts by the Soviet Union, the entire community of Socialist States and the peace-loving nations of the world. The results of the discussions that were held this past summer in Moscow between the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, L. I. Brezhnev, and the President of the United States of America, Mr. Richard Nixon, played an important role in this regard.

The agreements which were arrived at on a further limitation of the anti-missile defence systems of the two countries and on the limitation of the underground testing of nuclear weapons, coupled with new efforts for the further limitation of strategic offensive weapons and other measures, have clearly fostered the relaxation of tension and have served in a practical way to strengthen international peace and security throughout the world.

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The trend towards détente has recently given impetus to the settlement of a number of international conflicts that have been a threat to international peace and security. The signing of the agreements on separation of the forces of Egypt, Syria and Israel represented a step along the way towards accomplishing the main task of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories and the safeguarding of the lawful rights of all the peoples of that region, including the Arab people of Palestine.

Settlement of the situations involving conflict in Viet-Nam and Laos and on the southern Asian subcontinent has been transferred to the political sphere. Favourable conditions for intensifying the process of normalizing relations and strengthening peace and security now exist not only in Europe, where a significant amount of work has already been done at the all-European conference on security and co-operation, but also in Asia. At the same time it must not be forgotten that in various regions of the world the situation continues to give cause for concern. A political settlement in South-East Asia has not been completely achieved; a just peace must be ensured in the Middle East; and the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus must be restored.

In the opinion of the Ukrainian SSR, the efforts of States to strengthen the process of détente and to ensure that that process becomes irreversible constitute a concrete example of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1970, and they furthermore confirm the vitality of the principles of that Declaration and give witness to the effectiveness of the action of the United Nations as it proceeds along the principal course traced out in its Charter - that is to say, in the area of maintaining peace and strengthening international security.

The Ukrainian SSR considers it to be the task of the United Nations at this time to assist in every possible way in consolidating the process of the relaxation of international tension, extending that process to the entire world and making it irreversible, and to strive to remove the sources of international tension and of military conflicts. This will provide even greater possibilities for the political activity of the United Nations, as well as for the settlement of the economic, social and legal questions that have been inscribed on its agenda.

It is the opinion of the Ukrainian SSR that in order to strengthen détente and achieve the purposes of the aforementioned Declaration, a more persistent effort both within the United Nations and elsewhere, must be made to establish a system of collective security. It is imperative to extend the political détente to military détente and to achieve this in the first place through specific measures to limit and terminate the arms race with its harmful effects for the cause of peace and for social progress, the ultimate goal always being the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. The achievement of these goals would expedite the practical implementation of the widely known proposals adopted by the General Assembly concerning the convening of a World Disarmament Conference and the reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries.

The strengthening of international security will undoubtedly pave the way for the adoption of 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.

It is also imperative that urgent steps be taken to implement the principles of the non-use of force in international relations and the permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and to ensure the prompt adoption by the Security Council of a decision on this question in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2936 (XXVII) of 29 November 1972. The strengthening of international peace and security will also be fostered through the development of mutually advantageous economic, commercial, scientific, technical and cultural co-operation on a broad basis among all interested States.

A threat to international peace and security is posed by the continued existence of the remnants of colonialism, especially in southern Africa. This demands energetic efforts on the part of the United Nations for the prompt and complete eradication of colonialism and neo-colonialism in all their forms and manifestations, of racism and of apartheid.

The strengthening of international security would serve to isolate, as far as world public opinion is concerned, those forces which cast doubt on the possibility of resolving controversial problems by political means and which place their hopes on the creation of crisis situations in the world, a continuation of the arms race, and a policy of dictation and of interference in internal affairs. It is the opinion of the Ukrainian SSR that this kind of activity should be the subject of condemnation at the sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Ukrainian SSR considers it appropriate to emphasize once again that the United Nations Charter is inviolable. The salutary changes which are taking place in the world confirm the fact that the provisions of the Charter - if consistently and conscientiously applied by all States - constitute a reliable basis for the development of friendly relations among States and the strengthening of international security.

Therefore, as the Ukrainian SSR sees it, the way to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations in this area does not lie in a revision of the Charter, but rather in a fuller use of the possibilities embodied in the Charter, strict compliance with its provisions and the implementation of its purposes and principles by all States.

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 search for new ways of strengthening universal peace.

The Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian SSR to the United Nations requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to arrange for the circulation 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".