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IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 39/60 ON THE IMMEDIATE
CESSATION AND PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON TESTS

Letter dated 30 July 1985 from the Acting Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement made on
29 July 1985 by M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the
Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this text as an official document
of the General Assembly under item 58 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) V. SAFRONCHUK
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary

Acting Permanent Representative
of the USSR to the United Nations

* A/40/150.

ANNEX

Statement made on 29 July 1985 by M. S. Gorbachev, General
Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party
of the Soviet Union

The continuing nuclear-arms race is fraught with an immense danger to the future of world civilization. It is aggravating international tension and increasing the risk of war, while diverting enormous intellectual and material resources from constructive purposes.

From the very start of the nuclear age, the Soviet Union has waged a consistent and vigorous struggle for an end to the build-up of nuclear arsenals, the curbing of military rivalry and the strengthening of trust and peaceful co-operation among States. It is this aim that governs all of the wide-ranging activities of the USSR within the United Nations and at multilateral and bilateral negotiations on the limitation and reduction of armaments. The Soviet Union does not seek military superiority; it is in favour of maintaining a balance of military forces at the lowest possible level.

We are convinced that the cessation of all nuclear-weapon tests would be a major contribution to the strengthening of strategic stability and of peace on earth. It is, after all, no secret that new and even more dangerous forms and types of weapons of mass destruction are developed and improved in the course of such tests.

In the interests of creating favourable conditions for the conclusion of an international treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, the USSR has repeatedly proposed that the nuclear-weapon States should agree on a moratorium on all nuclear explosions, starting from a mutually agreed date. Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to take this important step.

In an effort to help end the dangerous competition in the build-up of nuclear arsenals and wishing to set a good example, the Soviet Union has decided that it will unilaterally discontinue all nuclear explosions, starting from 6 August 1985. We call on the Government of the United States to cease its nuclear explosions starting from the same date, which is observed throughout the world as the anniversary of the Hiroshima tragedy. Our moratorium is declared until 1 January 1986. It will, however, remain in effect beyond that date if the United States, for its part, refrains from setting off nuclear explosions.

It is beyond doubt that a mutual moratorium on all nuclear explosions on the part of the USSR and the United States would also set good example for other nuclear-weapon States.

The Soviet Union trusts that the United States will respond positively to this initiative and halt its nuclear explosions.

This would meet the aspirations and hopes of all peoples.