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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE
AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

URGENT MEASURES FOR REDUCING THE DANGER OF WAR

Letter dated 23 September 1980 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed
to the Secretary-General

The Soviet Union proposes the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly of an important and urgent item entitled "Urgent measures for reducing the danger of war".

The importance and urgency of this question is due to the fact that certain States, under cover of the tension in the world which they themselves generate, are seeking to expand the existing military blocs and to form new ones, and are accelerating the build-up of their armies, stockpiling on an ever larger scale both nuclear and conventional weapons and in general broadening the scope of military preparations.

The continuation of this process may lead to still greater complications in relations between States and to situations which may develop into armed conflicts and eventually bring the world to the brink of a military disaster.

It is particularly alarming that military preparations are accompanied by the striving of certain influential forces to practise diktat and hegemonism in international relations and to interfere in the internal affairs of other States. Rather than recognize the need to maintain the existing military balance, a course is openly being pursued to achieve military and strategic superiority, which in practice leads to an unfettered spiralling of the arms race and to attempts to obtain unilateral military advantages.

The Soviet Union believes that the conditions which are developing require intensified efforts to preserve and deepen international détente and prevent war. Those are precisely the objectives of the numerous proposals submitted by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries at various international forums, including the United Nations.

The Soviet Union now proposes that the following urgent measures be taken to reduce the danger of war.

First. As a resolute advocate of renunciation of the division of the world into military groupings, the Soviet Union, together with other socialist countries, has repeatedly stated its willingness to accept the dissolution of the defensive alliance of States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, provided that the NATO bloc is simultaneously dismantled, and has proposed as a first step the dismantling of the military organizations of the two groupings, beginning with a mutual reduction in military activities. These proposals still stand.

The USSR is firmly convinced that a minimal and, at the same time, important step would be to renounce the expansion of the existing military-political groupings and the formation of new ones. The General Assembly can and must speak out with all its influence in favour of such a step.

Second. The Soviet Union proposes that all States, and above all States permanent members of the Security Council and countries which have military agreements with them, should not increase their armed forces and conventional weapons after a certain date, as a first step towards their subsequent reduction.

The Soviet Union believes that progress in limiting and reducing the armed forces and conventional weapons of States would also contribute to progress in the field of nuclear disarmament. Similarly, if States refrained from increasing their armed forces and conventional armaments, this would create more favourable conditions for solving the problems of economic and social development and other global problems which today face mankind.

Third. While attaching primary importance to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and at the same time viewing with understanding the legitimate concern of non-nuclear States over their security, the Soviet Union has solemnly declared that it will never use nuclear weapons against those States which renounce their production and acquisition and have no such weapons on their territories.

Believing that the conclusion of an appropriate international convention with the participation of all nuclear and non-nuclear States would best serve the interests of strengthening security guarantees for non-nuclear States, the Soviet Union is also prepared to consider other possible ways of solving this issue, provided the other nuclear Powers manifest a similar willingness.

Fourth. The Soviet Union believes it necessary and possible - given political will on the part of the Powers concerned - to bring to a successful completion the efforts to draft a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests. In order to facilitate the achievement of this objective, the Soviet Union now proposes that all nuclear-weapon States renounce the conduct of nuclear explosions for a certain period of time and make appropriate declarations to that effect. Such a step, which would be of great importance in itself, would also create a more favourable climate for negotiations on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests.

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In the view of the Soviet Union, those are a few measures whose urgent implementation may have a restraining effect on the growing danger of war and may help to decrease tension in inter-State relations.

I request you, Sir, to regard this letter as the explanatory memorandum required under rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to have it distributed, together with the draft resolution attached, thereto, as official documents of the General Assembly.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics

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ANNEX

Urgent measures for reducing the danger of war

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Conscious that under present-day conditions war would bring untold misery and sufferings to peoples,

Being profoundly concerned over the aggravation of the international situation and over the fact that the ongoing negotiations on arms limitation and on disarmament are being protracted and some of them have been terminated or suspended,

Reaffirming the importance of the Declaration on the Deepening and Consolidation of International Détente adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session,

Being convinced that the process of détente can and must be preserved and developed,

Proceeding from the need to take urgent measures for reducing the danger of war and strengthening international security,

I

1. Calls upon States belonging to military alliances to refrain from actions conducive to the expansion of the existing military-political groupings through the admission of new members;

2. Calls upon States which are not members of the existing military-political groupings to refrain from joining such groupings;

3. Calls upon all States to avoid any actions which may lead to the formation of new military-political groupings or to the assigned of military functions to those regional organizations which at present have no such functions;

II

1. Reaffirms that progress in the limitation and subsequent reduction of nuclear arms would be facilitated if, parallel to it, political and international legal measures are adopted for strengthening the security of States and if progress is made in limiting and reducing the armed forces and conventional weapons of nuclear-weapon States and of other States in the respective regions;

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2. Calls upon all States, and above all States permanent members of the Security Council and countries which have military agreements with them, not to increase their armed forces and conventional weapons with effect from 1 January 1981, as a first step towards a subsequent reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons;

III

1. Calls upon States participating in talks on the question of providing guarantees to non-nuclear States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to make efforts for the speedy elaboration and conclusion of an international convention on this matter;

2. Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to make similar solemn declarations concerning the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States having no such weapons on their territories, as a first step towards the conclusion of such an international convention;

3. Recommends that the Security Council examine declarations which may be made by nuclear States regarding the strengthening of security guarantees for non-nuclear States and, should all these declarations be found consistent with the above-mentioned objective, to adopt an appropriate resolution approving them;

IV

1. Stresses the need for a speedy conclusion of an international treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests;

2. Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States - as an indication of their goodwill and in order to create more favourable conditions for completing the elaboration of the above-mentioned treaty - not to conduct any nuclear explosions within a period of one year beginning from a date to be agreed upon among them, having made in advance appropriate declarations to that effect.
