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

INADMISSIBILITY OF THE POLICY OF HEGEMONISM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Letter dated 25 September 1979 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General

The Soviet Union proposes the inclusion of an item entitled "Inadmissibility of the policy of hegemonism in international relations" in the agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations as an important and urgent question. In submitting this proposal it is guided by the following considerations.

In recent years the efforts of peace-loving States have brought about a considerable relaxation of international tension, an improvement in the world political climate and thus a lessening of the danger of another world war.

This has to a great extent been facilitated by the success of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, by the conclusion of a number of multilateral and bilateral treaties and agreements on limiting the arms race, including the strategic arms race, and by the adoption by the General Assembly of important decisions on the questions of disarmament and the strengthening of international peace and security.

All of these constitute prerequisites for consolidating and deepening détente and strengthening the foundations of universal peace. However, if these prerequisites are to serve their purpose there must be a further intensification of efforts to overcome resistance on the part of the forces seeking to reverse the evolution of international relations.

The Soviet Union believes that in present-day conditions the elimination from the conduct of international relations of any manifestation of the policy of hegemonism, that is, the desire of some States to dominate other States and peoples, is becoming one of the most important aspects of the struggle for détente and peace. The policy of hegemonism leads to the creation of hotbeds of tension

and destabilizes the international situation. It is particularly dangerous when means of mass destruction can be placed at its service. Therefore, the task of protecting mankind from the threat inherent in the policy of hegemonism is now acquiring special importance and urgency.

The Soviet Union believes that the United Nations, which is called upon to promote international peace and security, must condemn the policy of hegemonism in any form and emphasize its incompatibility with the basic principles of the United Nations Charter and with the task of preserving peace and strengthening international security. Constructive consideration of this question and the adoption of a decision on it which would be conducive to the renunciation by States of the policy of hegemonism would unquestionably contribute to the further improvement of the international climate and the strengthening of the foundations of universal peace.

I request you to treat this letter as an explanatory memorandum as required under rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations General Assembly and to circulate it as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the USSR

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ANNEX

Draft resolution on the inadmissibility of the policy of
hegemonism in international relations

The General Assembly,

Considering that the most important task of the United Nations at the present stage of the development of international relations is to promote in every way positive movement towards easing international tension and strengthening peace,

Expressing its conviction that the interests of continuing and deepening the process of normalization and development of relations between States require strict observance by all States of the principles on which the United Nations is based,

Noting that the policy of hegemonism, i.e. the desire of some States to dominate other States and peoples, is in flagrant contradiction to those principles, first and foremost the principle of the sovereign equality of States,

Recalling that the policy of hegemonism has invariably led to wars which have brought untold suffering to mankind,

Recalling further that manifestations of the policy of hegemonism lead to the creation of hotbeds of tension, complicate relations between States and destabilize the international situation,

1. Resolutely condemns the policy of hegemonism, whatever the form in which it is manifested, as incompatible with the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with the task of preserving peace and strengthening international security;

2. Declares on behalf of the peoples of the United Nations that States or groups of States should never, under any circumstances and for any reasons whatsoever, claim hegemony in international affairs or seek a position of domination either in the world as a whole or in any of its regions.
