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DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS THE SECOND DISARMAMENT DECADE

Letter dated 11 April 1980 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

In connexion with General Assembly resolution 34/75 concerning the declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from A. A. Gromyko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

I should be grateful if you would have the above-mentioned letter circulated as an official General Assembly document under item 36 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY
Permanent Representative
of the USSR to the
United Nations

* A/35/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 11 April 1980 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to
the Secretary-General

At the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the delegation of the USSR supported the resolution concerning the declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade. In the opinion of the USSR, the main task of this Decade is to preserve, strengthen and further develop the positive results achieved in curbing the arms race during the 1970s and to achieve the implementation of practical measures in this field. The 1980s must be years of real forward movement in the struggle to secure a lasting peace.

In the course of the 1970s, declared by the United Nations as the first Disarmament Decade, certain positive results were attained. For example, international agreements were concluded to prohibit the emplacement of weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor, the use of bacteriological weapons and the military use of environmental modification techniques, and agreements were also concluded on strategic arms limitation and the prevention of nuclear war. During those years, certain measures were initiated for the purpose of strengthening confidence in Europe. A definite procedure was established for disarmament negotiations on both a multilateral and a bilateral basis. The United Nations General Assembly held its first special session devoted to disarmament, at which useful decisions were taken. The task now is to put these into effect.

The results of the negotiations on disarmament problems during the 1970s show that real measures in this field are possible and practicable. The achievements of the past decade have provided a good basis for further progress towards reducing armaments and bringing about disarmament.

Nevertheless, because of opposition by certain forces, the arms race has not been halted. The United States and its allies are continuing to increase their military budgets. In these countries, new and increasingly dangerous weapons and weapons systems are being developed and stockpiled, and arsenals are being quantitatively increased.

As the 1970s give way to the 1980s, the international situation has grown more tense as a result of the actions of the United States and certain other NATO countries aimed at undermining détente and exacerbating the arms race.

With the international situation as complicated as it is today, the Soviet Union believes that it is of the utmost importance not to slacken but rather to intensify the efforts of all peace-loving States to strengthen peace, eliminate the threat of war and achieve concrete action to curb the arms race and attain disarmament. The fundamental position of the USSR remains unchanged: the Soviet Union is prepared to limit or prohibit any type of weapon on a mutual basis and by agreement with other States, provided, of course, that no one's security is

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impaired and that full reciprocity is observed among States possessing the weapons concerned.

The Soviet Union favours negotiations on a wide range of topics. All negotiations in this field which have been initiated in recent years in various forums and on a bilateral basis but have now been suspended or postponed for one reason or another should be resumed and continued. The USSR and other countries of the socialist community have put forward a realistic programme of measures which covers virtually every aspect of the problem of halting the arms race and achieving disarmament and which indicates the basic directions in which efforts should be concentrated in coming years. I refer, in particular, to the following measures:

- Cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and the gradual reduction of stockpiles to the point of their complete elimination, together with the immediate initiation, for that purpose, of appropriate negotiations among all nuclear-weapon States and a certain number of non-nuclear-weapon States. At the same time, measures should be taken to strengthen political guarantees of the security of States and those provided by international law;
- The further limitation and reduction of stockpiles of strategic weapons, and the further qualitative limitation of such weapons, with due regard for all factors affecting the strategic situation throughout the world, including that in Europe;
- The conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests;
- The conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of radiological weapons;
- The adoption of further measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, including the universal accession of States to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
- The conclusion of a convention on strengthening guarantees of the security of non-nuclear States;
- The conclusion of an agreement prohibiting the emplacement of nuclear weapons in the territory of States in which none are now located;
- The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world;
- The limitation and subsequent reduction of military activities in the Indian Ocean, and the creation of a zone of peace in that region;
- The conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons;
- The conclusion of a comprehensive agreement prohibiting the development and production of new weapons of mass destruction and new weapons systems of that type;

- The conclusion of a convention prohibiting the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of neutron weapons;
- Cessation of the development of new conventional weapons of great destructive capacity;
- The achievement of agreement, among the Powers which are permanent members of the Security Council and the countries linked with them under military agreements, to refrain from increasing the size of their armies and the numbers of their conventional weapons;
- Limitation of the sale and supply of conventional weapons;
- The elaboration of an international agreement prohibiting or restricting the use of conventional weapons which cause inordinate damage or have indiscriminate effects;
- Accession, by all States which have not yet so acceded, to the existing agreements on limitation of the arms race and on disarmament;
- Reduction, in absolute or percentage terms, of the military budgets of the States permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and of other militarily important States;
- The achievement of agreement on reducing armed forces and armaments in Central Europe;
- The conclusion, among all States parties to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, of a treaty outlawing the first use of both nuclear and conventional weapons;
- The further expansion of confidence-building measures in Europe;
- The convening of a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe;
- The convening of a world disarmament conference.

The Soviet Union is convinced that the implementation of the measures enumerated above would give real content to the Second Disarmament Decade. The application of these measures would be of historical significance in the struggle for lasting peace on earth.

States and those who direct their foreign policies must apply their efforts to ensure that the new Decade actually becomes a Disarmament Decade and not one in which the arms race is continued and intensified.

A. GROMYKO
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the USSR
