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

INADMISSIBILITY OF THE POLICY OF STATE TERRORISM AND ANY ACTIONS BY STATES AIMED AT UNDERMINING THE SOCIO-POLITICAL SYSTEM IN OTHER SOVEREIGN STATES

Letter dated 27 September 1984 from the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Secretary-General

The Soviet Union proposes the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an important and urgent item entitled "Inadmissibility of the policy of State terrorism and any actions by States aimed at undermining the socio-political system in other sovereign States".

The submission of this item is prompted by the fact that certain States, having embarked on a course aimed at achieving military superiority and pursuing the policy of terrorism in international affairs, have been resorting ever more frequently to actions designed to undermine the socio-political system of other States, going as far as to use arms.

Such a policy and such actions, which constitute a violation of elementary international norms of conduct and morality, are particularly dangerous in a nuclear age when they can have disastrous consequences not only for the freedom of peoples but also for their very survival.

It is clear that any actions in relations between States aimed at undermining the socio-political system lead to the negation of the very possibility of ensuring a peaceful nature for such relations and mutual trust, and to a sharp exacerbation of tension and a growing danger of war.

The Soviet Union is convinced that in the interests of maintaining peace it is essential that no ideological differences should be introduced into relations between States and that these relations should be built on the basis of strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations and generally recognized principles and norms of international relations, as reaffirmed in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, in the decisions of the Conference of Asian and African countries at Bandung and forums of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and other relevant international instruments. The concepts of a "policy from a position of strength", "crusades", "psychological warfare" or any other concept intended to justify actions of States aimed at undermining the socio-political system of other States must be categorically rejected.

In view of the foregoing the Soviet Union proposes that the General Assembly, expressing the will of the United Nations, should resolutely condemn the policy and practice of State terrorism as a method of dealing with other States and peoples. The Assembly has every right to demand that all States take no actions whatsoever aimed at a forcible change in or the undermining of the socio-political system of sovereign States, the destabilization and overthrow of their legitimate Governments and, in particular, initiate no military action to that end under any pretext whatsoever, and cease forthwith any such action already in progress.

At the same time the General Assembly could call on all States to respect and strictly observe the right of peoples to choose their own socio-political system freely and without outside interference and to pursue their political, economic, social and cultural development independently. In so doing the United Nations could make a major contribution to the establishment of political guarantees of peace, the strengthening of the security of individual States and the consolidation of international security in general.

I request, Mr. Secretary-General, that you regard this letter as an explanatory memorandum required under the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and circulate it, together with the annexed draft resolution, as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO
First Deputy Chairman of the
Council of Ministers of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the USSR

ANNEX

Inadmissibility of the policy of State terrorism and any actions by
States aimed at undermining the socio-political system in other
sovereign States

The General Assembly,

Expressing its profound alarm that the policy of State terrorism has lately been practised ever more frequently in relations between States and that military and other actions have been taken with a view to undermining the socio-political system of sovereign States,

Noting that all this poses a serious threat to the independent existence of States and negates the very possibility of ensuring a peaceful nature for relations and mutual trust between them and leads to a sharp exacerbation of tensions and a growing threat of war,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to decide their own destiny and to determine the course of their development independently,

Convinced that the interests of maintaining peace require that no ideological differences should be introduced into relations between States, which should be built on the basis of strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations as well as generally recognized principles and norms of international relations, as reaffirmed in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, in the decisions of the Conference of Asian and African countries at Bandung and forums of the Non-Aligned Movement, in the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and in other relevant international instruments,

Categorically rejecting the concepts of a "policy from a position of strength", "crusades", "psychological warfare" or any other concept intended to justify actions of States aimed at undermining the socio-political system of other States,

On behalf of the United Nations,

1. Resolutely condemns the policy and practice of State terrorism as a method of dealing with other States and peoples;
2. Demands that all States take no actions whatsoever aimed at a forcible change in or the undermining of the socio-political system of sovereign States, the destabilization and overthrow of their legitimate Governments and, in particular, initiate no military action to that end under any pretext whatsoever, and cease forthwith any such action already in progress;
3. Urges all States to respect and strictly observe the right of peoples to choose their socio-political system freely and without outside interference and to pursue their political, economic, social and cultural development independently.
