



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/285
S/16600
5 June 1984
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-ninth session
Items 54, 59, 60, 65 and 68 of
the preliminary list*
PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN
OUTER SPACE
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION
REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 1 June 1984 from the Permanent Representative of the Union
of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to send you the text of a statement made by the Soviet Government in connection with the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/39/277-S/16587, annex), in which they addressed themselves to all the nuclear Powers.

I request you to circulate this statement as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 54, 59, 60, 65 and 68 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

* A/39/50.

Annex

Statement by the Soviet Government

The dangerous development of events in the world is a legitimate ground for concern and alarm on the part of its peoples. The spiralling arms race and the distinct danger that it might spread to new areas and go out of control sharply increase the risk of the outbreak of nuclear war. There is a growing awareness in the world of the need to take urgent steps in order to halt the slide towards the fatal brink.

The consciousness that it is the responsibility of all States to protect the world from the threat of a nuclear catastrophe permeates the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania, in which they address themselves to all nuclear Powers. The core of this message is an appeal to desist from any further build-up of nuclear arms, to freeze nuclear arsenals and to initiate promptly a substantial reduction of those arsenals.

Halting the arms race, directing it into a downward spiral, saving mankind from the threat of war - these are issues on which all States must now concentrate their energies, irrespective of their social, political and military positions. This is the crux of the matter.

Accordingly, the Soviet Union has put forward a specific programme of measures for a nuclear-arms freeze. The programme includes a whole series of effective and mutually complementary steps. The point is to reach immediate agreement on a halt to the quantitative build-up of all components of nuclear arsenals, including all types of nuclear-weapon delivery systems and missiles for them, to refrain from developing new types of nuclear weapons, to establish a moratorium on all nuclear-missile testing and to terminate the production of fissionable material for manufacturing nuclear missiles. The majority of the States Members of the United Nations are sympathetic to the Soviet proposals, which they support.

The ideas contained in the Joint Declaration of the six States, which represent different regions of the world, follow the very same trend. All this suggests that the time for taking such measures has arrived and that the need for them is clearly perceived by all.

Clearly, the Soviet Union, like the countries which issued the Declaration, does not regard a nuclear-arms freeze as an end in itself. A freeze is merely the first step towards the reduction of nuclear weapons, and eventually their complete elimination. The Soviet Union has made far-reaching and specific proposals for a radical reduction of nuclear confrontation, both at the global level and in Europe, in strict compliance with the principle of equality and equal security. These proposals are well known. They can be rapidly translated into practical arrangements as soon as the obstacles to their discussion - deliberately planted by Washington, which is deploying its nuclear first-strike systems in Western Europe in order to gain military superiority - have been cleared away.

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The Soviet leadership unreservedly holds the same view as the authors of the Declaration: there is no form of nuclear war that can be tolerated. This is the basis of the Soviet Union's foreign policy and military doctrine. The prevention of war must be the principal goal and an obligatory norm of the conduct of all nuclear Powers, irrespective of the size of their nuclear arsenals.

All nuclear-weapon States must refrain from the first use of these weapons. The Soviet Union has already made this commitment.

The nuclear-weapon States must guarantee that they will not use nuclear weapons against States which have no such weapons in their territory. The Soviet Union has also made this commitment and is prepared to confirm it in treaty form by concluding multilateral and bilateral agreements.

It is important to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to nuclear-weapon-free regions and to set in motion the process of denuclearizing the regions in which such weapons are currently deployed. In so far as it is concerned, the Soviet Union decisively favours the creation and extension of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

It goes without saying that nuclear weapons of all types must be banned from outer space. On this subject, too, the Soviet Union has made very specific proposals.

The Soviet Union is firmly persuaded that it is possible to diminish, and then to eliminate, the risk of war. To this end it has done and will continue to do everything in its power. It is prepared to co-operate in this matter with all who want to promote a genuine reduction of tension and the elimination of the threat of war. It is possible, and it is necessary, to improve the present abnormal state of international affairs and to restore détente. Those who obstruct such a course are acting contrary to the interests of all peoples. Overcoming the resistance of those forces is the task and duty of all who cherish peace and value the future of mankind. It is necessary for all States, nuclear and non-nuclear, large and small, to unite their efforts for the purpose of attaining this vitally important goal. The genius and material resources of mankind must be devoted to creative work and people's progress and well-being.
