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CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS

PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION 41/54 ON THE IMMEDIATE

CESSATION AND PROHIBITION OF

NUCLEAR-WEAPON TESTS

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS

TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL

PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-first year

Letter dated 19 December 1986 from the Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the Soviet Government of 18 December 1986.

I request you to have the text of the statement distributed as an official document of the General **Assembly**, under the items entitled "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions", "Prevention of an arms race in outer space", "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/54 on the immediate cessation and prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests", "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session" and "Comprehensive system of international peace and **security**", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. BELONOGOV

ANNEX

Statement by the Soviet Government

Almost a year and a half has passed since the Soviet Union, **making to hasten the** end of the dangerous rivalry over the size of nuclear arsenals and wishing to set a good example **to** other **nuclear** Powers, decided on a unilateral halt to all **nuclear tests** and called upon the United States of America to follow suit.

Despite the serious losses in terms of its own security which the Soviet Union has incurred by extending its nuclear-test moratorium **time and time** again, this unilateral measure has played an exceptionally important role in international life. It has lifted the **issue of** ending nuclear testing and **other** questions related to the ending of the nuclear-arms race **onto** a practical plane. The moratorium has been a practical demonstration of the fact that steps can be taken to erect effective barriers **in the** path of **the** nuclear-arms race.

It is a matter for the deepest regret **that the** current United States Administration has not responded positively to the call **from** the USSR **to join** its peaceful initiative. Totally ignoring **the** world community's demands in resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, calls **by the** non-aligned movement, proposals by **the** leaders of **the** "New Delhi Six", and the views **of** parliaments and **international society**, the United States is pressing **stubbornly on with its** programme of nuclear-weapons tests.

The United States has tried **to conceal** its **reluctance to** end nuclear testing behind a variety of "arguments" such as allusions to the impossibility of verifying **such** a step effectively. It is perfectly clear, however, that this is a contrived **excuse**. The **Soviet Union** is willing, as it has repeatedly **stated at the highest level**, **to** accept the **most** stringent verification **measures in** this area,

Complete verification can be guaranteed by using national technical means supported **by** international procedures, including on-site inspection. The Soviet Union has said **that** it is ready to avail itself of **the** assistance offered **by** the countries of the "New Delhi Six" in monitoring a halt to nuclear testing. It has invited the United States to consider the establishment of a supranational verification network.

The reaction of the United States to all these **constructive** steps by the USSR **makes** it perfectly clear that verification is **not**, in fact, the issue. The real reason for the American **refusal** to join the Soviet moratorium (and Washington can no longer conceal the fact) **is that** the United States is gambling openly on gaining a military advantage over the Soviet Union and the socialist countries **by** creating fundamentally new types and varieties of weapons. The nuclear tests in the United States are **being** used not only to develop **new** nuclear warheads **but to** create space-based strike weapons - nuclear-pumped X-ray lasers - under the **SDI** programme. Work is in progress on a completely new kind of weapon capable of striking targets in space **and** on Earth.

Naturally, for anyone who wants to develop increasingly sophisticated **nuclear** weapons and put a "**Star War s**" programme into effect, spreading the **arms race into** new areas, there **is no** point in a moratorium. Reluctance **to forswear** its plans of securing a position of military supremacy through space - that is the explanation for the United States **Administration's** invariably unreceptive attitude towards Soviet proposals for **full-scale** talks which could put nuclear tests under a permanent ban.

There is still no sign whatsoever that the United States is willing to follow the **USSR's** example and renounce nuclear testing. What is more, the pace **of** the American nuclear testing programme has not slackened. While the moratorium has been in effect and silence has reigned over the Soviet test **sites**, the United States has conducted 20 officially announced and 4 unannounced nuclear-weapons tests,

While the United States presses determinedly ahead with its nuclear test programme so as to create and **accumulate** new nuclear weapons, the Soviet Union cannot show indefinite unilateral restraint. **If** the present situation continues, **the** security of the USSR and its allies will be at serious risk.

After a careful and thorough **review** of the matter, the Soviet leadership considers it necessary to make the following statement.

First, The Soviet Union once again proposes an immediate start on full-scale talks to ban nuclear **tests** entirely. It is prepared to engage in such talks irrespective of format or forum provided, of course, that the United States takes part. The talks should resolve the verification issue so that agreement on this score can be reliably monitored. In the course of talks on a complete nuclear test ban, the Soviet Union would be prepared to **agree** on a **phased** solution, by which **it** means ratification of the Soviet-American treaties of 1974 and 1976 and the imposition of interim limits on the number and yield of nuclear explosions.

Second, The USSR is willing to prolong its moratorium. It will, however, resume nuclear testing after the very first nuclear explosion conducted by the United States in the forthcoming year.

Third, **If** the United States **stops** its nuclear tests, the USSR is prepared to put a halt to its own testing programme on a reciprocal basis, on any day of any month.

The decision to end the Soviet moratorium after the first **nuclear explosion** by the United States in the forthcoming year **is a** forced step dictated solely by security interests. The USSR remains a convinced advocate **of a** complete ban on all nuclear testing as a vital first step towards the greater goal - checking the **competition** in nuclear weapons, then abolishing them entirely. It will go on working actively towards that goal. It is convinced that its position on this matter will win due understanding and support from all peace-loving forces the planet **over**.