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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS	
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	2
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	3

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

(Original: Russian)

(29 October 1987)

1. The Byelorussian SSR reaffirms its adherence to the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, adopted by the United Nations in 1970, deeming it an effective United Nations instrument for the attainment of the Organization's primary objective of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war.
2. The annual review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security provides an opportunity to focus the international community's attention on the cardinal issues in international relations upon which the future of our planet depends, and to chart the course for efforts by States to deal with pressing international problems and for the substantial improvement of the international climate.
3. Mankind is currently at a turning point. The issue can be stated thus: either its political thinking will be brought into line with demands of the times, or civilization and life itself on earth may be extinguished. Dominating all else is the dichotomy between war and peace, between the existence and non-existence of mankind. To resolve the issue in a timely manner and on the side of peace is the foremost requirement of the new political thinking.
4. The old dogma "the greater the armament the greater the security" cannot serve for that purpose. The nature of current weaponry leaves not a single State with any hope of protecting itself by military technology alone. There is today no way to ensure one's own security without regard for the security of other States and peoples. Genuine security can only be equal and universal.
5. The new political thinking needs to be consolidated in the international military and political, economic, humanitarian and environmental fields. To facilitate this, the socialist countries, including the Byelorussian SSR, have put forward the idea of establishing a comprehensive system of international security. The task is to implement this idea using a range of means: disarmament measures; political settlement of regional problems; safeguarding the economic and environmental security of States; exchanges in the fields of information and culture; and co-operation in the realization of vital human rights.
6. Of all human rights, the primary one is the right to life. Guaranteeing it means preserving the whole of civilization. The concept of "peace" and "life" on earth are closely linked. Nuclear weapons are capable of destroying both elements of this linkage at any moment. Accordingly, saving the earth from atomic destruction comes to the forefront as an objective for the whole of mankind, a common cause of all peoples. With a view to attaining this objective, the Soviet Union has put forward a proposal for the stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000. This initiative, proposed on 15 January 1986, is aimed

at giving practical content to the international community's efforts to guarantee peace without nuclear weapons.

7. It may be noted with satisfaction that these efforts are bearing their first fruit. A political dialogue is being developed between East and West, the main elements of a Soviet-United States agreement on medium-range and short-range missiles have been worked out, and there are signs of progress in relation to a complete nuclear-test ban and the solution of a number of other urgent problems. However, despite certain signs of an improvement in the international climate, there still remain situations which inspire concern.

8. The means of setting international relations on the high road to the creation of a secure, nuclear-free and non-violent world are indicated in the article by M. S. Gorbachev entitled "Reality and safeguards for a secure world" (A/42/574), which proposes a basis for serious thought on the subject and outlines a long-term framework for working together.

9. In the view of the Byelorussian SSR, the initiative of the socialist countries regarding the shaping of a universal system of international peace and security and the efforts of States Members of the United Nations to implement the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security would supplement each other and contribute to the shaping of the new political thinking. Discussion of the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security at the forty-second session of the General Assembly undoubtedly affords an opportunity to discuss the vital problems of security in the modern world and will give impetus to the implementation of practical measures for the strengthening of peace and security, disarmament, conflict settlement, the elimination of colonialism, racism and apartheid, the democratization of international relations, the establishment of a new international economic order and equitable international co-operation in all fields.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[9 October 1987]

1. The Soviet Union considers it especially important for all States to honour the provisions and uphold the principles of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security in today's complicated, inconsistent but largely interdependent world, which now faces a real opportunity to escape from the pernicious atmosphere of confrontation into new relationships of peace and co-operation.

2. The yearly review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security enables all States to focus on the accomplishment of the primary task of the United Nations under its Charter - ensuring universal peace and security, mapping out the specific action to be taken on the pressing problems of the day, and improving international relations.

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3. On the threshold of the review at the forty-second session of the General Assembly, it may be stated with satisfaction that encouraging trends are becoming more firmly established in relations between States. The frank and meaningful East-West dialogue, which has been far from fruitless for both sides, has become a characteristic sign of the present state of world politics. Only very recently, the entire world hailed the agreement reached during Soviet-American negotiations in Washington to finalize an agreement on medium-range and shorter-range missiles as quickly as possible, and then sign it at a summit meeting. If this does come about, the first major step will have been taken in the process of genuine nuclear disarmament. There has been movement on the issue of banning nuclear tests, and full-scale talks on this question will soon begin. These first positive results should encourage progress on strategic offensive weapons and on banning weapons in space, and set off a chain reaction in efforts to solve other issues which, today, are jostling for a place on the international agenda.

4. There are signs that the international climate is improving, but there are also disturbing factors that threaten to bring about a sharp deterioration in the world situation.

5. A thorough-going solution to the problem of creating a truly safe world for all requires new political thinking suited to the challenges of the nuclear and space age. What is necessary is a fresh, unprejudiced approach to the issues of war and peace, disarmament, and other tangled global and regional problems in order to ensure the survival and advance of civilization. There is a pressing need to cast off the mindsets, the stereotypes and the dogmas that linger from the past, and to explore and exploit the favourable opportunities and prospects that are now opening up. A coherent doctrine for a secure, nuclear- and violence-free world was suggested to the international community in an article by Mr. Gorbachev entitled "Reality and safeguards for a secure world" (document A/42/574 of 18 September 1987). This contains a detailed exposé of the Soviet leadership's views and its specific proposals on how to move towards the establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. It outlines a new set of living arrangements in our shared planetary home, in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, such that the security of all will guarantee the security of each in all areas of international relations.

6. The socialist countries' initiative at the forty-first session of the General Assembly, calling for the establishment of a comprehensive security system, is of a piece with efforts to implement the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security - extending and supplementing them, especially where the shaping of a new mode of political thinking is concerned.

7. In the context of the question of a comprehensive system of international peace and security, the General Assembly will take up extensive theoretical aspects of international security and a programme of specific future activities. Parallel discussion of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security will provide a good opportunity for subsequent probing multilateral dialogue on the urgent problems of security in the modern age. It should spur practical action on enhanced peace and security, disarmament, conflict settlement, eradication of colonialism, racism and apartheid, democratization of

international relations, introduction of a new international economic order, and international co-operation on an equal footing in all areas.

8. The Soviet Union reaffirms its commitment to the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, which is still an effective United Nations document, and will work actively with other members of the international community to put it into practice.
