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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE
AGENDA OF THE FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION: ITEM PROPOSED
BY THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

On the instructions of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the USSR delegation requests the inclusion of the following item in the agenda of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly, as an important and urgent matter:

"General and complete disarmament".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, I attach an explanatory memorandum on this question.

The delegation requests that the "Declaration of the Soviet Government on general and complete disarmament", submitted for the consideration of the Assembly by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR on 18 September 1959, be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.^{1/}

(Signed) A. GROMYKO
Chairman of the Delegation of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

^{1/} Issued under the symbol A/4219.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

On the instructions of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Soviet delegation proposes that the General Assembly should examine the question entitled "General and complete disarmament" as an important and urgent matter.

The need for the immediate consideration of this question is dictated by the fact that now, as on certain previous occasions, the armaments race has assumed a character particularly dangerous to the preservation of peace. The inclusion of nuclear-rocket weapons in the equipment of the armed forces of certain Powers and the stationing of atomic weapons and construction of rocket-launching sites in the territory of other countries threaten to precipitate a devastating nuclear-rocket war. Against the present background of opposing military alignments, the armaments race is increasing tension in international relations and creating a dangerous situation, in which even a local clash may develop into a general conflict, with all its attendant dire consequences.

The armaments race not only constitutes a threat to peace and to the security of States, but is already placing a heavy burden on the nations. The efforts of millions of people and vast material and financial resources are being diverted to the manufacture of weapons of war for the destruction of human beings.

Present circumstances make it imperative for States to adopt drastic measures to halt the armaments race. The most effective means of solving this problem is by complete general disarmament. In this age of rapidly developing military techniques, this course offers the most effective solution to the problem of ensuring a secure and lasting peace.

The Soviet Government is submitting for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fourteenth session the "Declaration of the Soviet Government on general and complete disarmament".

The realization of the programme of complete disarmament outlined in the Declaration will help to create the necessary atmosphere of mutual confidence between States, eliminate all forms of the "cold war" and preclude the settlement of controversial international issues by force. The destruction of the means of waging war would make the peaceful co-existence of States an inevitable

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reality, since any other trend in the relations among States would be entirely excluded.

General and complete disarmament will benefit all the States of the world and all nations. The Soviet Government expresses the hope that the United Nations, and every Member State, will do its utmost to obtain a practical solution to the problem of general and complete disarmament.
