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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Items 50, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58,
62, 63, 64, 66, 69, 72, 73 and
76 of the preliminary list*

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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE
PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

**Letter dated 23 June 1989 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 transmit the text of the message dated 20 June 1989 from Mr. Gorbachev, President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, addressed to the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, **Sweden** and the United Republic of **Tanzania** on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Six-Nation Initiative for peace and disarmament.

I request you to have this text distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under items 50, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, **58**, 62, 63, 64, 66, 69, 72, 73 and 76 of the preliminary list, and also of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. BELONOGOV

ANNEX

Message from the President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR
addressed to the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico,
Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania on the occasion
of the fifth anniversary of the launching of the Six-Nation
Initiative for peace and disarmament

Your appeal and your Declaration adopted **on the occasion of the fifth anniversary** of your important initiative have been **carefully** noted,.

Today it **is** particularly evident how **timely it was, during** a period **characterized** by increasing tension and an absence of dialogue between the USSR and the United States, for **the leaders of six countries on four continents to decide** to do **everything** in their **power** to prevent the drift towards a situation **that** threatened the destruction **of** civilisation.

The **fact** that it recently became **possible to make a start** on restoring **international** relations to **their normal course** and to take the **first steps** towards a non-nuclear and non-violent world **is undoubtedly** due also to the merit of **your** initiative. You may continue to count on our support.

The international **community** still has a long way to go **for** the full attainment **of** the goal set by you in 1984 - **a safe and prosperous world.**

The **priorities** outlined in your Declaration also correspond **in general** to **our** approach. **As to the specific problems you raised,** I should like to state the following.

First. The **process** of nuclear disarmament which began with the signing of the Treaty on Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles must **become irreversible.** The next stage is the conclusion of the **talks** between the Soviet Union and the **United States** on a 50-per-cent reduction of their strategic offensive weapons while retaining the ABM Treaty. The **basis for this already exists,** and the remaining issues to **be resolved** are, in our view, not insurmountable, if the requisite **efforts** are exerted by both sides.

An important **task ahead** is that of **eliminating** tactical nuclear weapons, Here, **too,** there is a need for dialogue and talks which, in parallel with **measures to reduce** conventional weapons, would lead to a restructuring of the armed **forces** in both the **West** and the East on defensive principles.

We fully **agree** with you that, until nuclear weapons **are** completely eliminated, agreement **must** be reached **on** banning all use of them under any circumstances. The **Soviet Union** is ready to **become** party to such an agreement together with other States possessing nuclear weapons.

Second. The problem of putting an end to nuclear tests is now becoming increasingly urgent, The Soviet Union is ready to resolve it on both a multilateral and a bilateral basis. As one of the possible ways of achieving that aim, we support the idea of extending the scope of the 1963 Moscow partial test-ban Treaty to underground nuclear tests, I should also like to confirm that, as in the past, we are ready at any time to declare, on the basis of reciprocity with the United States, a moratorium on all nuclear tests.

Third. The question of the non-use of nuclear warheads from dismantled arms systems in other weapons systems is also a legitimate one. We have proposed to the United States that we begin drafting a verifiable agreement on ending the production of fissionable material for weapons. We feel that, in the context of such an agreement, it would also be possible to tackle the problem of destroying nuclear warheads removed during the dismantling of weapons.

Fourth. Outer space must unquestionably remain free from weapons. The Soviet-American dialogue in this area is important, but there is also need for more active use of multilateral diplomacy, especially in the Conference on Disarmament. The proposals in this regard are well known. I wish to reaffirm that the Soviet Union has not stationed weapons in outer space on a permanent basis and has no intention of being the first to do so.

Fifth. A convention on the global banning of chemical weapons would be a landmark on the way to a durable peace, The Soviet Union will do its utmost to bring the talks on this issue to an early and successful conclusion.

Sixth. As for issues concerning the verification of disarmament, our positions also coincide, We have not only supported the idea of creating, under United Nations auspices, a multilateral verification system, but have also put forward specific initiatives in that regard,

In conclusion, we should like to wish you further success in your noble undertaking,
