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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS: REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF  
AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

CONDEMNATION OF PROPAGANDA FAVOURING PREVENTIVE NUCLEAR WAR

Letter dated 21 September 1962 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the President of the  
General Assembly

On the instructions of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I request the inclusion in the agenda of the seventeenth session of the United Nations General Assembly of the following item of an important and urgent character: "Condemnation of propaganda favouring preventive nuclear war".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure I attach an explanatory memorandum and the text of a pertinent draft resolution, which I request you to circulate as official documents of the General Assembly.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the USSR

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics considers it essential that the General Assembly at its seventeenth session should examine the question "Condemnation of propaganda favouring preventive nuclear war", as an important and urgent item of its agenda.

In the present conditions of an increasingly intensive nuclear arms race which is becoming more and more dangerous as new and even more destructive types of missiles and nuclear weapons are devised and accumulated in national stockpiles, the world faces a threatening situation fraught with the danger of the outbreak of nuclear war. This danger is heightened by the fact that in the NATO countries extensive propaganda favouring preventive war is being carried out and statements at the highest levels are being made urging that the nuclear blow should be delivered by those countries first. Such calls, on the part of leading government officials who possess sufficient authority to set the NATO war machine in motion, sharply aggravate the international situation and widen the already large gap of mistrust by which nations are separated. Calls to be the first to deal the nuclear blow place the world in a situation in which at any moment the peoples may be overtaken by fateful events.

Serious alarm is aroused by the increasingly extensive propaganda calling for military revenge and for a revision of the national frontiers established in Europe as a result of the Second World War. And this takes place in a situation where in the centre of Europe the armed forces of the two principal military and political groups of States stand face to face. At a time when orientation towards missile and nuclear warfare has become the official attitude of certain Powers, propaganda in favour of revenge and the revision of existing frontiers greatly increases the tension in the relations between States and harbours the danger of a military explosion capable of developing into a world conflict.

Propaganda favouring preventive nuclear war presents an enormous peril to peoples that have only recently entered the road of national liberation and free and independent development. The peoples of countries which have thrown off the colonial yoke are vitally interested in peace. Without a stable and lasting peace, they will be unable to rid themselves of the grim heritage left by colonial

enslavement - an undermined, exhausted economy, conditions of famine, disease and illiteracy. The missile and nuclear war towards whose abyss the world is being pushed by calls to be the first to deal the nuclear blow would not, of course, fail to touch these countries as well. Its inevitable consequences would be many times worse, even for these countries, than all that the peoples of the young States were forced to endure when they were bearing the colonial yoke.

All this propaganda threatening peace is being conducted despite the resolution which the General Assembly adopted, as far back as 1947, condemning "all forms of propaganda ... which is either designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace ...".

In the view of the Soviet Government, the existing conditions require immediate and urgent action by all States to put a stop to propaganda favouring preventive nuclear war. It is essential that States should enter into solemn commitment not to be the first to employ nuclear weapons. The realization of this object would be served by the General Assembly's adoption of an appropriate resolution. The Soviet Government is convinced that this would bring about a great relaxation in the entire international situation. The peoples of the world, whose days are now darkened by fear of what the morrow may bring, would breathe with relief if they knew that the first barricade against the threat of nuclear war had been set up. More favourable conditions would be created for a narrowing of the gulf that now divides States on other international problems whose constructive solution is of major importance to the strengthening of peace and the fostering of co-operation among peoples.

## CONDEMNATION OF PROPAGANDA FAVOURING PREVENTIVE NUCLEAR WAR

(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution)

The General Assembly,

Profoundly alarmed by the fact that in certain countries statements are being made calling for the unleashing of preventive nuclear war and the delivery of the first nuclear blow, statements which aggravate the international situation, increase mistrust in the relations between States and are capable of thrusting the world into the abyss of nuclear catastrophe,

1. Condemns as aggressive acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and to the interests of maintaining peace, and incompatible with the honour and conscience of mankind, all appeals for preventive nuclear war and for the dealing of the first nuclear blow;

2. Proposes to all States possessing nuclear weapons, as a first step towards the total prohibition of their use, that they enter immediately into a solemn commitment not to be the first to use such weapons;

3. Condemns, as one of the most dangerous forms of war propaganda, statements calling for military revenge and for a revision of the national frontiers established in Europe as a result of the Second World War;

4. Further condemns, as being contrary to the United Nations Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, and as endangering universal peace, appeals for the use of force against peoples which have entered the road of national liberation and independent development;

5. Proposes to all States that, at the earliest possible date and in no case later than six months following the adoption of this resolution, they enact legislation, if such legislation has not already been enacted, declaring war propaganda in any form to be a most grave offence against the world and humanity and prescribing severe penalties for persons guilty of conducting such propaganda.