



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.1/43/6
27 October 1988
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL! RUSSIAN

Forty-third *session*
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 65

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF
THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note verbale dated 24 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and requests him to distribute the document annexed to the present note, stating the position of the Ukrainian SSR on the role of the Security Council in the field of disarmament (in connection with General Assembly resolution 42/39 A) as an official document, of the General Assembly under agenda item 65.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 11 October 1988 from the Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian SSR to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General on the role of the Security Council in the field of disarmament

The Permanent Mission of the Ukrainian SSR to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and, with reference to resolution 42/39 A, "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", has the honour to state the following:

The position of the Ukrainian SSR regarding the role of the Security Council in the field of disarmament is well known. It is reflected in particular in the working documents submitted by the Ukrainian SSR together with a number of other States to the Commission on Disarmament (A/CN.10/94; A/CN.10/108 and Corr.1), and also to the third special session on disarmament (A/S-15/AC.1/2).

The Ukrainian SSR takes as its premise that in today's interrelated and interdependent world international efforts have a significantly greater role to play in the solution of universal problems affecting the interests of mankind as a whole, and these problems unquestionably include the limitation of the arms race and disarmament. The universal danger of nuclear self-destruction and the growing awareness of the inseparable interrelationship between questions of security and disarmament make it vital for the full positive potential of the United Nations to be mobilized and for full use to be made of all available forums and machinery for negotiation, including that important and authoritative forum, the Security Council.

We are convinced that peace and the rule of law can no longer be guaranteed through the actions of two or three Powers, even the strongest among them. The internationalization of States' efforts within the framework of the United Nations and on the basis of its Charter is a pillar of the system of universal security and a guarantee of the survival and progress of mankind.

The contribution by the United Nations to resolving the problems of disarmament would be more effective if full use was made of the potential of the Security Council as the body responsible, under Article 26 of the Charter, for formulating plans for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.

The need to revitalize, or more accurately to resurrect, the Charter role of the Council in dealing with such questions is of particular importance, for it is within the United Nations system today the only organ of political collaboration with broad powers to which all five nuclear Powers belong and whose decisions are binding. And there is yet another point which, in our view, is an important one. Under Article 24 of the Charter, the States Members of the United Nations have agreed that in carrying out its duties under its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, the Security Council acts on their behalf.

In essence, this means **that** the Security Council could become a kind of bridge **joining** together the **two** elements of the concept of security through disarmament embodied in the **Final** Document of the first **special** session on disarmament.

The Ukrainian SSR **considers** that, in order to enhance the role and effectiveness of the Security Council in promoting the resolution of disarmament problems, the **following** measures need to be implemented:

(a) Within the framework of the Council, the nuclear-weapons States, which are at the same time the **five** permanent members of the **Security** Council, should hold **joint meetings** and report regularly to the **General** Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament about how matters stand in questions related to disarmament, nuclear disarmament in particular, the prevention of nuclear war and the strengthening of international security, and also about the status of existing agreements in this area and progress in negotiations involving the nuclear Powers;

(b) It would be useful - after making the **necessary** preparations - to hold a special meeting or meetings of the Security Council at the foreign-minister level to discuss the aims and purposes of nuclear disarmament. In addition to the questions of reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons and establishing the necessary conditions for doing so, such an exchange of opinions could also suggest **concrete moves** towards ridding the world of nuclear weapons and establishing universal safeguards against their **re-emergence**;

(c) It would also be worth while for the Security Council to meet at the foreign-minister level at the opening of each **General** Assembly session in order to make an **overall** evaluation of the international situation and look **together** for **effective** means of improving it.

(d) It would also be useful **to** discuss the broad principles of the interrelationship between disarmament and development at a special meeting of the leaders of States members of the Security Council, attended also by other States Members of the United Nations. This would help to boost the authority of the United Nations and give the **Organization** greater input into the **internationalization** of efforts to make disarmament a factor of development, overcome underdevelopment and establish the new international economic order;

(a) It **seems** an appropriate time to consider the proposal for holding a special meeting of the Security Council to arrive at common approaches to the problem of lowering naval confrontation and reducing naval forces;

(f) The Security Council should consider the **establishment**, in accordance with Article 29 of the Charter, of a subsidiary organ or organs to design guiding principles and courses of action for the effective maintenance of international peace and security, embracing both the political and the military sphere, including disarmament questions. The organ or organs would report through the Council to the **General** Assembly:

(g) It would also be important to set in train the appropriate procedures, in accordance with the Charter, for activating the work of the Military Staff Committee in the maintenance of international peace and security.

We consider that disarmament is a crucial factor for establishing lasting peace and security. Consequently, the efforts of the Security Council *in* the maintenance of international peace and security should be pursued in the overall context of the search for ways to avert war, whether nuclear or conventional, limit armaments and bring about disarmament.

The permanent members of the Security Council, in the light of their special status and responsibility under the Charter, should, as a matter of the greatest urgency, take steps to ensure the effectiveness of the Council's central role in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, including disarmament.