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LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I should appreciate it if you would take steps to have the attached statement
A.N. Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, at the ceremony
5 March 1970 marking the deposit of instruments of ratification of the Treaty
the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, circulated as an official document
the Security Council and, in view of its relevance to resolution 2373 (XXII),
an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Y. MALIK
Permanent Representative of
the USSR to the United Nations

Also circulated under the symbol A/7958.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR,
A.N. KOSYGIN, AT THE CEREMONY MARKING THE DEPOSIT OF INSTRUMENTS
OF RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

5 March 1970

We are participants in an event of great international significance. Today the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons enters into force. Allow me to express, at the behest of the Soviet Government, our deep satisfaction at this event.

From the moment when nuclear weapons were first produced the policy of the Soviet Union has unswervingly been directed towards saving mankind from the threat of nuclear war. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is an important step towards the attainment of that goal, for it creates a definite barrier to the further proliferation of the dangerous means of mass destruction constituted by such weapons.

In accordance with the basic provisions of the Treaty, the nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty undertake not to transfer such weapons to any recipient whatsoever directly or indirectly and not to assist in their manufacture or acquisition. Non-nuclear weapon States, for their part, undertake not to manufacture or acquire such weapons.

This Treaty has won wide international acceptance. It has been signed by almost 100 States. Now, with the entry into force of the Treaty, the obligation to refrain from spreading nuclear weapons becomes one of the most important norms of international law, a norm which even those States that are not parties to the Treaty will be unable to ignore. They too will bear responsibility for determining whether a limit to the proliferation of nuclear weapons is to be established.

The Soviet Union as a Party to the Treaty seeks no unilateral advantages for itself. We are guided above all by the desire to guarantee the security of the peoples and enable them to lead a peaceful life, and, in addition, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. It is precisely in the interests of achieving that lofty purpose that the Treaty should prevent the spread of death-dealing nuclear weapons over the earth. At the same time, the benefits of peaceful applications of nuclear technology should be available for peaceful purposes to all States Parties to the Treaty.

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The entry into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty confronts the Parties to it with serious tasks. First of all, there is the question of control. Control must be reliable and must be effected within the periods established by the Treaty.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons does not, of course, eliminate nuclear weapons themselves. Accordingly, it is now of the greatest importance that the nuclear Powers, and all other countries, should do everything in their power to bring about the cessation of the nuclear arms race and achieve progress in the matter of general and complete disarmament. This is an urgent necessity in the interests of improving the international situation.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries deem it essential to advance still further along that path and they call upon all States to show goodwill and readiness actually to set about the task of achieving genuine disarmament. For our part, we are making persistent efforts, in the Geneva Disarmament Committee and elsewhere, to reach agreement on the cessation of the arms race, particularly with respect to missiles and nuclear weapons, and to bring about the drafting of a treaty on general and complete disarmament. The representative of the Soviet Union in the Geneva Committee has instructions from the Soviet Government to work for the conclusion in the very near future of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical and bacteriological weapons and on the destruction of such weapons and of a treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor.

The Soviet Government attaches great importance to the dialogue with the United States which began at the end of last year on limiting the strategic arms race. We are now making very serious preparations for the negotiations on this matter which are to begin at Vienna in April of this year. The outcome of the negotiations will depend, of course, on the goodwill of both sides.

In conclusion, let me express confidence that the deposit today by the Soviet Union, the United States and other States of instruments of ratification enabling the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to enter into force will be conducive to the Treaty's acquiring a general, truly universal character. This is an important and a necessary Treaty which meets the interests of all States and all peoples.
