Thirtieth session
Item 36 of the preliminary list*

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3254 (XXIX)

Letter dated 26 June 1975 from the Acting Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

In connexion with General Assembly resolution 3254 (XXIX) concerning the
reduction of military budgets, the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United
Nations has the honour to communicate the following.

The views of the Soviet Government on the question of the reduction of the
military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent
and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing
countries were set out in the letter dated 25 September 1973 from the Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the USSR addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General. 1/
These views still hold good and fully retain their validity now.

It is well known that the Soviet Union's initiative in submitting for
consideration by the General Assembly the question of the reduction of the military
budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and
utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing
countries received broad support in the United Nations and from world public
opinion. The specific Soviet proposals on this question formed the basis of
General Assembly resolution 3093 (XXVIII). In the opinion of the Soviet Union, the
implementation of this decision of the General Assembly as speedily as possible
would promote the aim of increasing international détente and limiting the arms
race. It would also create broader possibilities for providing substantial
additional aid to the developing countries. These funds could then be directed at
the improvement of living conditions, health facilities, education, housing
construction and other needs of their economic and social development. The
implementation of measures to reduce military expenditure would of course also
benefit the States which made the reduction.

* A/10000.
1/ A/9191.

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The Soviet Union, for its part, is prepared to begin to take appropriate practical steps simultaneously with all other States permanent members of the Security Council.

Resolution 3254 (XXIX), adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, does not contribute to the practical solution of the question of reducing military budgets, because in essence it departs from the implementation of the specific measures deriving from resolution 3093 (XXVIII) on this question, proposed by the Soviet Union.

I request you to circulate this letter from the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations as an official document of the General Assembly under item 36 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) R. OVINNIKOV
Acting Permanent Representative of the USSR to the United Nations