MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE DISARMAMENT DECADE

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 3261 A (XXIX) concerning the Disarmament Decade, the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations has the honour to state the following.

The struggle to limit material preparations for war has always been one of the main elements of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government, consistently implementing the Peace Programme of the Twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, is constantly making vigorous efforts to curb the arms race and achieve genuine progress in solving the problem of disarmament.

In recent years, major successes have been achieved in the struggle to consolidate peace and security, particularly in the struggle to limit the arms race. A whole set of important international treaties is currently in effect - treaties on the banning of nuclear weapon tests in three media, on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, on the prohibition of the installation of nuclear weapons in outer space and on the sea-bed, and on the prohibition and destruction of bacteriological weapons. The Soviet-United States agreements on the prevention of nuclear war and the limitation of strategic armaments and underground tests of nuclear weapons are of particular importance. On the initiative of the Soviet Union, a number of decisions have been taken by the United Nations General Assembly with a view to averting the threat of war and limiting and reducing armaments; these include decisions on the non-use of force in international relations coupled with the permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, on a World Disarmament Conference, on the reduction of military budgets, and on the prohibition of . . . tion to influence the environment for military purposes.

Thus, practical progress has been made in the struggle to lessen the threat of war and to consolidate peace and security by limiting the arms race. Nevertheless, efforts to halt the arms race have thus far been unsuccessful. Ahead still lies a prolonged and stubborn struggle that calls for exerting every effort.

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The Soviet Union is guided by the principle that all peoples need peace and that the elimination of the danger of a world nuclear war is a matter of concern to all States. In their appeal to the peoples, parliaments and Governments of all countries on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism and militarism, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Soviet Government called for urgent efforts to strengthen peace and, to that end, called for a struggle to limit and halt the race in armaments of all kinds and for steady progress towards general and complete disarmament. The achievement of further practical steps in that direction would unquestionably make an appreciable contribution towards fulfilling the aims and tasks of the Disarmament Decade.

The Soviet Union, for its part, will spare no effort in helping to consolidate a stable and lasting peace on earth.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter from the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations as an official General Assembly document under item 44 of the preliminary list of questions to be included in the provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, entitled "Mid-Term review of the Disarmament Decade".

(Signed) R. OVINNIKOV
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