efforts towards the achievement of these aims, and it is gratified to note that important practical steps in this direction have been made in the form of the limitations embodied in the Antarctic Treaty and in the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

23. The progress of research and the prospects for utilizing the sea-bed and ocean floor give relevance to the question of taking prompt action for the establishment of appropriate arrangements to ensure that the sea-bed beyond the limits of existing territorial waters will be used solely for peaceful purposes. Such arrangements would, in particular, prohibit the construction of fixed installations on the sea-bed for military purposes as well as any other activities of a military character. The Soviet Government proposes that discussions should be initiated in the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament with regard to the use of the sea-bed beyond the limits of existing territorial waters exclusively for peaceful purposes.

24. In recommending the foregoing measures, the Soviet Government draws attention to the need for making every effort to achieve tangible progress in solving the problem of general and complete disarmament. The Soviet Government considers that impetus must be given to discussions on this question in the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee. It also supports the implementation of the decision of the United Nations General Assembly for the convening of a general conference on disarmament (resolution 2030 (XX)), and it expresses the conviction that the holding of such a conference will promote the solution of this most important question faced by mankind.

25. Guided by its basic policy in questions concerning the struggle for peace, the Soviet Union, in cooperation with the socialist countries and all peace-loving States, will succeed in removing the threat of nuclear war, in checking the forces of aggression and in realizing a broad programme of disarmament. The Soviet Government appeals to all States to do everything that needs to be done in order to reach agreement on the urgent measures that must be taken to stop the arms race and achieve disarmament.

DOCUMENT A/7223

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the twenty-third session

[Original text: Russian]

[16 September 1968]

Desirous of contributing to the rapid solution of the disarmament problem, the Government of the USSR urges the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations to study at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, with the attention it deserves, the Memorandum of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning urgent measures to stop the arms race and achieve disarmament (A/7134), and submits this memorandum, addressed on 1 July 1968 to the Governments of all the States of the world, to the General Assembly for its consideration.

The Soviet Government is convinced that consideration of the memorandum in question, which provides, inter alia, for various measures such as prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, cessation of the production of nuclear weapons and the reduction and elimination of stockpiles, and the restriction and subsequent reduction of vehicles for the delivery of strategic weapons, will be in the interest of all peoples. The simultaneous or phased implementation of the disarmament measures proposed by the Soviet Government will serve the cause of peace and contribute to the international détente and will greatly encourage the efforts to stop the arms race and to find a radical solution to the disarmament problem.

I would be most grateful, if you would regard this letter as constituting the explanatory memorandum within the meaning of rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and if you would arrange for the circulation of the text as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republcs