GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 31 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement of the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic of 22 October 1979 concerning the new initiative of the Soviet Union on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45.

(Signed) B. DASHTSEREN
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Mongolian People's Republic to the United Nations
Annex

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Mongolian people warmly welcome and whole-heartedly support the new and constructive initiatives for the strengthening of détente and peace set forth in the statement made by Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on 6 October 1979 in Berlin.

The new and historically significant proposals of the Soviet Union include both practical measures in the field of military détente and concrete questions relating to the building of confidence between States.

The Soviet Union, by agreement with the German Democratic Republic and other parties to the Warsaw Pact, has decided unilaterally to withdraw 20,000 Soviet troops, 1,000 tanks and other military matériel from the territory of the German Democratic Republic within the next 12 months. The Soviet Government has also declared its willingness to reduce the number of medium-range missiles deployed in western areas of the Soviet Union provided that no further missiles with nuclear warheads are placed in Western Europe.

These major initiatives of the Soviet Union have the noble aim of genuinely contributing to the achievement of military détente in Europe and the further improvement of the international situation as a whole.

The historical significance of the Soviet Union's new peace-loving actions is clearly apparent in the light of the plan nurtured by militarist circles in the United States of America and other States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to place qualitatively new types of United States medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic is firmly convinced that the placement in Western Europe of new nuclear missiles by the United States would have particularly dangerous international consequences. It would not only be contrary to the spirit of the Final Act adopted at the Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, but would also disturb the balance of forces which has evolved on that continent. All this could be seriously detrimental to the interests of peace and the security of peoples in Europe and other parts of the world.

The Mongolian People's Republic views the Soviet initiatives as exceptionally significant because they are aimed at preventing a very dangerous escalation of the nuclear-missile arms race and open up favourable prospects for progress towards effective disarmament measures.

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic considers that the new and noble steps taken by the Soviet Union in the field of international détente will promote progress in the Vienna negotiations on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, and other negotiations being conducted on various
questions relating to the halting of the arms race and disarmament. The new and historically significant proposals of the Soviet Union are aimed at the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty between the United States of America and the USSR on the Limitation of Strategic Arms, concluded in June 1979.

The Mongolian People's Republic, like all peace-loving States, expresses the hope that the United States and other leading NATO Powers will show a sense of responsibility and realism and respond in a positive manner to the new Soviet proposals in the interests of consolidating peace, détente and co-operation among peoples and States.

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic adds its voice to the appeals to world public opinion, including the United Nations, to make broad use of the international Week to promote the objectives of disarmament, beginning on 24 October 1979, to give effective support to the new and vitally important initiatives of the Soviet Union.

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic declares that it will do everything in its power to promote fully the objectives of the implementation of the new initiatives of the Soviet Union, which respond to the vital interests of the peoples not only on the European continent but throughout the world.

Ulan Bator, 22 October 1979