Thirty-seventh session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda items 50, 55 and 133

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 11 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the Address by participants in the
Soviet peace movements to the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General
Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this Appeal as an official
document of the General Assembly under items 50, 55 and 133 of the agenda of the
thirty-seventh regular session of the United Nations General Assembly.

O. TROYANOVSKY
Annex

ADDRESS BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOVIET PEACE MOVEMENT
TO THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On behalf of scores of millions of Soviet people - workers, peasants and intelligentsia - we extend wishes for fruitful work to the participants in the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Soviet people, like all people of good will in the world, have the right to expect that at its thirty-seventh session the United Nations General Assembly will make a constructive contribution to the struggle of peace-loving forces to reduce and ultimately eliminate the threat of nuclear war, overcome crisis situations and restore a climate of confidence in international relations.

This is what is expected of the United Nations in view of the critical situation that has developed in the world today through the fault of those who disregard the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the Security Council and practice arbitrariness in international relations. The dramatic events in Lebanon have once again vividly shown the need to halt dangerous acts by aggressive forces.

Under these circumstances, the struggle to end the arms race assumes particular significance.

At present all mankind is deeply concerned by the continuing nuclear arms race and the development of new monstrous types of weapons.

Attempts are being made to inure people to the thought that "limited" and "protracted" nuclear wars are possible and to convince them that someone may win such a war. These are very dangerous illusions. An unchecked increase of tension and military psychosis poses a deadly threat to mankind. Indeed, if a nuclear war is unleashed, it could mean the destruction of human civilization and perhaps the end of life itself on earth.

Critical as the present international situation may be, this does not mean at all that people have no choice but to despair, shrug their shoulders helplessly and wait for a war to begin. The experience of history proves that peace can and must be safeguarded! The guarantee for preserving peace consists of joint actions by all those who cherish clear skies over the planet. We are deeply convinced that no differences between States or groups of States, between social systems, ways of life or ideologies, no short-term interests can or should obscure the basic goal common to all peoples - that of preserving peace.

Today the Soviet peace movement has become truly nation-wide. It actively supports all proposals and initiatives aimed at halting the arms race and consolidating peace. During the period immediately preceding and coinciding with the work of the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, more than 60 million Soviet citizens took part in over
20,000 demonstrations held in the Soviet Union. The scale of those demonstrations shows that the Soviet people occupy by right an important place in the global anti-war movement.

This summer the Soviet Union hosted two international peace marches - 82: Stockholm-Minsk and Moscow-Vienna. Hundreds of thousands of Soviet people marched with foreign participants upholding their slogans, together they covered hundreds of kilometres. These marches have convincingly shown that preserving peace is the most important task for the Soviet people. Not war preparations condemning peoples to waste material and spiritual resources but consolidation of peace - that is the clue to the future.

In this respect the step taken by the Soviet Union at the second special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament - the solemn obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons - is of great importance. This obligation, contained in the message of the head of the Soviet State, Leonid Brezhnev, to the second special session devoted to disarmament, became effective at the moment when it was proclaimed from the high rostrum of the world forum.

Soviet people heartily support this obligation and rightfully consider it as an expression of devotion to peace and recognition of lofty responsibility for the destinies of peoples. At the same time this step, taken unilaterally by our country, is a truly historic landmark in the struggle to avert nuclear war, to outlaw nuclear arms, to halt production and gradually reduce stockpiles of such weapons until they are completely eliminated, as well as to achieve nuclear disarmament. Peoples have the right to expect that this act of good will will be followed by similar steps on the part of other nuclear States. If all of them assumed an equally clear and unequivocal obligation, it would be tantamount to banning the use of nuclear weapons.

The Soviet people share and understand the idea of a mutual freeze of the nuclear arsenals of the USSR and the United States. The Soviet Union, for its part, is prepared to do its utmost to reduce nuclear confrontation. We are ready to work for freezing nuclear armaments side by side with the participants of all anti-war movements.

Our people, like all people of good will, look hopefully towards Geneva, the venue of the Soviet-American talks on nuclear weapons in Europe and on the limitation and reduction of strategic nuclear arms. The world expects these talks to yield positive results. This, however, requires that the partners of the USSR at the negotiating table adopt a constructive and realistic attitude. It is high time for them to realize that their attitude will determine whether it will be possible to raise the nuclear threshold beyond which lies the abyss of thermonuclear catastrophe.

That is precisely the purpose of our country's peaceful initiatives, which envisage:

- a programme of phased nuclear disarmament;
- halting nuclear weapon tests;
strengthening the régime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

- banning and destroying chemical weapons;

- preventing the spread of the arms race to outer space;

- reducing conventional armaments and armed forces.

Soviet people will not only follow with close attention the progress of the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly but will also contribute in every way to its successful completion. We hope that the Assembly will elaborate and adopt documents aimed at the solution of the key problem of today, that of alleviating the threat of nuclear catastrophe, limiting and reducing nuclear weapons.

We deem it our duty to inform you that in response to the United Nations appeal a Week of Action for Disarmament will be organized in the Soviet Union from 24 to 31 October. Mass rallies, demonstrations and very varied manifestations in support of peace and stronger security will be held all over the country. During those days, many millions of Soviet men and women will raise their voice again in order to demand, together with all peace-loving forces in the world:

- "No" to nuclear weapons throughout the world!

- "Yes" to disarmament and peace!

On behalf of the Soviet peace movement:
the Address is signed by more than 15,000 persons