Twenty-second session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 28 (a)

NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 2 May 1968 from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The USSR delegation to the United Nations wishes to request you to make arrangements for the issuance of the attached communication from Soviet scientists addressed to the General Assembly of the United Nations as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly.

(Signed) Y. MALIK
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

We, the participants at a meeting of scientists convened by the Soviet Committee for the Defence of Peace, are writing to this session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in connexion with the necessity for the urgent conclusion of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The destructive power inherent in thermo-nuclear weapons is so great that no one has any right to disregard the necessity of guaranteeing security on the earth. We scientists are particularly keenly aware of our responsibility to society with regard to the prohibition of nuclear weapons. The achievements of the scientific and technological revolution must not be used to the detriment of mankind.

The Soviet scientists wish to express their profound gratification that the many years of persistent work done by the Eighteen-Nation Committee in an effort to work out an agreed document - The Draft Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - has finally achieved success.

This first step towards the final prohibition of nuclear weapons should be consolidated. Nuclear weapons must not be used as a means for the settlement of international conflicts. This is all the more urgently necessary inasmuch as certain aggressive circles are striving to obtain nuclear weapons, linking them with criminal designs for the revision of existing State borders.

The conclusion of the Treaty would strengthen the confidence of the peoples that positive results in such a highly complicated field as general disarmament can really be achieved.

We believe that the participants in the General Assembly of the United Nations, reflecting the hopes of all peoples without exception who are interested in the erection of strong barriers to the further dissemination of these lethal atomic and thermo-nuclear weapons, will do everything necessary to achieve the speediest possible conclusion and entry into force of the agreed Draft Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.