



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/7654*
26 September 1969
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Twenty-fourth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM
IN THE AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 19 September 1969 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed
to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I request the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, as an important and urgent matter, an item entitled "The strengthening of international security".

In view of the main trends in the development of international relations during the period following the Second World War and especially in recent years, it is urgent that the United Nations should step up its efforts to discharge its fundamental responsibility - the maintenance of peace and security.

The importance of this task of the Organization, which is set out in its Charter, is made clearly evident by the fact that, despite the successes of peace-loving forces in their efforts to prevent a world war, acts of aggression still occur, the suppression of the national liberation movements of peoples continues, thousands upon thousands of lives are being lost and properties are being destroyed. With States in possession of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, the escalation of conflicts is fraught with still graver consequences to mankind. The need for the most concerted efforts by States and peoples for the strengthening of international security is becoming increasingly evident.

In a desire to contribute to the early and effective solution of this problem, the Government of the USSR calls upon the Governments of all States Members of the

* Reissued in English only for technical reasons.

United Nations to consider with due attention at the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly the question of the strengthening of international security and, in arriving at the decision to be adopted on the matter, to bear in mind their high responsibility for the fate of the world. In the opinion of the Soviet Government, the General Assembly can and should take a decision on this question which would set out the requirements the fulfilment of which would effectively promote the strengthening of peace.

An important condition for the relaxation of international tension and for strengthening the security of the peoples must be the withdrawal without delay of troops from the territories occupied as the result of the actions of the armed forces of some States against other States and peoples defending the independence they have won as a result of the collapse of the colonial system, and their territorial integrity.

The strengthening of international security would also be promoted by the immediate cessation of all measures for the suppression of liberation movements of the peoples still under colonial rule and by the prompt grant of independence to those peoples. This would mean the completion of the fulfilment of the requirements set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The General Assembly is entitled to warn those who would refuse to put an immediate end to all aggressive acts and to colonial oppression in all its forms that to disregard this appeal would constitute a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and that appropriate conclusions should be drawn from that fact.

It is also of the greatest importance that measures should be drawn up to create effective regional security systems, in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world. The General Assembly could call upon the States to adopt such measures.

Any steps to strengthen international security can bear fruit and will be effective only if the United Nations Charter and, above all, those provisions of the Charter which deal with the role of the Security Council as the body bearing primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, are fully observed. Accordingly, the General Assembly could recommend to the Council that it consider the general state of international security at its periodic meetings convened at the level of members of Governments or other

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specially designated representatives, as provided for in Article 28 (2) of the Charter, in order to devise urgent measures to strengthen it.

The General Assembly could also reaffirm the need for the early formulation of a generally acceptable definition of aggression, for agreement on the principles of friendly relations and co-operation of States and for the attainment of an understanding on the question of United Nations peace-keeping operations on the basis of strict observance of the United Nations Charter.

If the General Assembly deems it necessary to express its opinion on the question of the strengthening of international security, it is fitting that its decision should be addressed to all States of the world, both Members of the United Nations and those which for one reason or another do not take part in its activities but which are obliged to act in conformity with the requirements of strengthening international peace, in conformity with the principles of the United Nations.

The Government of the USSR submits for the consideration of the twenty-fourth session the attached draft "Appeal to all States of the world" on the strengthening of international security.

I request you, Sir, to regard this letter as an explanatory memorandum provided for in rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to circulate it as an official document of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

(Signed) A.A. GROMYKO

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

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Appeal to all States of the world

Assembled in its twenty-fourth session on the eve of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the victory over the fascist aggressors in the Second World War, the General Assembly focused its attention on the question of the general state of international security and the strengthening of that security.

It was guided in its deliberations by the fact that the United Nations was established a quarter of a century ago by nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to live together in peace with one another as good neighbours and to unite their strength to maintain international peace and security.

It bore in mind, in its deliberations, that the maintenance of international peace and security and the adoption, to that end, of collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression are a major task of the United Nations, set out in its Charter.

Mindful of the fact that all States Members of the United Nations have assumed, under the Charter, the obligation to settle their disputes by peaceful means, to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and that it is their duty strictly to fulfil these obligations;

Bearing in mind also that, under Article 2, paragraph 6, of the Charter, the United Nations ensures that States which are not its Members act in accordance with the principles of the United Nations so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security;

Having considered the important and urgent question of the strengthening of international security;

The General Assembly appeals to all States of the world, both Members of the United Nations and those which are not Members of the Organization or which for one reason or another do not take part in its activities.

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I

The General Assembly notes with satisfaction that for more than two decades the States and peoples have been able to prevent the outbreak of a new world war. This is a great achievement of the peace-loving forces and a great success of the United Nations in attaining its lofty aims.

However, this is only a partial success. There is no world war, but there is no stable peace on earth either.

Armed attacks on independent States are occurring in various parts of the world and attempts are being made to revise the results of the Second World War, which ended in victory over the fascist aggressors.

The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has not yet been fully implemented, and crude military force is being applied to keep the remaining colonies and dependent territories under control and to suppress the national liberation movements of their peoples.

Thousands upon thousands of lives are being lost and the property created by many generations is being destroyed.

The arms race is going on on an unprecedented scale, assuming especially great dimensions in the production of weapons of mass destruction, and it diverts enormous quantities of funds and material resources.

The peoples have no firm confidence in their security and they cannot concentrate their efforts exclusively on the achievement of peaceful objectives -- economic and cultural development and improved well-being.

The world is still living in an atmosphere of international tension.

In the circumstances obtaining today, and particularly now that States possess nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction, a widespread military conflict would inevitably have the direst consequences for all mankind.

The strengthening of international security requires a fresh collective effort, fresh initiatives and fresh action. These must be undertaken by all States Members of the United Nations, by all the States of the world. The fate of the world today and tomorrow and the fate of future generations largely depend on these actions.

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II

The General Assembly

1. Firmly and resolutely declares that in order to strengthen international security it is necessary, above all, to ensure without delay:

the withdrawal of troops from territories occupied as a result of action by the armed forces of some States against other States and peoples defending the independence they have won as a result of the collapse of the colonial system, and their territorial integrity;

the cessation of all measures for the suppression of the liberation movements of the peoples still under colonial rule and the granting of independence to all such peoples;

observance by States of the decisions of the Security Council on the withdrawal of occupation troops from foreign territories.

2. Declares that the actions of States which do not observe the requirements laid down in paragraph 1 above constitute a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

III

The General Assembly

Declares further that in the interest of strengthening international security it is necessary for all the States of the world

to be guided in their foreign policies by the vital interests of all peoples in preserving peace and strengthening international security;

strictly to abide in their international relations by the principles of peaceful coexistence of States irrespective of their social system - the principles of sovereignty, equality, territorial inviolability of each State, non-interference in internal affairs and respect for the rights of all peoples freely to choose their social system;

to settle all disputes between them exclusively through peaceful means without the use or threat of force.

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IV

The General Assembly

1. Expresses the conviction that regional security systems in the various parts of the world, based on the joint efforts of all States of the areas concerned, set up and acting in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, can promote the strengthening of international security;
2. Calls upon all States to study the question of such effective regional security systems with a view to adopting measures for their establishment.

V

The General Assembly

1. Recalls that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security has been conferred by States Members of the United Nations on the Security Council, and that the Members of the United Nations have undertaken to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council:

2. Submits for consideration by the Security Council the following recommendations:

to consider the general state of international security at its periodic meetings convened at the level of members of Governments or other specially designated representatives, as provided for in Article 28, paragraph 2, of the Charter, with a view to elaborating urgent measures to strengthen it;

to take, where necessary, effective practical steps against acts of aggression, using, whenever required, the full powers vested in the Security Council by the United Nations Charter.

VI

The General Assembly

1. Reaffirms that in order to strengthen international security it is of great importance to formulate a generally acceptable definition of aggression, agree on the principles of friendly relations and co-operation of States and arrive at an understanding on United Nations peace-keeping operations on the basis of strict observance of the United Nations Charter:

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2. Invites the special committees of the United Nations responsible for consideration of the questions referred to in the preceding paragraph to intensify their efforts with a view to the earliest possible submission of their proposals and recommendations to the General Assembly and to the Security Council.

VII

The General Assembly

1. Calls upon all States of the world to inform the General Assembly and the Security Council of the steps which they will undertake in connexion with this Appeal for the strengthening of international security;

2. Resolves to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-fifth session the item "Progress in the implementation by States of measures for the strengthening of international security";

3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit this Appeal to the Governments of all States of the world.
