



General Assembly

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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

CONDEMNATION OF NUCLEAR WAR

Letter dated 4 October 1983 from the First Deputy Chairman of
the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR to the
Secretary-General

The Soviet Union proposes the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an important and urgent item entitled "Condemnation of nuclear war".

In putting forward this proposal, the USSR proceeds from the fact that nuclear war, were it to erupt, would be the greatest tragedy for mankind, would result in the loss of billions of human lives and would turn our planet into a lifeless desert. In our days, when huge arsenals of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems have been accumulated in the world, nuclear war cannot be limited. If its flames flare up, they will spare no State and no people. All of this has been unanimously confirmed by the most eminent scientists and by authoritative military and civilian experts.

Therefore there is not and cannot be any justification for any actions that push the world towards the nuclear abyss, for any doctrines and plans that are based on the admissibility of unleashing a nuclear war and the possibility of winning it. Any designs for unleashing nuclear war are criminal and should receive the most severe universal condemnation.

Today as never before, it is important that States Members of the United Nations should be fully aware of themselves as United Nations - united in their determination to act in order to save the present and future generations from nuclear annihilation.

Accordingly, the Soviet Union proposes that the General Assembly, guided by the lofty ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, should resolutely, unconditionally and for all time condemn nuclear war as the most monstrous of all crimes that can be committed against peoples and as a flagrant violation of the foremost human right - the right to life. It is imperative that the States Members of the United Nations should declare to be criminal acts the formulation, propounding, dissemination and propaganda of political and military doctrines and concepts intended to justify the "legitimacy" of the first use of nuclear weapons and in general the "admissibility" of unleashing nuclear war.

The Soviet Union is submitting to the General Assembly a draft declaration on the condemnation of nuclear war. By adopting it, the United Nations would make a major contribution to the creation of an international moral and political climate in which the danger of unleashing nuclear war would be significantly reduced and more favourable prospects would be opened for working out practical agreements on the limitation and radical reduction of nuclear weapons until they are completely eliminated.

I request you, Sir, to regard this letter as an explanatory memorandum of the kind provided for in rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to circulate it, together with the annexed draft declaration, as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO
First Deputy Chairman of the
Council of Ministers of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR

ANNEX

Condemnation of nuclear warThe General Assembly,

Expressing its alarm at the growing threat of nuclear war, which can lead to the destruction of civilization on earth,

Drawing the attention of all States and peoples to the conclusions arrived at by the most eminent scientists and military and civilian experts to the effect that it is impossible to limit the deadly consequences of nuclear war if it is ever begun and that in a nuclear war there can be no victors,

Convinced that the prevention of nuclear catastrophe is the most profound aspiration of billions of people on earth,

1. Resolutely, unconditionally and for all time condemns nuclear war as being contrary to human conscience and reason, as the most monstrous crime against peoples and as a violation of the foremost human right - the right to life;
2. Declares to be criminal acts the formulation, propounding, dissemination and propaganda of political and military doctrines and concepts intended to justify the "legitimacy" of the first use of nuclear weapons and in general the "admissibility" of unleashing nuclear war;
3. Calls upon all States to unite and redouble their efforts aimed at removing the threat of nuclear war, halting the nuclear arms race and reducing nuclear weapons until they are completely eliminated.