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of the preliminary list*

PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 40/88 ON THE
IMMEDIATE CESSATION AND PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON TESTS

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

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

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 21 February 1986 from the Acting Permanent
Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour **to transmit** to you **the text** of a **message** dated
20 February 1986 **from** the General Secretary of **the Central Committee** of **the
Communist** Party of the Soviet Union, M. S. Gorbachev, addressed to the participants
in the Conference **on** Disarmament.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of this **message as an**
official document of **the** General Assembly under items 56, 57, 61, 63, 65 and 60 of
the preliminary list.

(Signed) V. S. SAFRONCHUK
Acting Permanent Representative of
the USSR to the United Nations

* A/41/50.

ANNEX

Message dated 20 February 1986 from the General Secretary of the
Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
addressed to the participants in the Conference on Disarmament

I send greetings to the representatives of States assembled for the regular session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Soviet Union has a highly responsible attitude towards its participation in the Conference on Disarmament, in an awareness that it is disarmament which is the main road leading to the consolidation of new and just international arrangements and to the building of a secure world. It is disarmament which, releasing huge material and intellectual resources, will make it possible for those resources to be diverted to the tasks of creation, economic development and prosperity.

Mankind has reached a turning-point in its history, at which it must choose the course to be followed - either to overcome the inertia of the past, when security was viewed primarily through the prism of a position of strength and of military and technical solutions, or to remain a hostage of the arms race, involving nuclear, chemical and possibly in the future other equally menacing weapons.

This choice between the course dictated by reason and the course leading to catastrophe can be made only by all States jointly, irrespective of their social system and level of economic development.

This choice should be bold and responsible; whether it is depends to a considerable extent on the States represented at the Conference on Disarmament. We can now no longer restrict ourselves to half-way decisions, which would decelerate the arms race in some directions only in order for it to speed ahead twice as fast in others.

In other words, the time has come for us together to take strong steps forward towards the liberation of the planet from nuclear and other weapons, so that security for each one will also mean security for all.

Guided by these considerations, the Soviet Union put forward at the beginning of this year a complex plan embodying a; its central element a phased programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons. We are proposing the final and irrevocable removal, by the end of this century, of the sword of Damocles that has been hanging over the peoples since the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is only right that the first decisive step should be taken by the Soviet Union and the United States, which possess the greatest nuclear capabilities, so that the remaining nuclear Powers may follow their example.

It is **our** deep conviction **that there is only one straight** road to the liberation of **mankind** from **the nuclear threat; the elimination of nuclear weapons themselves.** The **objective** reality is **such that the** creation and deployment of "star wars" weapons will **inevitably** stir up **the arms race in all** directions. For **this** reason, an effective international **ban must be imposed from the very beginning** on space strike weapons.

The Soviet **Union** proposes **that chemical weapons should** also be entirely eliminated **by the** end of the **century** and **that decisive** steps forward should be **taken,** beyond the protracted **negotiation of a convention on this question.**

While advocating **a** world free of nuclear and chemical **weapons, we** are prepared also **in the** area of the reduction of conventional weapons and **of** armed forces to **go** as **far** as other States are prepared to **go.**

I should **like** to **stress** particularly that we are suggesting that all the practical measures **to limit** weapons **and achieve** disarmament should be supported by effective control and verification measures. No less than other States, **the USSR** is interested in being assured of strict **implementation** of the understandings reached,

Many of the provisions of our plan **have** a direct bearing **on the** Conference **on Disarmament.**

Suffice it to say **that** the first place **on** its agenda is occupied by **the** problem of a test ban, the radical **solution of which** could, in **our** opinion, **be** a turning-point in efforts to remove **the** nuclear danger.

The Soviet **Union,** for its part, **has** done and is doing everything possible to this **end,** including agreeing to the strictest monitoring of the nuclear test ban, involving on-site inspections and **use of all the techniques** of **seismology.**

It will **be** recalled **that** last year, **wishing to set a good example, the USSR** unilaterally halted **all** nuclear explosions and **then** extended the moratorium to 31 March 1986. Whether the moratorium will be extended further and **whether it will become** bilateral and then multilateral **now** depends primarily **on the** United States.

I should **like** to express **the** hope that the States participating in the Conference will raise their voices in support of **this** line of **action and that the** Conference **itself** will be **able** to proceed to business-like negotiations which **will** result in the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests **by everybody, everywhere** and for ever.

I wish **the** participants in the Conference success **in the** responsible **tasks** facing **them.**
