UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/41/403
9 June 1986
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Forty first session
Items 62 and 64 of the preliminary list*

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AN3 DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ET3 TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Letter dated 6 June 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to tho Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement of the Soviet Government issued on 31 May 1986.

I request you to arrange to have the text of this otatemant distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under items 62 and 64 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) V. S. SAFRONCHUK
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
to the United Nations

* A/41/50/Rev. 1.

ANNEX

Statement of the Soviet Government issued on 31 May 1986

The United States Government has taken a step which again reveals with absolute clarity the essence of the current American foreign policy course aimed at the escalation of the arms race in every possible way, the militarization of outer space and the heightening of international tension.

President Reagan announced on 27 May of this year the effective refusal of the United States to comply in future with the Soviet-American instruments of treaty law concerning the limitation of strategic offensive weapons - the Interim Agreement of 1972 and the SALT If Treaty of 1979. He stated that, in making future decisions regarding the development of American strategic forces, the United States would not be bound by the provisions of the strategic arms limitation agreements.

Thus, the warnings given by the Soviet Union have become a reality. Of all the options for possible action with respect to the treaties and agreements limiting strategic weapons, the United States Administration has chosen precisely the one which undermines the process of limiting and reducing such weapons. Confronted with the choice of either moderating its own arms programmes or opening the floodgates for an uncontrolled arms race, Washington preferred the latter.

The President's decision means that the present American leadership has taken an exceptionally dangerous step towards destroying the treaty system that restrains the nuclear-arms race and thus establishes conditions for the conclusion of new agreements.

In concrete terms, the withdrawal of the United States from the SALT II Treaty is planned for the end of this year, when in the process of deploying new weapons, particularly heavy bombers armed with cruise missiles, the United States will exceed the established limit of 1,320 MIRVed strategic delivery vehicles. The President plainly stated that the United States would not dismantle the requisite number of existing weapons in order to remain below that level.

In essence, the United States Administration has embarked on the course of full implementation of its comprehensive strategic programme for a nuclear arms build-up, which is to a certain extent restrained by the strategic arms limitation agreements. In particular, together with the deployment of B-52 and B-1B bombers armed with long-range cruise missiles, the United States intends to develop a second new type of ICBM, the Midgetman, as well as to deploy another 50 MX missiles and to speed up the development of an "advanced cruise missile". It has been announced that work on the development of space-based strike weapons will also be continued within the framework of the "star wars" programme.

The dismantling of two Poseidon missile submarines, scheduled for the near future in view of the commissioning of the eighth Trident submarine, is officially stated to be for budgetary reasons, and not at all the result of a desire to observe the provisions of the SALT 11 Treaty.

Attempts are being made to justify all of this by reference to certain "violations" of the agreements on the part of the Soviet Union. But allegations of

this kind are totally unfounded. There have been no such violations and there are none now. And the United States Government is well aware of this, On the basis of facts, the Soviet side has repeatedly exposed Washington's attempts to level far-fetched accusations against the Soviet Union with the introduction of each new American military programme that is not consistent with existing treaty limitations-

The poaition of principle adopted by the USSR with regard to the existing arms limitation agreements is well known. The Soviet side has fulfilled and continues to fulfil its commitments strictly and to the full extent. In so doing, it proceeds from the view that continued observance, on a mutual basis, of the commitments formulated in the SALT 11 Treaty would be of considerable importance for maintaining the strategic balance and strengthening security.

However, the United States Administration is guided by different considerations. It has already done much to undermine the SALT II Treaty, which was the result of many years of co-operation between the USSR and the United States in the 1970s to end the nuclear-missile arms race and enhance strategic stability. First, there was the non-ratification of the Treaty; then the circumvention of its provisions through the deployment of first-strike missiles - Pershing II ballistic missiles and cruise missiles - in Western Europe and departures from individual provisions of the Treaty) and now there has come the outright renunciation of the Treaty.

All of this makes it even more obvious why the American Administration is taking such an unconstructive position at the Geneva negotiations on nuclear and space-based weapons, as well as with regard to the nature of the new Soviet-American summit meeting. At the same time, this substantiates the well-founded Soviet position that the readiness of the American side to achieve concrete results on at leaet one or two questions in the field of security, together with an appropriate political atmosphere, is essential for such a meeting. Clearly, the provocative step taken by the United States in no way attests to either one ox the other.

It should also be clear that the Soviet Government will not remain indifferent while the United States breaks agreements which have been reached in the area of the limitation of strategic offensive weapons. The American side should have no Illusions that it will be able to achieve military advantages for itself at the expense of the security of others,

As soon as the United States exceeds the established levels of armaments or otherwise violates the other main provisions of the above-mentioned agreements, which have thus far been observed by both sides, the Soviet Union will consider iteelf free from the relevant commitment8 under the 1972 Interim Agreement and the SALT II Treaty, and will take the necessary practical steps to prevent the military-strategic parity from being upset. Theee measures will exclude the possibility of the United States acquiring superiority in the main types of new strategic weapons which it is now developing and intends to bring into service.

The Soviet Union will continue to take every step to ensure reliably the security of the socialist community and to do everything necessary to enhance international security.
