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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Forty-fourth session  
Agenda items 12, 52, 56, 57, 62, 63, 64,  
66, 72, 73, 82 and 146  
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Letter dated 2 November 1989 from the Permanent Representatives  
of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the  
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the Finnish-Soviet Declaration signed in Helsinki on 26 October 1989 (see annex).

We request you to circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12, 52, 56, 57, 62, 63, 64, 66, 72, 73, 82 and 146, and of the Security Council.

**(Signed)** Klaus **TÖRNUDD**  
Permanent Representative  
of Finland to the United Nations

**(Signed)** Aleksandr M. BELONOGOV  
Permanent Representative of  
the Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Declaration between Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:  
New thinking in action

FINLAND, a **neutral** Nordic country **not** possessing nuclear weapons **and** being **an** active participant in the United Nations and in the process of the **Conference** on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and

THE SOVIET UNION, a nuclear power extending into Europe and **Asia**, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a member **of** the **Warsaw** Treaty Organisation,

Proceeding on the assumption that prerequisites are now emerging **for a** decisive turn for the better in Europe and in international relations, **for the** consistent creation *of* a world that is more just and **more** democratic, a world free of nuclear weapons and free from the use of force,

Endeavouring, in accordance with their potential, roles and responsibilities, to contribute, through concrete measures, to the building of such a world **in the** spirit **of** new thinking, by developing and adapting new ideas,

Reaffirming their determination to observe the spirit and letter of **the** Charter of the United Nations and of the Final **Act** of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, as well as of the decisions of the **CSCE** follow-up,

Proceeding on the decades-long experience of good-neighbourliness and interaction, gained **during** the validity of **the** 1948 Treaty on Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance,

Considering the position of **each** country and the special character of **their** foreign policies, and their socio-political and value **systems**, **as well as** the differences in their national characters and, convinced that these differences will not constitute an obstacle to constructive international activities,

Desiring to build a better future,

DECLARE THEIR RESOLVE to strengthen, in Europe and **in** international relations, the following principles and priorities:

Political relations

Active participation in the creation of a world **where** there is no use of force, intimidation, inequality, oppression, discrimination, nor interference in the internal affairs of other countries. All disputes, including regional conflicts, shall be settled solely peacefully through political means. *One's own* security **must** not be obtained at the expense of the security of others. The use of force **of** any kind cannot be justified: neither by a military alliance against

another **alliance**, nor within these alliances, nor against neutral countries from any quarter. **Common** security requires the elimination of military confrontation.

Absolute respect for the principle of the freedom of social and political choice, deideologization and humanisation of the relations between States, adherence to international law in **foreign** policy activities, and giving priority to human interests and values.

Guaranteeing of international security through step-by-step nuclear disarmament: on the basis of reliable political and legal guarantees as well as of a strict observance of the **interests** of all States. These efforts should include, as **an interim** stage, an exact and urgent definition of the concrete parameters of the **minimum** deterrence concerning nuclear armaments, including tactical nuclear **weapons**.

Early achievement of **agreements** between the Soviet Union and the United States on a reduction, by 50 per cent, of strategic **offensive weapons**, on a complete and comprehensive prohibition of chemical weapons, and on the cessation of **nuclear** tests.

Reduction of the conventional armed **forces** deployed in Europe of the member States of the military alliances, which would effectively eliminate the capability for launching surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action, to the level of **reasonable** sufficiency for defensive purposes. Full contribution to the achievement of extensive agreements in the Vienna negotiations as early as 1990, which could be confirmed at the highest level,

Early development of a qualitatively **new generation** of confidence- and **security-building measures** in Europe, and expansion of their scope of application.

Creation of an extensive and **reliable** control system for the **disarmament** process.

A global policy of openness comprising air **space**, land and water **territories** as well as outer space, which would contribute to **comprehensive international** security.

#### Economic relations

Equal and free interaction between economic **systems** and integration processes on the basis of extensive commercial and economic, scientific and technical as well as industrial co-operation, with a view to establishing a more efficient joint utilization of the material and spiritual resources of Europe and other countries. Improvement of the possibilities of all countries for participation in the activities of such international economic organizations and monetary institutions as GATT, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank.

Prevention of the deepening of differences in economic development by supporting a **balanced** economic growth. Solving of the problems relating to the

**utilization** of natural **resources** in a manner corresponding to the development interests of different countries, with a view to improving the quality **of** life.

### Protection of the environment

Restoration **of** the balance between **man** and nature **as** well as recovery of the human habitat by combining scientific and technical **development** and the improvement of the **condition** of global and regional ecosystems,

Support for environmentally sustainable economic development as well as development and exchange **of** environmentally sound technology as the joint responsibility **of** all States, and arranging the financing **of** the measures for environmental protection, if **necessary**, internationally. The objective is to have the environmental aspects taken into consideration in the political and economic decision-making **on** the global, regional and national levels.

A **more efficient** utilisation of the possibilities **of** the United Nations and its Economic **Commission** for Europe in resolving **common** environmental problems. Among the problems requiring most urgent measures are unfavourable atmospheric changes and air pollutants. **Efforts must be made to achieve significant** results at the United Nations conference on environment **and** development in 1992.

Protection and restoration of **regional ecosystems**, development of international co-operation for **the** protection of **the Arctic** environment, as well as revival **of** the marine environment **of the** Baltic Sea.

### Human dimension

Implementation everywhere to their fullest extent **of** the human rights and fundamental freedoms that have been **internationally** agreed on, as the yardstick of the practice **of States**, a dynamic implementation of the human dimension **of** the CSCE process and its enrichment in the Conference on **the Human Dimension of the CSCE**, the **next** meetings of which will be held in Copenhagen in 1990 and in Moscow in 1991.

Free and open exchange of people, ideas, information, spiritual and cultural values, **and** of the experience to be gained from the socio-economic and political **development**, with a view to eradicating deep-rooted patterns of thinking and enemy perception of the past, to preventing their re-emergence, and to replacing them in the **consciousness** of new generations, above **all** of the youth, with the image of a partner.

Harmonisation of the laws, regulations, practices, **and** policies of States with their international obligations.

Respect for the **free** practising of the rights of national ethnic minorities and **safeguarding** of their complete equality **with** others without discrimination **of** any kind.

Strengthening **of** the parliamentary **dimension of** the European dialogue, intensification of the contacts between **representatives** of parliaments, **and a** mutual utilisation of the experience gained from the functioning of democratic bodies, among others, **the** Council of Europe and the European Parliament and the Nordic Council, as well as encouraging extensive European contacts by all social circles.

**Intensive** action to combat elements of danger transcending national boundaries, including international terrorism, **crime**, drugs, and epidemics.

Promoting and deepening of the CSCE process **in** its entirety, both conceptually **and** practically, a gradual **advance** towards a unified Europe - a Europe of States adhering to the rule of law, a Europe of trust, harmony, openness, and stability, a Europe that does not withdraw into itself but is open towards all continents.

Convening of a new meeting at the highest level of the CSCE participating States in connection with the follow-up meeting opening in Helsinki in 1992.

*On* the basis of the present declaration Finland and the Soviet Union will build their international activities and interaction for the benefit of peace, as well as their good-neighbourliness and co-operation. They call upon other countries and peoples to join in this task.

Helsinki, 26 October 1989

Mauno KOIVI **STO**

M. S. **GORBACHEV**