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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON MILITARY MATTERS

Letter dated 15 December 1989 from the Deputy Head of the
delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to
the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the Soviet proposal for the submission by States Members of the United Nations to the Secretary-General of data relating to their military presence abroad and to foreign **military** presence in their territories, a proposal which was put forward by E. A. Shevardnadze, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, during the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Wishing to assist in the implementation of this proposal, and with a view to demonstrating good will and setting a good example, the Soviet Government has decided to inform you of the total number of personnel of the Soviet Armed Forces situated beyond the frontiers of the USSR. On instructions from **my Government**, I wish to state that that number is 627,500.

We are convinced that the submission of such data will help to uphold, within the United Nations, high standards of openness in the military field, promote confidence-building and expand objective information on military capabilities available to the international community. We hope that this step, which is in line with the wishes of the General Assembly, as expressed, inter alia, in resolution 43/75 G of 7 December 1988, entitled "Objective information on military **matters**", will contribute to the constructive consideration of **matters** relating to the gradual reduction of foreign military presence with a view to its complete elimination. "**Our** ultimate goal", as E. A. **Shevardnadze** declared at the present session of the General **Assembly**, "is to have not a single Soviet soldier outside the country".

I should be grateful **if** you would have **this** letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda **item 63 (1)**.

(Signed) V. PETROVSKY
Deputy Minister **for** Foreign Affairs
of the USSR
and Deputy Head of the USSR delegation
to the forty-fourth session
of the General Assembly
