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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE
AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSIONRENUNCIATION BY STATES OF ACTIONS HAMPERING THE CONCLUSION OF AN
AGREEMENT ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Letter dated 23 September 1966 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed
to the President of the General Assembly

On the instructions of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I request the inclusion of the following item, as an important and urgent question, in the agenda of the twenty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly: "Renunciation by States of actions hampering the conclusion of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

The Soviet Union favours the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons, cessation of the production of such weapons and the destruction of all stockpiles of such weapons. At the same time that it is striving for the attainment of this objective, the Soviet Union considers it essential that practical measures to promote nuclear disarmament should be taken as quickly as possible. In the view of the Soviet Government, action on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is, at present, the most important and timely measure of this kind which can be taken.

As you are aware, the General Assembly, after discussing the question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons at its twentieth session on the initiative of the Soviet Union, recognized the urgent need to solve this problem. In resolution 2028 (XX), the Assembly urged "all States to take all steps necessary for the early conclusion of a treaty to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons". In its resolution, the Assembly indicated that a treaty on non-proliferation should contain no loop-holes which might permit nuclear or non-nuclear Powers to proliferate, directly or indirectly, nuclear weapons in any form.

On the basis of the recommendations of the twentieth session of the General Assembly, the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament conducted negotiations at Geneva looking to the preparation of a draft Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, it must be noted that these negotiations have as yet produced no positive results and a problem which affects the vital interests of all peoples remains unsolved. This situation results from the fact that the Western Powers, and in the first instance the United States, are attempting, in spite of the clearly worded recommendations of the General Assembly, to leave loop-holes in the non-proliferation treaty which open the way for non-nuclear States belonging to NATO, particularly West Germany, to gain access to nuclear weapons or for the implementation of other projects for the so-called "division of nuclear responsibility" within that military alliance.

The Soviet Government is compelled to point out that this position adopted by the Western Powers is contrary to the objectives of General Assembly resolution 2028 (XX).

The Soviet Government expresses its firm conviction that at the present time, when the urgent necessity of preventing the dangerous proliferation of nuclear weapons is recognized by an overwhelming majority of Governments and when international negotiations are under way on this question, it is particularly important to create a favourable atmosphere for these negotiations and to avoid any actions which might block an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In our opinion, most States Members of the United Nations share our concern over the attempts to hamper the conclusion of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It should be recalled in this connexion that, as long ago as October 1964, the Cairo Conference of Heads of States or Government of Non-Aligned Countries requested "The Great Powers to abstain from all policies conducive to the dissemination of nuclear weapons and their by-products among those States which do not at present possess them".

The Soviet Government, prompted by the desire to facilitate the conclusion of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, urges the General Assembly to give the fullest possible consideration at its twenty-first session to the question of "Renunciation by States of actions hampering the conclusion of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

I should be grateful if you would regard this letter as an explanatory memorandum within the meaning of rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and circulate both this letter and the attached Soviet draft resolution as official United Nations documents.

(Signed) A. GROMYKO
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
USSR

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE RENUNCIATION BY STATES OF ACTIONS HAMPERING THE
CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2028 (XX) of 19 November 1965,

Convinced that the proliferation of nuclear weapons would endanger the security
of all States and hamper the achievement of general and complete disarmament,

Considering that international negotiations are now under way with a view to
the preparation of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and wishing
to create an atmosphere conducive to the successful conclusion of those negotiations,

Urgently appeals to States:

1. Pending the conclusion of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear
weapons, to refrain from any actions which might hamper the conclusion of an
agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;
2. To take all necessary steps for the earliest possible conclusion of a
treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
