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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE
AGENDA OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION

PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURE OF NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS
OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND OF NEW SYSTEMS OF SUCH WEAPONS

Letter dated 23 September 1975 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General

The Soviet Government proposes the inclusion in the agenda of the thirtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly of the following item as an important and urgent matter: "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and of new systems of such weapons".

The thirtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly is opening in circumstances of significant positive changes in the international situation when the policy of détente in relations among States is receiving increasing support. The process of détente is creating favourable prerequisites for achieving progress in disarmament and the limitation of the arms race. In their turn, the important steps that have been taken in this field in recent years influence the international situation, facilitating the further development and extension of the process of détente.

Owing to the efforts of peace-loving States, agreements of the utmost importance, which constitute a substantial contribution to the limitation of the arms race and disarmament, such as the Moscow Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and others have been concluded.

Of exceptional importance to the cause of peace and international security are the Soviet-United States agreements on the prevention of nuclear war, strategic arms limitation and the limitation of underground nuclear weapon tests. In the course of the Soviet-United States summit meeting at Vladivostok an understanding was reached establishing a basis for the conclusion of a new agreement to curb the strategic arms race.

Bilateral and multilateral negotiations are under way with regard to certain other aspects of the problem of limitation of the arms race and disarmament.

However, despite the fact that the agreements concluded in recent years do to some extent curb the arms race in certain areas, it has not yet proved possible to check the arms buildup on the whole. The arms race, which consumes countless material and human resources and is detrimental to all States, is continuing. At the same time, the danger that scientific and technological achievements will be used to create new types of weapons of mass destruction is becoming increasingly real.

Therefore, the Soviet Union considers it important that effective measures should be taken internationally to ban the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction and of new systems of such weapons. This question, which is assuming an ever more acute and urgent character, has not yet been reflected in agreements between States. At the same time, science and technology today have evolved to a point where it is possible to develop and create new types of weapons of mass destruction even more dangerous than nuclear weapons.

To prevent the achievements of science and technology from being used for military purposes as a result of the development of still more destructive and formidable weapons of mass destruction, it would be necessary to work out and conclude an appropriate international agreement banning the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and of new systems of such weapons. Such an agreement effectively barring the emergence of such weapons should not, at the same time, create obstacles to the economic, scientific and technological progress of the States parties.

The adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of a decision which would favour the idea of concluding an international agreement outlawing the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and of new systems of such weapons would constitute a major contribution to the limitation of the arms race and thus promote the further development and deepening of the process of détente, the strengthening of peace and international security.

I should be grateful, Sir, if you would consider this letter an explanatory memorandum pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations General Assembly and have it circulated as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly.

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

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ANNEX

DRAFT AGREEMENT ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND
MANUFACTURE OF NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
AND OF NEW SYSTEMS OF SUCH WEAPONS

The States Parties to this Agreement,

Guided by the interests of strengthening international peace and security,

Desiring to contribute to saving mankind from the danger of the use of new means of warfare, limiting the arms race and bringing about disarmament,

Recognizing that modern science and technology have reached a level where a serious danger arises of the development of new, still more destructive types of weapons of mass destruction and of new systems of such weapons,

Conscious that the development and manufacture of such weapons are fraught with the most serious consequences for the peace and security of nations,

Bearing in mind that recent years have seen the conclusion of a number of important agreements concerning limitation of the arms race and disarmament, including those related to the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction,

Expressing the profound interest of States and peoples in the adoption of measures to prevent the use of the achievements of modern science and technology for the development and manufacture of the above-mentioned weapons of mass destruction,

Desiring to promote the strengthening of confidence among nations and the further improvement of the international situation,

Seeking to contribute to the realization of the lofty purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter,

Have agreed as follows:

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Article I

1. Each State Party to this Agreement undertakes not to develop or manufacture new types of weapons of mass destruction or new systems of such weapons, including those utilizing the latest achievements of modern science and technology. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons shall include: (to be specified through negotiations on the subject).

In the event that new areas of development and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction and systems of such weapons not covered by this Agreement emerge after the entry into force of the Agreement, the Parties shall conduct negotiations with a view to extending the prohibition provided for in this Agreement to cover such potential new types and systems of weapons.

2. Each State Party to the Agreement undertakes not to assist, encourage, or induce any other State, group of States or international organizations to engage in activities contrary to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article.

Article II

Each State Party to this Agreement shall, in accordance with its constitutional processes, take the necessary measures to prohibit and prevent any activities contrary to the provisions of this Agreement, within the territory of such State or in any territory under its jurisdiction or under its control, wherever it may be.

Article III

1. In the event that any State Party to this Agreement has any suspicions that another State Party has violated the provisions of this Agreement, the Parties concerned undertake to consult one another and co-operate in solving the problems which arise.

2. If the consultations referred to in paragraph 1 of this article fail to produce results mutually acceptable to the Parties concerned, the State which has such suspicions may lodge a complaint with the Security Council of the United Nations. Such complaint must include evidence confirming its validity, as well as a request for its consideration by the Security Council.

3. Each State Party to this Agreement undertakes to co-operate in carrying out any investigation which the Security Council may initiate, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, on the basis of the complaint received by the Council. The Security Council shall inform the States Party to the Agreement of the results of the investigation.

4. Each State Party to this Agreement undertakes to provide or support assistance, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to any State Party to the Agreement which so requests, if the Security Council decides that such State Party has been exposed to danger as a result of violation of the Agreement.

Article IV

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the States Parties to the Agreement to develop and use scientific research and discoveries exclusively for peaceful purposes without any discrimination.

2. The States Parties to the Agreement undertake to facilitate scientific and technological co-operation in the use of the latest achievements and discoveries of science and technology for peaceful purposes.

Article V

Each State Party to this Agreement undertakes to pursue in good faith negotiations on effective measures to limit the arms race in all its forms and put an end to it, as well as on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Article VI

Any State Party may propose amendments to this Agreement. Each proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Depositary Governments and circulated by them to all Parties to the Agreement, which shall inform the Depositary Governments of acceptance or rejection as soon as possible after its receipt.

The amendment shall enter into force for each State Party accepting the amendment upon its acceptance by a majority of the States Parties to the Agreement, including the Depositary Governments, and thereafter for each remaining State Party on the date of its acceptance of the amendment.

Article VII

This Agreement shall be of unlimited duration.

Each State Party to this Agreement shall in exercising its national sovereignty have the right to withdraw from the Agreement if it decides that extraordinary events, related to the subject-matter of the Agreement, have jeopardized its supreme interests. It shall give notice of such withdrawal to all other States Parties to the Agreement and to the United Nations Security Council three months in advance. Such notice shall include a statement of the extraordinary events it regards as having jeopardized its supreme interests.

Article VIII

1. This Agreement shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign the Agreement before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.

2. This Agreement shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Governments of which are hereby designated the Depositary Governments.

3. This Agreement shall enter into force after the deposit of instruments of ratification by Governments, including the Governments designated the Depositary Governments of the Agreement.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Agreement, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The Depositary Governments shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession and the date of the entry into force of this Agreement, and of the receipt of other notices.

This Agreement shall be registered by the Depositary Governments pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article IX

This Agreement, the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of the Agreement shall be transmitted by the Depositary Governments to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed this Agreement.

Done in copies at this day of