



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/32/242
27 September 1977
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Thirty-second session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

DEEPENING AND CONSOLIDATION OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND
PREVENTION OF THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR

Letter dated 27 September 1977 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed
to the Secretary-General

The Government of the USSR proposes the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, as an important and urgent question, of an item entitled "Deepening and consolidation of international détente and prevention of the danger of nuclear war".

Current developments in the world demonstrate that, as a result of the persistent and intensive efforts of peace-loving forces, the process of international détente and of the expansion of equitable and mutually beneficial co-operation among States determines to an increasing extent the pattern of international relations. There is a growing awareness of the need to renounce the use or threat of force and to resolve controversial issues, however complex they may be, by peaceful means. The joint work of 35 States resulted in the elaboration of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which constitutes a code of principles governing international relations and is fully consonant with the requirements of peaceful coexistence. The conclusion of a whole series of multilateral and bilateral treaties and agreements and the practice of political contacts at the highest level have a positive significance for the development of new peaceful relations among States. The successes achieved in the sphere of détente have met with the approval of broad segments of world public opinion. Satisfaction on this score has also been repeatedly expressed in the United Nations, and this fact is reflected in many decisions of the Organization.

In recent years, substantial steps have been taken to curb the nuclear arms race and achieve disarmament, and these steps have made a useful contribution to solving the problem of preventing another war. Specific international treaties and conventions have been concluded on such questions as the prohibition, in considerable part, of nuclear-weapon tests, the prevention of the further proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world, the non-emplacement of such weapons in outer space, on the sea-bed and the ocean floor, the limitation of strategic arms, and the prohibition and elimination of bacteriological weapons. Recently an agreement has been reached banning military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques.

While noting the successes achieved in easing international tension, one must realize, however, that we are only at the beginning of the process of restructuring international relations. All is not yet quiet in some areas of the world. An atmosphere of protracted and explosive crisis persists in the Middle East. An intricate and dangerous knot of tensions still remains in Cyprus. The strongholds of colonialism and racism in southern Africa pose a grave threat to international peace. Colonialism is a source of aggression against independent African States. Inequality and discrimination still existing in economic relations raise considerable obstacles to the normalization of the international situation. Finally, it should be realized that the prospect of an improved international climate invites stepped-up activity by the reactionary and militaristic circles which are endeavouring to drag the world back to the times of the "cold war", further to whip up the arms race and to rekindle the atmosphere of military psychosis.

At the same time it is perfectly clear that in the present conditions there is no reasonable alternative to the policy of international détente. The only question is whether the world will follow the road of renouncing the use of force, the road of disarmament and equitable and mutually beneficial co-operation, or whether it will be plunged into the abyss of an unrestrained arms race and the escalation of armed conflicts fraught with the gravest consequences for mankind.

As a comprehensive process which runs the broadest gamut of international life, détente is a prerequisite for the solution of problems of the utmost importance to all mankind. It is obvious that the task of deepening and consolidating détente requires concerted effective action on the part of all States which have a stake in peace, irrespective of their social system, size, geographical location, level of development, and participation or non-participation in military-political alliances.

It is imperative that States should invariably be guided in their mutual relations by the fundamental principles set forth in the United Nations Charter, in the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States and in other major international instruments, that they should not allow interference in each other's internal affairs, resort to force or the threat of force and that they should bear in mind the legitimate interests of other States.

The task of deepening and consolidating international détente would be served by States taking constructive and effective steps aimed primarily at ending the arms race and achieving disarmament, including general and complete disarmament under strict international control, the speedy peaceful settlement of conflict situations and the lessening of military confrontation, the completion of the process of eliminating the vestiges of the colonial system, racism and apartheid, and the restructuring of international economic relations on an equitable and democratic basis.

In the current situation the task of preventing the danger of nuclear war assumes a particular importance and urgency. In the world of today, the development of technology - including military technology - has reached a stage at which the various parts of the world are becoming increasingly interconnected, and any local conflict can escalate into a wider conflict.

Hence the inevitable conclusion: it is necessary for all States - and first and foremost all nuclear-weapon States - to build their relations in such a manner as to reduce and ultimately eliminate the danger of a nuclear war anywhere in the world. This objective would be served above all by the immediate adoption of measures to limit the nuclear arms race.

The Soviet Union believes that the United Nations, whose main objective is to ensure international peace and security, should make a new and substantial contribution to international détente and the prevention of the danger of nuclear war. Guided by these considerations, the Soviet Union is submitting to the United Nations General Assembly for its consideration a draft Declaration on the deepening and consolidation of international détente and a draft resolution on the prevention of the danger of nuclear war.

I request you to consider this letter as an explanatory memorandum and to circulate it as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly.

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

ANNEX I

Draft Declaration on the Deepening and Consolidation
of International Détente

The General Assembly notes with satisfaction that in recent years the trend towards international détente has become more widespread, and considers that a proclamation by the United Nations of its allegiance to détente follows directly from the obligation assumed by the States Members of the United Nations under the Charter to live together in peace with one another as good neighbours. A joint expression by the States Members of the United Nations of their political will and determination to promote the cause of détente will help to overcome the obstacles to this process, improve the political climate in the world, reduce the threat of nuclear war, build up confidence and develop all-round co-operation among States.

Guided by the supreme interests of peace and the future of mankind, the General Assembly solemnly urges all States to continue and intensify their efforts to deepen and consolidate international détente and to that end:

To promote actively the implementation of multilateral treaties and agreements which serve the interests of the strengthening of international security and the development of peaceful relations, as well as of the declarations and resolutions of the United Nations aimed at achieving these objectives;

To take decisive initiatives towards curbing the stockpiling of arms and implementing disarmament measures with a view to achieving the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

To facilitate the speedy peaceful settlement of conflict situations and to prevent the recurrence of situations of this kind;

To pursue a policy of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and mutual respect for sovereignty and independence;

To settle differences and disputes by peaceful means without resorting to force or threat of force;

To seek to ensure that the development of the spirit of détente is not impeded by considerations of bloc policies;

To maintain a favourable atmosphere in relations among States;

To take into account the legitimate interests and views of other States;

To measure their actions in relation to other States and in all parts of the globe against the requirements of détente;

/...

To facilitate the earliest possible completion of the liberation of all colonial countries and peoples, and the elimination of racist régimes and of vestiges of national oppression and inequality in international relations;

To develop in every way equitable and mutually beneficial economic relations among all States on a fair basis, with due regard for the interests of developing countries, and to co-operate with a view to making fuller use of natural resources and advancing knowledge;

To foster mutual understanding among peoples by developing contacts between them and enhancing reciprocal familiarization with the culture and life of peoples;

To promote the growth of feelings of friendship and mutual trust among all peoples;

To encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, as laid down in the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international treaties and instruments.

The General Assembly expresses the hope that States, taking fully into account the peculiarities and the diversity of their positions and views, will join efforts in the process of détente to the benefit of all peoples.

Annex II

Draft resolution on the prevention of the danger
of nuclear war

The General Assembly,

Conscious that a nuclear war would have devastating consequences for all mankind,

Noting with satisfaction the important steps taken in recent years to remove the nuclear threat and expressing the confidence that the deepening and consolidation of international détente will help to diminish this threat,

Bearing in mind the need to pursue efforts in this direction and to take all possible measures to ensure that the danger of an outbreak of nuclear war is diminished and eventually removed,

Conscious of its responsibility under the United Nations Charter,

Solemnly urges, on behalf of all States Members of the United Nations, that:

1. All States should, with a view to removing the danger of nuclear war, act in such a way as to avert situations which could cause a dangerous aggravation of relations between them and avoid military confrontations which could lead to a nuclear war, making full use to that end of the possibilities of the Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

2. The nuclear-weapon States, in view of their special responsibility as permanent members of the Security Council, should always exercise restraint in their mutual relations, show a willingness to negotiate and settle differences by peaceful means, and do all in their power to prevent conflicts and situations which could exacerbate international tension;

3. Those nuclear-weapon States which have not yet done so, should conclude agreements with other nuclear-weapon States concerning measures to diminish and avert the danger of nuclear war and to prevent the accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons, and those nuclear-weapon States which have concluded such agreements with each other should improve and develop such measures;

4. All States should strictly observe the principle of the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations involving both nuclear and conventional weapons and enter into negotiations concerning the conclusion of an appropriate international treaty to that effect;

5. The nuclear-weapon States should enter into negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on the withdrawal of ships carrying nuclear weapons from certain areas of the world's oceans and on other possible measures to limit the nuclear arms race in those areas;

6. All non-nuclear-weapon States should establish nuclear-weapon-free zones, which may cover entire continents or large geographical areas, as well as groups of States or individual States, and nuclear States should respect the status of such nuclear-free zones;

7. The States participating in the strategic nuclear arms limitation talks should bring them to the earliest possible conclusion and reach agreement on the renunciation, on a reciprocal and equal basis, of the development of new and even more destructive systems of such weapons;

8. All States and above all the nuclear-weapon States, should conduct negotiations in appropriate forums with a view to agreeing upon and adopting additional measures for the prevention of nuclear war, the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, the reduction of nuclear weapons, and nuclear disarmament as important steps towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

9. All States which have not yet done so, should accede to the treaties on the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests in the three environments, on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and on the non-emplacement of nuclear weapons on the sea-bed and in outer space, and, pending their accession, should act as if they were parties to those treaties, which are designed to limit the nuclear-arms race and reduce the danger of nuclear war;

10. All States should make efforts to prevent a further proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices while ensuring access for all States to the use of nuclear energy for the purposes of peaceful economic development;

11. All States should refrain from any actions which would impede international talks designed to work out agreements directed towards the limitation of the nuclear-arms race and the removal of the danger of nuclear war.
