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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 26 January 1979 from the Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a message of greeting from L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, addressed to the Committee on Disarmament on the occasion of the commencement of its work.

I should be grateful if you would have this message of greeting circulated as an official General Assembly document under the agenda item entitled "General and complete disarmament".

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

ANNEX

Message of greeting from the General Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Chairman of the Presidium
of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
addressed to the Committee on Disarmament

On the occasion of the commencement of the work of the Committee on Disarmament in its expanded form, I extend my greetings to all its members and wish them success in solving the complex problems confronting this principal organ for multilateral discussions aimed at putting an end to the arms race and achieving disarmament.

For States and peoples, for statesmen responsible for the lives and well-being of their countries, the time has come to recognize the true significance of the alternatives faced by mankind today: either the arms race will be halted and reversed, making possible at last the irreversible consolidation of peaceful principles in relations between States, or the world will again dangerously totter on the brink of war, with all the negative consequences which that implies for the relaxation of tension, the normalization of relations between States and the solution of the world's economic problems. There can be only one choice in this situation: efforts aimed at achieving a decisive breakthrough in the struggle to end the arms race must be redoubled, tripled, multiplied tenfold.

A major role in this great cause belongs to the Committee on Disarmament. Its agenda includes such fundamental problems as measures for nuclear disarmament, complete and general cessation of nuclear-weapons tests, prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons, prohibition of the production of new types of weapons of mass destruction, including neutron weapons, reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons, and reduction of military budgets. It can be asserted without exaggeration that the solution of these problems will largely determine the future of all peoples and the further development of world history.

In its years of activity, the Committee on Disarmament has accumulated a great deal of experience in the thorough and comprehensive consideration of extremely complex problems, in elaborating and harmonizing multilateral agreements limiting the arms race in certain aspects. This experience must be utilized.

This year the Committee on Disarmament will begin its work with a more representative membership, including both nuclear and non-nuclear States, States situated in various continents and various regions of the world, States which are members of military alliances and States which are non-aligned. This expands the possibilities for comparing views on specific problems being considered by the Committee, for advancing constructive ideas, for selecting proposals which will promote progress in the cause of ending the arms race. These possibilities must also be utilized to the fullest extent.

The Soviet Union, for its part, intends to do everything in its power to ensure that the work of the Committee on Disarmament will be successful. Our proposals for the cessation of the arms race, submitted at last year's special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament and later at the thirty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, are well known. Together with the other socialist countries which belong to the Warsaw Pact, our country again spoke out in the Moscow Declaration of 23 November 1978 in favour of rapid progress in the solution of the principal problems of disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. We have worked and will continue to work in this direction as actively and purposefully as we can.

In extending my good wishes for the success of the Committee on Disarmament, I express the hope that the year 1979 will be marked in the Committee's activity by practical results, for which all the peoples of the world are waiting and on which people everywhere on earth pin their hopes for a firmer and more stable peace.

L. BREZHNEV
