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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 16 February 1990 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 the text of a statement issued by the
Soviet Government on 14 February 1990.

I request you to circulate this text as an official document of the General
Assembly under item 71 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) A. BELONOGOV

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** A/45/50.

Statement issued by the Soviet Government on 14 February 1990

Hostilities have once again broken out in northern Ethiopia, in Eritrea. Detachments of the National Front for the Liberation of Eritrea have launched a full-scale offensive against Government troops. Blood is flowing and people are dying once again. Even without this development, the war is aggravating the disastrous situation of the population in the northern parts of Ethiopia, who are threatened by famine, and makes it difficult to provide international assistance to that population.

It is a matter of deep sorrow and concern that the armed hostilities in Eritrea have started up again after a prolonged period of calm, during which the Ethiopian Government and the Front successfully conducted two rounds of talks aimed at a settlement of the Eritrean question.

The armed conflict in Eritrea has already lasted for almost three decades and by its history demonstrates that it cannot be resolved by force. A political compromise is the only realistic method of settling the Eritrean question.

The Soviet Government urgently calls for a cessation of the hostilities in order that it may be possible at the earliest opportunity to sit down at the negotiating table and to embark on the search for mutually acceptable forms of national reconciliation. The official statement issued at Addis Ababa on 9 February 1990 about the readiness of the Ethiopian people henceforth to extend the hand of peace to the opposing party indicates that the above-mentioned method of resolving the Eritrean question is realistic.

We in the Soviet Union are convinced that it is of the utmost importance in this situation for the international community to promote a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the north of Ethiopia and to refrain from any actions which might prolong or complicate that conflict.
